

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School at seven-thirty o'clock.

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

Note: These minutes contain a summary of the hearing and list the items that were under discussion.

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the School Committee on May 4, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on School Choice of May 19, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on May 19, 2009. Mr. Minichiello requested that the minutes be amended, correcting Mrs. Beyer's vote which was *not* in favor of participation in School Choice.

Voted: to accept motion, as amended, unanimously

Attendance Report

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for May 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Communication

Superintendent Nembirkow read a memorandum from Executive Director James Hayden regarding the *Brockton Schools H1N1 Flu Response*. Mr. Nembirkow reported that the School Department has been working closely with the Board of Health to follow guidelines for the treatment of individuals in schools who display H1N1 flu symptoms. The Superintendent commended the staff, i.e., nurses, teachers and custodians on a remarkable job in their response to this important matter.

Verizon Thinkfinity Award

Mr. Nembirkow introduced Mr. Nick Colon, Regional Director of Verizon, who presented *teachers Victoria Graham, Jennifer Baker and Jeane Gasson* with a \$10,000 check for the Davis School. These teachers successfully wrote a proposal which resulted

in the Davis School being awarded the *Verizon Grant*. The grant is designed to improve MCAS performance and help prepare students for future academic success.

Mayor Harrington said that *only* 15 schools statewide were awarded the checks, and he congratulated the Davis School.

YMCA Strong Kids Campaign

The guidance department and school principals conducted a month-long fundraising event to benefit the *YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign*, allowing Brockton children to attend summer camp, as well as assisting homeless families. On March 31st, *Principal Vilma Gonzalez of the Manthala George, Jr. School*, collected \$5,357 and was awarded the Castaline Cup, so named for Reva Castaline, retired Brockton Public Schools Adjustment Counselor. During her career, Ms. Castaline worked tirelessly in securing camp opportunities for thousands of Brockton children.

A check in the amount of \$22,010.18 was presented to the YMCA by Guidance Director John Snelgrove and Superintendent Nembirkow.

Little Red Schoolhouse Spelling Bee Winners

Mayor Harrington, Superintendent Nembirkow and School Committeewoman Janice Beyer presented Certificates of Recognition to *25 Brockton Schools and Trinity Academy Spelling Bee winners in grades 3 through 8*. Classroom, grade level and citywide contests were held on May 30 and June 13. Each student winner was also given two Brockton Rox tickets, and the Mutual Bank provided letters to each winner informing her/him that a savings account with a balance of \$25. would be opened for her/him subject to written parental acceptance.

Recess

Mayor Harrington called for a brief recess to allow students and parents to leave the meeting.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

Baroncelli Awards

Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow presented Certificates of Recognition to *Howard School parents Catherine Heggarty and Kristina Lutz* who worked tirelessly for two years to obtain funds for a universally-designed playground accessible to all children located at the Howard School. Superintendent Nembirkow congratulated the parents on their accomplishment, stating that the playground is a gift to the City of Brockton.

2009 Louis Angelo Community Service Award

Mr. Brian Voelkel, general manager of the Brockton Rox, was awarded both a Certificate of Recognition and a plaque by Superintendent Nembirkow and Mayor Harrington for his *partnership with the Brockton Public Schools Guidance Office* which has resulted in a variety of resources that assist ongoing initiatives and the Strong Kids Campaign. Mr. Voelkel and the Brockton Rox continually demonstrate their investment in the Brockton community.

2009 Administrative Interns

Two Brockton High School teachers, Elaine Alves, school adjustment counselor, and Ruth Eevee, business education teacher, participated in the *2009 Brockton Public Schools Administrative Internship Program* which was designed to improve the School System

through the professional development of potential administrators. The program is under the overall direction of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Susan Dukess who also conducts weekly seminars for the interns during the eight-week long program. Ms. Eevee was assigned to Executive Director of Operations and School Administration James Hayden, and Ms. Alves was assigned to Principal Kevin Karo of South Middle School. Each intern was presented a Certificate of Recognition by Superintendent Nembirkow and Mayor Harrington.

Mr. Hayden said that the energy and enthusiasm of both well-trained interns was greatly appreciated, and he looks forward to seeing them in administrative positions in the district.

Administration of Epinephrine

Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is requesting authorization to submit a *renewal request to the Department of Public Health permitting unlicensed school personnel to administer epinephrine in a life-threatening situation*. At this time, Mrs. Kuplast, school nurse supervisor, briefly discussed training, the current number of trained individuals in the System, as well as the number of events that took place this year.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the abovementioned renewal request.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Authorization to Submit Proposals

DESE 21ST CCLC

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *21st Century Community Learning Centers Exemplary Programs RFP* to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The purpose of this grant is to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities designed to complement students' regular, school-day academic programs. The grant award is approximately \$367,500.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *Coordinated Family and Community Engagement RFP* to the Department of Early Education and Care and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The grant is intended to develop and implement innovative approaches to comprehensive planning, coordination and delivery of local family access and community engagement services. The amount is \$220,755.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Program and

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of

Practitioner Supports

the *Program and Practitioner Supports RFP* to the Department of Early Education and Care and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The grant is intended to improve educational and developmental outcomes for children by improving the quality of early education and care and out-of-school time services. The amount is \$90,878.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Quality Full-Day K

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *Quality Full-Day Kindergarten RFP* to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The purpose of the grant is to enhance the educational experience of children currently in full-day kindergarten classrooms by improving the quality and continuity of curriculum across preschool, kindergarten and grade one by developing other programmatic components of kindergarten. The amount is \$812,500.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

School and District Innovation

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *School and District Innovation RFP* to the Teaching Tolerance Program and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The object of the grant is to have fewer students identified as *learning disabled* by providing early intervention as academic and/or behavior concerns emerge. The grant will enable the district to expand its successful Response to Intervention (RTI) model piloted at the Kennedy School to scale in *all* elementary schools across the district. Professional development training will be provided for Grades PreK – 5 teachers, administrators, guidance counselors and support staff in the RTI model and the roles and responsibilities of the Instructional Support team. The amount is \$10,000.

A discussion took place on the motion regarding the amount of funding and special needs students. Responses were given by Virginia Lynch, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning, PreK-5 and Superintendent Nembirkow.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Foreign Language Assistance Program

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) RFP* to the U. S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The district's proposal is to expand and enhance its Spanish two-way immersion model of foreign language instruction from primary to secondary grade school students, specifically, Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. The grant will provide support for teacher professional development, curriculum development in Spanish and home/school collaboration activities that will

allow the George and Plouffe Schools to strengthen and expand their two-way immersion programs. The amount is \$446,527.

Mrs. Joyce congratulated grant writers, Kellie Jones, Jane Rizzitano and Karen Watkins-Watts on a job well-done.

A brief discussion was held on the motion, and Kellie Jones of Bilingual Education, K-8, and Superintendent Nembirkow offered responses.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

2009-2010 BPS Handbooks

Superintendent Nembirkow announced that all levels of the *BPS Student-Parent Handbook* have been updated for the new school year. Upon School Committee approval, the handbooks will be sent to the printer.

In compliance with the Massachusetts DESE Rules and Regulations, the Brockton High School *School Council* reviews the handbook, annually.

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Handbooks, and send them to the printer.

On the motion, Mr. Daley made an inquiry regarding the Russell School (Phoenix Program), and the Superintendent stated that recommendations will be made to the School Committee on this matter in the future.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Sexual Harassment Officers

Mr. Nembirkow explained that *Sexual Harassment Officers* for staff and students are appointed, annually. He announced that his 2009-2010 appointments are:

Ms. Kathleen Sirois, Executive Director for Human Resources, as Sexual Harassment Officer for **Staff**

Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, as Sexual Harassment Officer for **Students**

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the abovementioned appointments.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

School Year Work & Learn Grant

Superintendent Nembirkow announced that the Massachusetts DESE offers funding for MCAS support in combination with structured internships for older teens through its *School Year Work & Learn Grant*. The School Department will utilize the funds for eligible students enrolled in both the Champion High and Russell Schools. The funds will offer support for up to 30 students in the Classes of 2010 and 2011 who have not yet

passed the 10th grade MCAS. Funds will also contribute to the development of a career center at the Keith building.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of the School Year Work & Learn RFP to the DESE and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Transfer of Funds

Superintendent Nembirkow requested School Committee approval for a *transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,600,000* from the FY2009 School Department Ordinary Maintenance account to the FY2009 Personal Services account to address deficits.

Mr. Daley asked what had caused the need for this transfer, and Mr. Petronio, Executive Director for Financial Services, stated a number of reasons: contractual settlements, overtime, substitutes, long-term illnesses, maternity leaves, severances and earned credits.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of the School Department projecting early retirements, as well as the mention of other analyses. Messrs. Petronio and Nembirkow responded, in kind. The Superintendent concluded by saying that, people do not realize the complexity of the budget process, and he said that the School Department *has a balanced budget*.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,600,000 from the FY2009 Ordinary Maintenance account to the FY2009 Personal Services account.

Voted: adopt recommendation, unanimously

2009-2010 SC Meetings

Mrs. Beyer move the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the *2009-2010 School Committee meeting dates*, accepting that it may be necessary to move the meeting location on some dates.

Voted: adopt recommendation, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following *Personnel Action* listed on Enclosure #21:

Leaves of Absence:

David Kaitz, BHS teacher	Granted Alt. Career, Eff. 2009-2010
Dorothy Ruokis, Angelo para.	Granted Unpd. Family Medical LOA, Eff. 05/22/09

Resignations:

Erin DeNapoli, BHS teacher	Eff. 6/02/09
Stacey Durma, Angelo teacher	Eff. 6/24/09

Diallo Ferguson, Davis teacher Eff. 6/24/09

Retirements:

Maria Grande-Conley, BHS teacher	Eff. 8/11/09
Susan Donovan, Student Info. Mgmt. Specialist	Eff. 6/30/09
Elizabeth Kelliher, Downey para.	Eff. 6/30/09
Rita Lyman, Angelo para.	Eff. 9/09/09

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Bid Review
Subcommittee**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the reports of the *Bid Review Subcommittee meetings* on June 8 and 16, 2009, that took place at the Arnone School (06/08/09) and BHS (06/16/09).

June 2009 Reports

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Food Service Provider

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award Chartwells Food Service the *Food Service Management contract*, with mutually agreed upon contractual language, stipulations regarding performance standards and an annual review for consideration of contract renewal.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

2010 Supplies Bid

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following *FY2010 bids* to the vendors, as presented:

- BHS Photography Supplies
- BHS Art Supplies
- BHS Science Supplies
- Physical Education, K-8 Supplies
- Art Supplies for District
- Health and Medical Supplies

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Superintendent Search
Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the *reports of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee* on May 11, 12, 27 and June 4, 2009.

Reports

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Minutes

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the minutes of the *Special School Committee meetings* on May 11, June 4 and June 8, 2009.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

At this time, Mr. Bath opened a discussion about the *voting protocol* for the election of the new superintendent. Mayor Harrington said that the protocol should be determined at the time of voting.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the use of *confidentiality contracts*, its pros and cons, in vetting candidates, as well as considering potential dates to hold the election of the new superintendent. Mr. Bath said that individual School Committee members will initiate his/her own evaluation of candidates.

Date to Elect New Superintendent

Mrs. Beyer moved to schedule a *Special Meeting of the School Committee* that will include a *Hearing of Visitors* for the purpose of electing a new Superintendent, on June 23, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the BHS Little Theatre.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

New Business

Mayor Harrington stated that he had received a letter from the District Attorney citing the DA's findings on the *Superintendent Search Screening and Interview process*. The Mayor said, "... *We did the right thing.*"

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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