

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**



May 30, 2018

TO: Brockton School Committee

FROM: Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr.
Aldo E. Petronio, Chief Budget Officer

RE: **Report of the May 29, 2018 Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

The Finance Subcommittee met on Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at 6:45 p.m. in the theater at the Dr. William H. Arnone School. Present were Mr. Minichiello, Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan; Superintendent Smith, Mr. Petronio.

Also Present: Mayor Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent Thomas, Kellie Jones, June Saba-Maguire, Project Grads Program Facilitator Mary Read; Meryl Nistler and Larry Spang from Arrowstreet Architectural Firm, BPS Transportation Specialist Peggy Killea, Director of Business Technology and Career Education Kevin DaPonte, Erin Spaulding, SVP of the YMCA Youth Development and Family Strengthening; Lauren Selman and Kim Moran, also from Old Colony YMCA

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and gave the floor to Superintendent Smith.

Superintendent Smith said tonight's agenda would begin with looking at our facilities and a plan for renovations, she asked Deputy Superintendent Thomas to start the discussion around the middle school recommendations.

Middle School Recommendations

In response to questions and concerns raised at the May 15th finance meeting, Deputy Superintendent Thomas invited Mr. Larry Spang and Ms. Meryl Nistler to present on facilities with a focus on North Middle School, and BPS Transportation Specialist Peggy Killea to explain how student assignments and transportation would be adjusted for each of the middle school recommendations.

Mr. Larry Spang and Meryl Nistler from Arrowstreet said they have been working on master planning for Brockton for over a year and are now wrapping up their study. Their power point

presentation included an evaluation of the condition of all of Brockton's middle schools, then focused on North Middle School. Areas at North that need repair and renovation were identified, as well as code improvements for ADA accessibility. Mr. Stang explained that if repairs exceed 30% of the replacement value of the building the state requires that the entire building be upgraded to code. Also included were examples of how newer schools are including breakout spaces, flexible seating, and other styles of learning areas.

Following the presentation, Mr. Sullivan raised several questions and concerns about the plan to gradually close North for renovations. He was opposed to the option for several reasons, stating that he felt the district should not close a Level 1 school, there were other schools in the presentation that appeared to be more in need of renovations, we do not know for certain that the project will be approved by the MSBA or what the cost will be, and with respect to a possible STEM wing added he said the land around the school does not belong to the school department. He said his concern is that all of this should be looked at before the district decides to close a school.

Other discussion included the MSBA application process and timeline, what the district is currently spending on repairs, and whether the major renovations required can be done with students in the building. To that question Mr. Stang responded that you would want the kids away from the construction; a phased renovation, where you are moving students and working around areas, would take longer and add to the cost and complexity of the renovation.

Student Assignment/Transportation - Mr. Thomas invited Peggy Killea, Transportation Specialist, to explain student reassignment and transportation with the middle school options. Ms. Killea reviewed where students would be reassigned and transportation needs for the North and Ashfield options. The Superintendent reminded the committee that gradually closing North is an opportunity to phase out over three years, this discussion is because of the budget and because we have lost 300 kids at the middle school level. No students currently at North will be affected this year.

Mayor Carpenter spoke to the committee with respect to its responsibility to address the budget situation and the loss of 300 students to the charter, he said to do nothing is not an option, is fiscally irresponsible and will cripple efforts for long-term relief and future assistance, we need to show we are doing our part to maintain our expenses. Mayor Carpenter said the goal is to reduce costs and bring back as many teaching positions as possible. He clarified that taking North offline to renovate is **not** a closing and every effort is being made to minimize the impact on North families.

At Mr. Minichiello's request, the Superintendent reviewed the three options for the committee: Option 1 is the phasing out of North for renovations, Option 2 would move middle school out of Davis to South, and the Option 3 is closing the Ashfield School.

Mr. Minichiello said his recommendation is to vote on one option tonight, keep one on the table and get rid of one. Mayor Carpenter reminded the committee that there are currently 500 empty seats at the middle schools.

Mr. Minichiello moved to go with Option 1; Mr. D'Agostino seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion, Mr. Sullivan questioned how this would prevent the district from still having 500 empty seats; the Superintendent responded that is when a middle school would be closed.

Voted: 6 – 1 (Mr. Sullivan opposed)

Mr. Minichiello said this will be the first compass school to be renovated, the committee could unofficially agree to determine which middle school will be renovated next. Mr. Gormley suggested that when Brockton applies to MSBA for North it also submits an application for the high school. With respect to Brockton High School, Mr. Thomas asked the Mayor to form a committee that includes city councilors to study the renovation of the high school.

Global Studies Program – Discussion of Consolidation of Dual-Language Programs

As a followup up to the May 7th finance meeting, the Superintendent invited Kellie Jones to answer questions from the committee on the recommendation to consolidate all three programs at the George in September. Superintendent Smith this will be a first-of-its-kind school in the state and clarified that two grades from the Raymond UNIDOS program will be transitioning to the George. Ms. Saba Maguire added that inclusion classrooms will move from the George to Raymond and Baker as well.

A discussion followed where Superintendent Smith and Ms. Jones responded to questions and concerns from the committee.

Ms. Sullivan moved to consolidate the dual-language (immersion) programs and base them at the George School starting in September; Mr. Gormley seconded the motion.

On the motion, Ms. Plant asked Mr. Sullivan if he had any further concerns before casting a final vote; Mr. Sullivan responded.

Voted: 5 – 2 (Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Plant opposed)

Project Grads

At the Superintendent's request, presentations with respect to possible changes to the Project Grads program were prepared by Mary Read, Erin Spaulding and Kevin DaPonte.

Ms. Read gave a power point presentation supporting the program in its current state.

Ms. Spaulding gave a power point presentation that highlighted the Y's family support contract that would be similar to the teen contract at the high school; she explained programs and supports they offer and showed the child care center on West Chestnut where the children would be cared for.

Mr. DaPonte explained how the district would like to expand Chapter 74 programs in food services and the medical field, the two top industries in our area that will position students for well-paying jobs. Space limitations have affected the district's ability to apply for additional funding and have limited the number of students who can enter these programs.

Following the presentations and discussion, Mr. Minichiello recommended the committee take more time to digest the information.

Other Business

Mr. D'Agostino asked when we need to vote on the budget; Mr. Petronio said typically the vote is taken after city council approval in case there are any changes. Ms. Plant asked for clarification on the budget barometer with respect to line item 7; Mr. Petronio responded.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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