

Brockton, Massachusetts
Regular Meeting
September 20, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, 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; Mr. Hancock, Vice-Chair; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

**Hearing of
Visitors
Christopher Lynch**

Mr. Christopher Lynch, BHS Student Advisory Council Representative to the School Committee, addressed the Committee on the following issues: the abandonment of tracking at the junior high schools and the playing of rap music on the elementary school buses.

Tami Joia

Ms. Tami Joia of IDEAS, (Individual Development to Education Attitudes and Solutions, Corp.), addressed the School Committee on Special Education issues. Mayor Harrington indicated that a representative of the School Department will get back to her on her concerns.

**Approval of
Records**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2006, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Recognition of
Winner of MTA
Red Sox Reading
Game**

Benjamin Stagnone, grade 6 student at the Ashfield School, was selected as one of five grand prize winners in the Massachusetts Teachers' Association Red Sox Reading Game. Benjamin won game tickets as well as access to the field for pre-game ceremonies, \$100 Borders Gift Certificate and a dinner at the Hall of Fame Club. In addition, he also won \$1,000 worth of books from Random House Publishing, through the Massachusetts Teachers' Association, for the Ashfield School Library. In early October, the MTA will meet with Tim Sullivan, BEA President, to coordinate the delivery of the books. Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow presented Benjamin with a Certificate of Recognition. Mr. Tim Sullivan, BEA President, presented Benjamin with a poster of Jason Varitek reading a book entitled 86 Years: The Legend of the Boston Red Sox as well as an autographed copy of the book by author Melinda Boroson. Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the donation to the Ashfield School.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Presentation on
Parents' Academy**

Ms. Prudence Buckley, Director of School Registration and Parent Information Center; Mrs. Jane Feroli, Specialist for Parent Involvement; and Mrs. Elizabeth Giblin, Smart Start Extended Day Manager/Teacher at the Raymond School, were present to discuss the Parents' Academy Programs for the 2006-2007 school year. This initiative can best be summed up with the program's Mission Statement: The Parents' Academy provides parents of children in the Brockton Public Schools with information on curriculum, teaching and learning methods as well as knowledge of the school system's organizational structure. The Parent's Academy helps parents to assist their children by providing them with workshops and trainings while developing proactive parenting skills. The most successful parent is one who is invested in their child's education, and the Parents' Academy strives to build strong home-school-community connections. Seventeen workshops have been planned. All workshop will be held at the Arnone School from 6:30-8 p.m. School Committee members complimented the presenters for all their work in making the Parents' Academy a reality.

**School Redesign:
Expanding
Learning
Time to support**

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a School Redesign: Expanding Learning Time to Support Student Success – Planning Grant proposal. The grant is to support a district's planning activities to use longer school days/years as part of its redesign strategy to raise student achievement.

Student Success

The grant will provide resources for districts to plan the innovative redesign of selected schools that will offer students more time for challenging, research-based, and varied learning experiences. The grant will also provide educators with increased opportunities to plan and participate in professional development. Brockton's proposal will include plans to open two Expanded Learning Time Schools at the Gilmore Academy and the Huntington School in September 2008. The identified schools are subject to change based on information ascertained during the planning process. The amount would be approximately \$20,000. Districts that develop subsequent approved Implementation Plans will be eligible for state funding of \$1,300 per student to establish Expanded Learning Time Schools.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Foreign Exchange Student

School Committee policy allows a student to enter the Brockton Public Schools if he/she is sponsored through a recognized exchange agency, will live in the home of a Brockton resident who accepts responsibility for his/her school attendance and academic achievement, and is approved by the Superintendent and School Committee. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize Rafael Pedroso to enter Brockton High School as a Foreign Exchange student. He is being sponsored by Cultural Homestay International of California and will be residing with Elizabeth Richard, his appointed legal guardian, in Brockton, MA.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Authorization to send SC Delegates to NSBA Conference

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize interested School Committee members to attend the National School Board Association Conference in San Francisco, California, on April 14-17, 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Discussion of November SC Meeting Dates

Due to a conflict with the MASC/MASS Joint Conference on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, the first meeting in November will need to be changed. Mr. Hancock moved to hold one meeting in November on November 21, 2006. If there is a need for a Special Meeting, it will be called.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

October SC Meeting Date

Mr. Foley asked if the October 3, 2006, School Committee meeting could be moved to October 10 due to his being out of the city. He then moved to schedule the first meeting in October on October 10, 2006. October meeting dates will be October 10 and October 17, 2006.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Notification of Personnel Action

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

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Notification of Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following personnel action:

1. Leaves of Absence
 - Cecilia Byron – BHS (12 wk. unpaid FMLA – Eff. 9/5/06)
 - Frank Metta – BHS Custodian (3 mo. extension of unpaid Medical – Eff. 9/6/06)
2. Resignations
 - Mona Burns, Belmont St. MTA (Eff. 8/31/06)
 - Colleen Pucko, Belmont St. MTA (Eff. 9/6/06)
 - Elisa Rosenthal – East JHS Occupational Therapist (Eff. 9/28/06)
 - Clare Mansfield – Secretary Instructional Technology (9/1/06)
3. Retirement
 - Dr. Claire Appling – Director of Health Education and Services (Eff. 12/1/06)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Accounts Review
Subcommittee**

Mrs. Joyce, chair, stated that the Accounts Review Subcommittee met on Monday, September 18, 2006, to review the accounts for the period of August 18 through September 15, 2006, and found them to be in order. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the accounts reviewed for the period from August 18, 2006, to September 15, 2006.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Superintendent's
Contract/
Evaluation**

Mr. Dobrowski, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Superintendent's Contract/Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting of September 11, 2006. Mr. Daley moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**New Business
Policy
Subcommittee**

Mr. Hancock stated that a meeting was recently held at West Jr. High School with parents regarding changes in scheduling. Several School Committee members were also present, and it was their consensus to call for a Policy Subcommittee Meeting. In discussion with the Superintendent, the earliest available date was October 4 at 7p.m. at the Arnone School. Members needed to check their schedules. It was decided that School Committee members would be polled tomorrow.

**Rotary Club
Donation**

Mrs. Beyer indicated that the Rotary Club will be donating a dictionary, in conjunction with the Spelling Bee, to every grade 3 student in the Brockton Public Schools.

Executive Session

Mayor Harrington stated that the School Committee will be going into Executive Session immediately following this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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