

# **BROCKTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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The Honorable Bill Carpenter  
**Chair/Mayor of Brockton**

Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr.  
**Vice-Chair**

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
**Secretary/Superintendent  
of Schools**



June 11, 2018

TO: Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr., Chair  
Aldo E. Petronio

FROM: Kathleen A. Smith, JD

RE: June 11, 2018 Finance Subcommittee Meeting

The Finance subcommittee of the Brockton School Committee met on Monday, June 11, 2018, in the Theater at the Dr. William H. Arnone School in Brockton, MA, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Minichiello, Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith, Mr. Petronio

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and asked Superintendent Smith to frame the issues.

The Superintendent stated that tonight the committee will continue discussions about the budget, deficits, and working together to do whatever we can for the district. The number of layoffs is a priority, there are still 100 pink slips out there (that includes 35 "cushion" positions), we expect an increase in funding from the house and senate budgets but we may not have a figure until the end of July. As we go forward we are doing everything we can to advocate with the city and state, but unless the state addresses the foundation budget recommendations, we will face a deficit again next year and the years after. For that reason we are looking for sustainability with respect to programs, tonight she has prepared a power point presentation with the facts about Project Grads and the discussion surrounding the program. She has spent a lot of time getting a historical perspective on the program that has historically run at a deficit but has also served our students well.

The Superintendent's presentation compared services for teen mothers provided by Project Grads and those offered by the YMCA. She is proposing a model where teen mothers can choose to keep their baby on site at BHS or off-site at the YMCA facility while developing a collaboration that will bring the YMCA in and strengthen our program. She has received assurance from the Early Education Center (EEC) that we can do a collaboration and we will work with them on this model.

The proposal eliminates childcare for teachers, eliminates the program facilitator position and moves oversight of the program to the Community School office, working out specifics with the BEA, and will free up space to expand the Chapter 74 program. She reminded the committee that this is an opportunity to have the program *not* run at a deficit, give teen mothers choices, expand our Chapter 74 program and comply with recommendations from the state's Coordinated Program Review.

Following the Superintendent's presentation, Mr. Minichiello opened the floor for discussion.

The Superintendent responded to questions and concerns from the committee with respect to the proposed changes to the program and whether the teen mothers will continue to receive the level of support they have in the Project Grads program, and the issue of space in order to expand Chapter 74 programs.

Mr. Minichiello assured members that the committee will continue to work as a whole to ensure any changes are done correctly for our students. He said they must also make sure there is enough staff for the system. With respect to the changes to Project Grads, Mr. Minichiello said this does not require a vote because it is not an elimination of a program. Ms. Plant said it is listed as a cut on the proposed budget and felt a motion was necessary to remove the program from elimination.

**Ms. Plant moved to remove line item 7 and line item 28 from the school committee proposed budget, the motion was seconded by Mr. D'Agostino.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

### **FY19 Budget**

The Superintendent said she would like permission to direct Mr. Petronio to look for non-restricted funds in the FY19 budget to call back up to 25 pink slips before June 26<sup>th</sup> (the last day of school), after which the callback situation changes and unemployment costs kick in. These funds would offset a possible reduction in the anticipated Senate funding proposal in the event the funds do not become available. Mr. Petronio explained that this callback would save approximately \$140,000 in unemployment costs. The Superintendent said that we could hedge the \$600,000 in the substitute budget from next year and hopefully find another \$400,000. Mr. Petronio said the current substitute budget is \$300,000 overspent, and would probably be close to \$1 million in total spending for FY18.

Mr. Minichiello stated that he would discuss this with the Mayor before the committee makes a final decision; Superintendent Smith said she would like to move on this next week due to the urgency of the June 26<sup>th</sup> date.

### **Other Business**

The committee discussed other topics related to budget issues.

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

wka

Handout: Project Grads "A Review of the Facts" Power Point Presentation