

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building at Brockton High School.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mrs. Joyce, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mr. Minichiello; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

NOTE: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list the number of items that were under discussion.

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of  
Visitors

Mr. Timothy Sullivan, BEA President, stated that he accompanied the BHS Chorus groups to their recent Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia. He stated that the Jazz Choir, Harmonics and Concert Choir all received superior ratings from the judges and all medaled. In addition, another category was created in narration just for this competition for a BHS student who was outstanding. He congratulated Ms. Penny Knight and the BHS students on their recent achievements.

Ms. Jacqueline Jones stated that she came as a BHS alumni, parent and member of the Peace Crusaders to challenge the School Committee and Mayor to address violence as a public health issue and to respond in kind by modifying Brockton's current K-12 curriculum to include violence prevention. She would like the Curriculum Subcommittee to look into the changes. She left a copy of the cover of a book entitled **DEADLY CONSEQUENCES** by Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., to be distributed to each School Committee member.

Ms. Gwen Nauls, alumni of BHS, spoke on the violence issue and also asked that it be included in the curriculum. She stated that she does the Upward Bound Program at BHS. She mentioned the following books: Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest your Destiny by Hill Harper and We Beat the Street by the Three Doctors.

Mr. John Williams also addressed the School Committee on the violence issue. He attended Brockton Public Schools. He stated if students can get a culture of peace from the schools, it will be carried with them throughout their life. It is not being promoted in their homes. He hoped the Committee would take the matter seriously and include it in the curriculum.

Mrs. Joanne Joyce, Whitman School secretary, stated that the school will be closing shortly and they have two file cabinets filled with old registers dating from 1891-1975. She asked for someone to get back to her as to what to do with the records.

Ms. Amanda Huggan-Mauretti, teacher at Massasoit Community College and Coordinator of Special Programs for BHS students at Massasoit, stated that students who have a relationship with an adult and are able to express their concerns often will not resort to violence. She was present to make the Committee aware of a program at Massasoit called the "National Coalition Building Institute." In addition to

doing workshops, it looks at coming together around our differences. It is a model that is used all around the country, and it would be easy to incorporate this into the curriculum.

Approval of  
Records

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Report of  
Chief Supervisor  
of Attendance

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for the month of March as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Recognition of  
Roan & Conley  
Families

Ann and Stephen Roan, of the Conley Funeral Home in Brockton, MA, recently received a bequest from a loyal supporter of the Brockton Public Schools. They in turn were inspired to make a \$20,000 donation to the Brockton Educational Foundation to be used to help deserving students participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, recreation and music camps during the school year and summer months. The Roan and Conley Families serve as examples of philanthropic and civic leadership in the community. Mrs. Kathleen Smith was present to introduce Ann and Steve Roan who were presented with a Certificate of Recognition honoring the Roan and Conley Families by Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow. Mrs. Ann Roan thanked Tony Arena who left a large sum of money to be used in the community. Mrs. Roan hoped that other citizens and business people in the community will step forward to continue these opportunities for future students.

Recognition of  
Katie Shea

Ms. Katie Shea, Coordinator of Title I Services, was invited to this evening's meeting to be publicly recognized as a recipient of the Brockton Rotary Club's Outstanding Public Service Award. Ms. Shea was presented with this award on March 27, 2008, at the Holiday Inn in Brockton, MA. Ms. Shea was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow.

Healthy Students  
Proposal

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$5,806,183 for a four-year grant period, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The Brockton Public Schools and the Brockton Blueprint Coalition partnered to develop and submit a community-specific comprehensive plan that addresses five elements.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Math Intervention  
Proposal

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of a *See the Math - Math Intervention* Grant proposal to the Verizon Foundation in the amount of \$35,798, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. It is a pilot project that will originate at the Plouffe and Hancock Schools to address a prevailing need for additional support in mathematics to advance student learning and achievement in grades 3-6. It is a two-year project.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Proposal

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program Exemplary Programs grant proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Education, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The proposal is for the support of exemplary Community Learning Centers to operate during out-of-school hours. The purpose is to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities designed to complement students' regular school day academic programs. The award would be in the amount of approximately \$480,000.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Carol White  
Physical Education  
Proposal

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant proposal to the U. S. Department of Education, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The proposal would be in the amount of \$296,210. The proposal would significantly expand and improve the district's physical education program, advancing its progress in meeting Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks Standards for students in grades 6-8. It would be a three-year grant and requires in-kind support.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Summer Food  
Start-Up  
Proposal

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of an FY2008 Summer Food Service Program Start-Up Grant for existing sponsors (Fund Code 549), and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The purpose is to encourage Summer Food Service Program sponsoring agencies to sponsor new sites and thereby increase program availability to students **not** currently receiving program services. The proposal is for three new sites. Funding for the maximum \$2,500 to serve an additional 100 children will be sought.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Summer Food  
Expansion  
Proposal

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a Summer Food Service Program Expansion Grant for Existing Sponsors (Fund Code 542), and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The purpose is to encourage school districts and previous sponsors to increase participation in the program for students not participating. The maximum funding amount of \$22,000 will be sought.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

*Virtual Math  
Proposal -  
Huntington School*

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of an HP "Technology for Teaching *Leadership*" Proposal: "Virtual Mathematics" Project, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The project will be submitted by a team of teachers from the Huntington School and will actively engage students in mathematics using technology. It will include HP equipment, professional development and stipends for a total value of more than \$50,000. Mrs. Beyer commended the teachers at the Huntington School for submitting this proposal.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Trips Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following Out-of-State/Overnight trips:

1. Davis School, grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 13, 2008
2. BHS DECA, two students, Robert Porazzo and Heather King, and their chaperone and advisor Kathleen Quigg, to attend the National DECA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-30, 2008. Mrs. Joyce congratulated the two students for qualifying.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Notification of Personnel Appointments Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #13.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Notification of Personnel Action Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following Personnel Action on Enclosure #14:

1. Leaves of Absence
  - Tarah Creighton Craig – Keith (8 wk. Maternity – Eff. 5/12/08)
  - Danna DiGesse Bille – Angelo (8 wk. Maternity – Eff. 5/9/08)
  - Chanelle Jackson – South Middle MTA (6 wk. Maternity – Eff. 2/29/08)
  - Donna Casey – Plouffe Paraprofessional (3 wk. Medical – Eff. 3/24/08)
  - Celestina Rodrigues – Raymond Paraprofessional (2 wk. Medical – Eff. 3/5/08)
  - Kathleen Willfong – Raymond Paraprofessional (4 wk. Family Medical – Eff. 3/6/08)
  - Joan Ross – Kennedy Food Service (3 mo. Medical – Eff. 2/14/08)
  - Lorna Yurkievich – BHS Food Service (3 mo. Medical – Eff. 3/11/08)
2. Resignations
  - Megan Dussault – BHS (Eff. 6/30/08)
  - Laurie Gregory – Brookfield (Eff. 3/15/08)
  - Jennifer Sears – Franklin (Eff. 3/15/08)
  - Jessica Serino – BHS (Eff. 3/26/08)
  - Rodney Wilson – West JHS MTA (Eff. 3/28/08)
  - Marie Valdez – Downey Paraprofessional (Eff. 3/14/08)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Bid Review Subcommittee Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Bid Review Subcommittee met on March 25, 2008, for discussion of contract extensions. Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the contract extension to the vendors as listed on Enclosure #15.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Finance  
Subcommittee

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Finance Subcommittee met on March 26, 2008, to discuss the feasibility and financing of the Reconfiguration Task Force final proposals. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**New Business**

Closing of FY2008  
Budget

Mrs. Joyce, chair of the **Finance Subcommittee**, stated after review of the financial needs of the school system through June 30, 2008, it is recommended that the **FY2008 School Department Budget be closed** effective April 11, 2008, except for emergencies and those anticipated needs during the last month of school. Mr. Daley moved the recommendation.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Finance  
Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce, chair of the **Finance Subcommittee**, stated that the subcommittee met this evening, April 8, and recommended favorably on **Reconfiguration Proposal #4 put forth by the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force**. Mr. Dobrowski moved to accept the report of the Finance Subcommittee meeting with the correction of adding that the Finance Subcommittee also met on Monday, April 7, 2008. Highlights of Proposal #4 are as follows:

- a. Plouffe School will be a Central Middle School
- b. Whitman and Franklin Schools will be closed permanently
- c. Ashfield School will be temporarily closed and will reopen as a Middle School
- d. Raymond School will eventually be formed into a K-8
- e. Gilmore School will close temporarily, and the programs will be moved to the Central Middle School

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept **Reconfiguration Proposal #4** as presented by the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force in its entirety. On the motion, Mr. Foley stated that students safety, as far as walkers, should be a primary concern as we move forward. Mrs. Joyce stated that it will be a priority, and the whole Committee is in agreement that the safety of our students is foremost. The vote was then taken.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary  
jh