

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

September 16, 2009

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. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Foley

NOTE: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list 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 to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on September 2, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Teaching & Learning

Superintendent Malone said that it was a very successful day in the Brockton Public Schools today. Commissioner Chester chose Brockton High School as the site to release the state data on the 2009 MCAS results, and Dr. Malone has given the PowerPoint presentation used today to School Committee members. He said the event was phenomenal, including the band and Dr. Szachowicz's careful planning. It showed, over time, how the System achieved. He said that BHS is one of eight schools with low income over 60% or more where more than 50% of the students scored proficient or higher in all three areas of MCAS. There are only two public high schools, Revere and Brockton, who accomplished this. Dr. Malone said that our proficiency rate is 78% across the high school, as is the state's at 79%; the statistics show that we closed the gap to "0."

Superintendent Malone said accolades are to go to the elementary and middle school teachers, the supportive staff and the entire district. He said that he is honored to be part of a system that works so hard to increase student achievement.

Dr. Malone was happy to inform the Committee that he has met his entry plan goal of visiting all schools in his first two weeks effective last Friday. He said that he visited the Adult Learning Center today and spoke with adults about the importance of an education and what earning a G.E.D. can mean. He also learned that there is a preschool class in the lower level of the school, filled with the youngsters of the students in the program. He read to the children, "*The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round*," (one of his favorites!) and said that we are not just a K-12 system. We have ages 3 – 22 years and programs like Community Schools and the Adult Learning Center.

Dr. Malone said that he intends to go to as many events as he can in order to get the lay of the land. He attended the BC-Brockton Football game (and he's still drying out his shoes!), girls soccer and wrestling. He said he's very excited about his job and wants to meet as many people as he can. He talked about the good work of the BPS at the Annual Jean Sullivan Breakfast on Sunday, September 13th, at the V.F.W. and invited people to visit the School System.

Report on BPS Walkthrough Protocol

The Superintendent then introduced Mr. Jerome, Interim Deputy Superintendent, to give the report on the Brockton Public Schools Walkthrough Protocol. Dr. Malone said that he is proud of the team effort focusing on instruction in the classrooms in the school system.

Mr. Jerome discussed at length the BPS Roadmap, a strategic plan that was developed for improving student achievement, based on effective use of data to meet performance standards. He read the five goals and nine standards of the Plan. He also reviewed the School Visit Walkthrough Guide and displayed an example of an ELA Walkthrough on November 19th. He said, "...*It's no longer the quiz at the end of the week anymore.*"

Mr. Jerome stated that Roadmap is not about evaluating teachers—it's about us judging ourselves; about having the right curriculum, and the right professional development to support teachers. He said that the team does not interfere with the teacher teaching, but observes the students. The team meets with the principal to discuss their observations and the Deputy Superintendent meets with the principal. Mr. Jerome said that the team expects to conduct 66 Walkthroughs this year and has already completed almost 200 in over two and one-half years.

Mr. Jerome said that the administration has worked with Dr. Sullivan, President of the B.E.A, to include teachers on the Walkthrough team. Dr. Sullivan agreed that this is a positive addition.

Following the presentation, Mr. Jerome took questions from School Committee members regarding professional development, finding resources for principals and testing/assessment. One of Mr. Jerome's final statements was, "...*The students need to see how we teach in Brockton and how we are preparing for them.*"

The School Committee thanked Mr. Jerome for a very impressive and enlightening report.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

At this time, Dr. Malone took a moment to introduce Luke Flanagan, Student Advisory Council member to the School Committee. The Superintendent welcomed Luke and thanked him for his interest in serving, and invited him to take an active role.

Dr. Malone thanked Helen Virga, assistant principal, of the Howard School for his visit of the other day, and encouraged School Committee to visit the school, as well, to observe the good things that are happening there.

Enrollment Report

The Superintendent then introduced Lynn Winkler, Director of the Parent Information-Student Registration Center who discussed enrollment in the Brockton Public Schools following the reconfiguration of the school system. She spoke on the changes in zones and transportation, as well as the number of transfer out-of-zone requests made by parents before the start of the school year. Ms. Winkler said that every effort was made to balance class sizes across the district.

The Superintendent referred to the two enrollment reports that were distributed this evening dated September 11th and 16th and said that the numbers concern him. He said that he will address the issue next January on what the numbers mean. Ms. Winkler thanked the schools and school secretaries for their help in a huge process.

The discussion continued, with mentions of increased student population, class sizes, and the number of “no-show” students, which will be determined on the tenth day of attendance taking, causing the numbers to drop.

Mr. Minichiello inquired about the total enrollment of the Hancock School. Dr. Malone informed School Committee that he has provided information regarding questions about the Hancock School and other matters which was distributed to the members this evening.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

FY10 WIA In-School Year-Round Youth Program RFP

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to authorize submission of the *FY2010 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) In-School Year-Round Youth Program RFP* and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the local network of referrals, services and programs that address the barriers to the labor market for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14-21. It is projected that youths with disabilities, 24 from the high school and six from the Lincoln School would receive workforce development and academic skills assistance throughout the school year. In the summer, these 30 youth would then transition to paid employment positions. The contract award would amount to approximately \$75,000.

A brief discussion followed the motion regarding how the partnerships work, and Laurie Silva, 21st Century Coordinator, responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Title I WIA RFP
Downtown Work to
Learn Program**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of the *Title I Workforce Investment Act RFP*, administered by the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

This funding is designed to support services and programs that address barriers to labor market and economic success for disadvantaged young people and is available for two years.

The proposal would help 30 students from both the Champion High and B. B. Russell Schools that will offer them job readiness training, team projects in the spring and paid work experience in the summer, along with graduation and career planning. The proposal involves partnering with the Downtown Business Association, Brockton's Promise and the Fuller Craft Museum to offer significant work experiences downtown to participating youth, giving them a stake in the revitalization of downtown as they develop their own skills. The amount would be \$70,000 per year, or \$140,000 over two years, to be called the *Downtown Work to Learn Program*.

Superintendent Malone commented that he has seen this program, and it is phenomenal.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**NSBA Annual
Conference**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to send interested School Committee members to the annual National School Board Association (NSBA) conference to be held in Chicago, IL, from April 10-13, 2010.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Personnel
Appointments**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #8.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #9:

Leaves of Absence

Susan Daniels, BHS (Granted 12 Wk. FML, Eff. 9/1/09)

Resignations

Kellie Carlson, Davis, Eff. 8/27/09

Jay Conaty, Champion High, Eff. 8/26/09

Katelyn Crouse, MTA, Downey, Eff. 9/2/09

Jennifer Green, MTA, West Middle, Eff. 9/1/09
Margaret McPeck, Paraprofessional, BHS, Eff. 9/1/09
Tracey Newell, Paraprofessional, George, Eff. 9/1/09

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Accounts Review
Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Accounts Review Subcommittee meeting on September 2, 2009.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Policy Subcommittee meeting on September 10, 2009.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Superintendent-Board Communications Protocol.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Model Standards of Practice by School Committee (Board Governance) Protocol.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 District Strategic Goals.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Minichiello said that he spoke with John McGarry, Executive Director for Elections, who said that the work of the custodians and Facilities Department in preparing the school buildings for the Primary Elections was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Minichiello also said that he had a very good experience at the North Middle School at their recognition of September 11th event.

Mayor Harrington commented on the Commissioner's visit to Brockton High, saying that Commissioner Chester spends a lot of time at the high school, and Mayor Harrington thanked former Superintendent Nembirkow for his five-year plan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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