

A Public Hearing on the proposed FY2010 School Department Budget was held on Tuesday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School.

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

Absent: Mr. Daley

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at six thirty o'clock. He indicated that the Public Hearing was held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Laws. The purpose of the hearing was to provide the residents of Brockton and/or representatives of employee groups with an opportunity to express their views on and concerns about the proposed FY2010 Budget. The role of School Committee members during this hearing was to listen to public comments and concerns. Members of the Committee do not respond to any statements or questions during the course of the meeting. Individuals were asked to keep their remarks to three minutes.

Superintendent Nembirkow proceeded to highlight a powerpoint presentation on the FY2010 School Department Budget before the hearing of visitors. He stated that his primary responsibility as Superintendent is to present a budget to the School Committee that ensures the progress made continues and the necessary resources, supplies, training, staff, etc., are in place. He stated that this has been an unusual year for budget planning not only in Brockton but nationwide due to the unusual circumstances that occurred, e.g., the economic meltdown, Federal government getting involved in saving jobs and stimulating the economy, etc. This has slowed the budget planning process down.

Superintendent Nembirkow mentioned the Full-Day Kindergarten program, Gilmore Academy, Alternative programs, transportation costs, opening of two new state-of-the art schools, school configurations of K-5, 6-8, K-8 and high school, Read First, math program, class size, languages, International Baccalaureate, contracts, fixed costs, closing of buildings, technology, etc. He stated that programs have to be provided for youth disengaged, those in the process of dropping out, and those who are not successful in a normal high school setting. Two issues on the front burner nationally are Dropout Prevention, making sure that all of our students graduate from high school, and Closing the Achievement Gap between the various groups.

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that five years ago in grades 7 and 8, performance was down. Focus was then placed on the middle schools; he was pleased to announce that amongst urban school systems now, we are number one in performance.

Superintendent Nembirkow then introduced Mr. Aldo Petronio, Executive Director of Financial Services, who distributed a handout on the budget and proceeded to highlight it. He discussed the \$13 million shortfall and how administration proceeded to balance the budget. The budget going to the City Council is in the amount of \$131 million whereas the actual budget is in the amount of \$138 million (includes stabilization and stimulus funds). He stated that the areas administration has control over will be frozen and monitored carefully, i.e., supplies, textbooks, repairs, maintenance, until administration knows the status of the funding. He feels that this budget is balanced and something they can live with.

Mr. Petronio then went over the additional funding streams, e.g., ARRA, IDEA, Title I funds. He also highlighted the Non-Net School Spending sheet which primarily covers the transportation of students, some traffic expenses and the lease of the Parent Information Center. There is still a shortfall. He stated that they have from now until September to determine if they can reconfigure the bus routes, tier system, etc. A reason the figure is out of balance is that circuit breaker funds have been reduced substantially.

The FY2010 School Department Budget in the amount of \$131,208,177 represents \$105,807,637 in Personal Services, \$21,152,863 in Ordinary Maintenance, \$39,500 in Out-of-State Travel, and \$4,208,177 in Non-Net School Spending.

There being no visitors wishing to comment on the budget, Mayor Harrington adjourned the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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