

BROCKTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

David E. Crosby Administration Building
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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**



Committee Members

Joyce J. Asack
Mark S. D'Agostino
Brett Gormley
Thomas J. Minichiello, Jr.
Lisa M. Plant
Judy A. Sullivan
Timothy J. Sullivan

May 3, 2017

TO: Brockton School Committee

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

RE: **Report of the May 2, 2017 Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

The Finance Subcommittee of the Brockton School Committee met on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School, Brockton, MA.

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

Also Present: M. Bandis, Executive Team

Mr. Minichiello opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and asked Superintendent Smith to frame the discussion.

Advocacy Update

Superintendent Smith provided an update on advocacy efforts: she has met with a series of people at the state level including State Auditor Suzanne Bump and Deputy Commissioner of Education Jeff Wulfson, she spoke with Senator Brady who has arranged a meeting with Vice-chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee Sal DiDomenico coming up on Thursday. She said that with respect to her concerns about Title 1 funding it looks as though the funding is secure.

Budget Concerns

The Superintendent informed the committee that she would like to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Project Grads programs off the table for eliminations. She said she wants the chance to thoroughly vet the IB program together with other non-typical student programs such as TAG and AP, and is recommending that a task force be formed later in June to look at this. With respect to Project Grads she does not want to eliminate the program, bussing will not be provided but will be available through the use of vans paid for by vouchers. She will also send notice to staff in the school department to hopefully get (up to nine) more children to fill the spots and support the program.



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Dr. Terrasi spoke to the committee about the *Implications of Psychiatric Evaluations* (handout). He explained the financial benefits to the district by having our own contracted psychiatrist and showed costs that would be incurred by using independent, outside evaluators, as well as related liabilities. Committee members agreed that the benefits greatly outweigh the cost. Also presented was a handout that explained SPED contracted services.

Budget Barometer

The Superintendent asked members to look at the Round 6 recommended changes and said she will need the committee's approval tonight to allow her begin preparing the RIF and involuntary transfer letters in time for the May 15th deadline. She explained that this vote will allow the school committee to go forward and begin to build back the budget.

During discussion, the Superintendent and executive team members responded to questions about RIF notices and involuntary transfers. Also discussed were the cuts to programs and other bargaining units. Seeing the time, Mr. Minichiello reminded the committee that they need to vote on the FY18 budget barometer.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the FY18 budget barometer presented with the Superintendent's recommendations; said barometer to include a total of 189 RIF and 64 involuntary transfers; Mr. Gormley seconded the motion.

On the motion, Mr. Minichiello said that as the situation changes and we have available funds, school committee will go back and prioritize based on requests from School Committee, the Mayor and Superintendent; this vote will allow the Superintendent to go forward, however, it does not mean this is the final outcome. The Superintendent responded to Mr. Sullivan's question about Chapter 70 funding and to Ms. Plant's questions about two line items.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter commented that obviously we are doing everything we can to find additional funding, but the reality is we are contractually obligated to notify certified staff by May 15th. He said the school committee has done a lot of work and there is still a lot of work ahead, where we will try to restore positions and programs.

Mr. D'Agostino moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Handouts:

Budget Barometer

Updated Superintendent's Recommended FY2018 Budget

Middle School International Baccalaureate Program Overview

BHS International Baccalaureate Fees and AP/IB Enrollment Figures

Implications of Psychiatric Evaluations

SPED Contracted Services Explanation Sheet

Note: A report of this meeting was given at the 5/2/17 School Committee meeting by Mr. Minichiello and approved, together with the included actions taken.

