

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-thirty o'clock.

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

Absent: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mr. Foley

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

Due to the absence of Mayor Harrington, Vice-Chair Joyce called the meeting to order at seven-forty o'clock followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

BEA President Timothy Sullivan addressed the Committee on the following: He commended BEA members and School Department staff for the countless hours spent on the opening of the Baker School today. He stated that BEA members went above and beyond the contractual time in order to be ready for opening day. He asked members, as a School Committee, to take a vote in opposition to Question 1 on the elimination of the state income tax in the upcoming November election. It would wreak havoc if it passed in terms of the schools and services in the city of Brockton.

Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for the month of September as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Superintendent Nembirkow

Superintendent Nembirkow echoed Mr. Sullivan's remarks in regard to the opening of the Baker School. He commended the staff, teachers, volunteers and spouses for their cooperation. Over 700 students were in attendance at the magnificent opening. He stated that they will be working on easing the traffic flow. He stated that the transition to the George School on Colonel Bell Drive will be easier.

He also mentioned a meeting on October 18 sponsored by South Coast Counties Legal Services and Brockton Parents for Educational Change. It was an open forum for parents to voice their concerns. School Committee members requested that a staff person attend this meeting. Dr. Terrasi attended the meeting and stated that no one spoke out about the Russell School. All of the issues mentioned in the past have been taken care of by Dr. Szachowicz, Dr. Terrasi and himself. They now have a state of the art fitness program and a host of other activities. The school now serves the purpose it was intended to serve with support from the school system and community to provide structure, programs and an alternative program for students who really need it. It is a tremendous accomplishment for Dr. Terrasi and his staff.

NCTE Award Dr. Susan Szachowicz, BHS Principal, introduced Patrick Jolicoeur, BHS senior, who was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for winning the 2008 National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award in Writing. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts there were 15 recipients of this award. Across the country, 525 students were honored as outstanding writers; these recipients were chosen from 1,789 students nominated in their junior year by their teachers. This year the NCTE also presented the BHS English Department with an award for its excellent instructional program and for having so many students receive this award in the past. The English Department sets a climate that encourages student writing and maintains high standards for all students. Superintendent Nembirkow stated that Patrick also spoke at the State House in Boston, MA, in regard to the reorganization of the Department of Education. Vice-Chair Joyce also commended and thanked Patrick for serving as the Student Representative on the School Committee. Superintendent Nembirkow asked Patrick's parents to stand to be recognized.

Parent Information Center Mrs. Lynn Winkler, Director, was present to highlight a report on the summer enrollment statistics. She stated that a total of 1,373 grades 1-8 registrations and 285 kindergarten registrations were processed during the summer months. Assignments were determined on the basis of established school choice guidelines used during the regular school year. Four hundred fifty-four (454) were new students or those from other school systems. She mentioned the new three-tiered transportation system, and stated that it is running smoothly thanks to Peggy Killea at the Center. Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Home Education Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the requests for home education, both continuing and new, as presented on Enclosure #5.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Reorganization of Facilities Department Mr. James Hayden, Executive Director of Operations and School Administration, was present to highlight a report, which he distributed to all members, on the reorganization of the Facilities Department and the Assistant Director of Facilities position. After a lengthy discussion and many questions, Mr. Dobrowski moved to approve the Assistant Director of Facilities position.

Yeas: Daley, Dobrowski, Joyce

Nays: Bath, Beyer, Minichiello

Voted: the motion did not pass, 3-3

Personnel Appointments Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the personnel appointments listed on Enclosure #7.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Personnel Action Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following personnel action listed on Enclosure #8

1. Leaves of Absence

Tia Bouvier – Brookfield (8 wk. Maternity – Eff. 11/10/08)

Bridgett Driscoll – Keith (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 1/16/09)
Nicole Otero – BHS (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 11/10/08)
Tammy Blake – Raymond Paraprofessional (unpaid Education Leave – Eff. 9/3/08)
William Cavanaugh – Arnone Custodian (12 wk. unpaid FMLA – Eff. 9/30/08)

2. Resignations

Alberto Alves – Lincoln MTA (Eff. 10/10/08)
Lee Ann Kelly – Kennedy MTA (Eff. 10/10/08)
Janel Smith – Plouffe MTA (Eff. 10/10/08)

3. Early Retirement – to participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan

Diane Yost – Central Secretary (to retire 12/24/2012)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Bath announced that the **BHS JROTC Program** is in defense of the state championship. They went to Hyde Park and won four 1st place finishes; went to Springfield and won three 1st place finishes; and they are now in first place. They are on their way to defend the state championship. They will be going to New Bedford this weekend. He stated that BHS will host the Governor's Cup. If they do well, they could repeat as state champions and go on to the regionals. He acknowledged Sergeant Major Heera, Colonel Tripp and Dr. Szachowicz.

Mr. Daley questioned what we are doing in regard to closing the Franklin, Whitman and Gilmore Schools and turning them over to the city? Superintendent Nembirkow stated that it might be necessary to reconvene the Reconfiguration Task Force. Mr. Daley also mentioned formal acceptance of the new building. Superintendent Nembirkow stated after the punch list is completed, it will be turned over to the School Committee. Mrs. Joyce stated that the Building Committee will give their recommendation to the School Committee on accepting the schools.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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