

Brockton, Massachusetts                      Regular Meeting                      September 15, 2010

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 o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Bath

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

**Hearing of Visitors**

Mr. Bill McGauley of the Brockton Youth Foundation addressed the School Committee this evening to thank them for their support of last June's Casino Night. He said the event was a great success. Mr. McGauley spoke of upcoming events in the 2011 year.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Balzotti briefly reviewed the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked School Committee members if there were any items he/she wished to removed from the agenda. Mr. Daley requested to remove *Enclosure #4: Approval of Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee Report (September 7, 2010)*.

Mrs. Beyer then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of Regular School Committee Meeting on September 2, 2010
- Notification of Personnel Appointments (Certified; Non-Certified)
- Notification of Personnel Action (Resignations; Retirement)

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Facilities Usage & Planning Report**

Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee Report of September 7, 2010, as amended.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter moved to postpone School Committee action on the recommendation to hire two (2) masons to be funded under Personal Services.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the completion of the Snow Park Playground, using funds from the facilities contractual services.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the installation of the perimeter fence surrounding the Gilmore playground with PAC funds, and, if said funds are insufficient, use funds resulting from savings from scheduled facility ordinary maintenance projects, as amended.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the installation of the outside cafeteria at the vacated playground area at the Plouffe Academy, and have the funding for the project come from the Food Service revolving account and student fund raising.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to prepare a report on water usage and billing for future discussion at a Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Ms. Lynn Winkler**

At this time, Dr. Malone announced that this evening's School Committee meeting is the last that Lynn Winkler, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center, will attend due to her imminent retirement. He thanked her for hard work and efforts, and for recently registering over 1,300 students for the new school year.

**Learning & Teaching  
Kindergarten**

Dr. Malone stated that the first day of Kindergarten was outstanding. Everyone, he said, was engaged, and teaching and learning were ongoing on day one.

MCAS Superintendent Malone announced that an MCAS report will be given in October. At that time, School Committee will see an increase in proficiency in ELA and Math;. *“Overall, he said, we are still outperforming the state.”*

FY’11 Positions Dr. Malone reviewed for the School Committee the number of FY ’11 positions originally cut (269) and what that number has been reduced to in the buybacks (170). Some of the people that were cut took jobs elsewhere, and, because of this, the School Department has experienced some unemployment savings. With these savings, Dr. Malone has brought back the following positions:

- Two (2) Kindergarten teachers (Davis and Raymond)/north and south zones
- Two (2) paraprofessionals
- One (1) second grade teacher, Hancock; one (1) third grade teacher, Kennedy; one (1) fourth grade teacher, Arnone – all hired to assist the class size issue

Dr. Malone said that cognitive development and literacy continue to be the critical needs. He said that he is reinstating five (5) classroom teachers to replace five (5) Reading Resource Specialists, who will go back to their field, totaling 11 RRS’s.

Mr. Minichiello stated that the abovementioned savings were unanticipated monies that were budgeted in unemployment. *“The School Committee, he said, collectively went through the budget which was an open and honest process; not smoke and mirrors. We don’t want people to have the impression that we found money.”*

Dr. Malone said that the savings could have been anticipated, but the figure would have been inaccurate. He then distributed to School Committee members an FY ’11 Position Cut spreadsheet, highlighting current information regarding specifics on layoffs and callbacks. Mr. Petronio, Executive Director of Finance Services, reviewed the information.

A brief discussion took place regarding enrollment at the Davis, Huntington and Kennedy Schools, as well as, a clarification on the RRS positions. Both Dr. Malone and Mr. Jerome, Deputy Superintendent, responded to questions asked by Committee members.

Mr. Carpenter said that he would like to see more money spent on the rehiring of non-certified personnel. He said that the non-certified staff cost less to bring back and make a lot of impact on the system. *“We have really been feeling the impact from the loss of paraprofessionals, and I request/implore you to try to get more non-certified people back,”* he said.

Dr. Malone said that the School Department will look at all support positions, again, and said that the System has a commitment to look at all critical needs.

## **Instructional Technology Report**

At this time, Dr. Malone called on Director of Instructional Technology Daniel Vigeant to give the report on Brockton Technology Services. Mr. Vigeant gave a PowerPoint presentation, describing where the School Department has been, where it is, and where it's going. Highlighted in the report were the following topics: student-computer ratio for school years 2004 through 2009; the latest technological devices for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom; a review of instructional software and system upgrades; information about the timeline/phases of the following: School Department-City Dark Fiber Initiative, the Wireless Initiative; and the BHS-UCM (Unified Call Manager) project; a review of the Technology Mini-Conference held last March 2010; the Desktop phone system, which has been recently added to the responsibility of the Technology Department; and the ratio of technology staff to other staff and computers.

After the presentation, School Committee members inquired about the following technology concerns which were responded to by Mr. Vigeant:

- Teacher training costs
- Professional Development costs
- Concern about the age of computers
- Data storage
- Off-site back-up costs
- Out-sourcing
- Digitalizing books
- Professional development costs
- Dark fiber
- Building of Infra Structure
- Timeline on the District becoming 100% wireless
- Grant applications/federal support
- Capability for parents to view student progress (Data Services issue)
- Feedback from educators on utilization/success of Instructional Technology

The School Committee congratulated Mr. Vigeant and thanked him for his report.

## **New Business**

At this time, Mr. Carpenter asked the Superintendent for an update on the budget, specifically, overtime costs.


Mr. Carpenter also inquired as to when the vacated adjustment counselor position at Brockton High School would be filled. Ms. Sirois said that interviews are now being held.

Mr. Carpenter asked if there is a system in place in the Brockton Public Schools to identify students whose family members are serving in the military. Obtaining the information would be for the purpose of offering support to the students. Dr. Malone said there are privacy issues, and it is up to parents to inform the School System, if they so wish. He added that there is no specific method in place, and he would look further into the matter.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being the most prominent.

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.  
Secretary

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