

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre of Brockton High School at seven-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mr. Daley, Vice-Chair; Mr. Hancock; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Foley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at seventy-thirty-one o'clock followed by a salute of the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. William Carpenter, accompanied by two members of The Enterprise staff, addressed the School Committee regarding drug addiction of students. Mr. Carpenter encouraged the Superintendent and Brockton School Committee to help with this problem by considering scheduling a drug forum; hiring substance abuse guidance counselors; offering specific training for teachers; implementing a comprehensive drug policy, and distributing to all students a tabloid reprint of the drug abuse series previously run by The Enterprise.

Mr. Hancock, reflecting on Mr. Carpenter's discussion, requested to have Dr. Susan Szachowicz speak on what is in place for students at Brockton High School. Dr. Szachowicz said that, as a response to The Enterprise drug series, a student asked for the establishment of a support group. The support group was organized and is run by adjustment counselors and is connected to the South Bay Early Intervention/Mental Health Services Program. Student involvement is voluntary and can sometimes come from a referral, and the group meets every week.

Approval of Records

Mr. Hancock moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on November 7, 2007.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Communication

Mr. Belcher moved the Superintendent's recommendation to use the following schools as polling locations for the 2008 election cycle, specifically on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, and Tuesdays, September 16 and November 4, 2008: Ashfield, Brookfield, Davis, Downey, Gilmore, Hancock, Huntington, Kennedy and Raymond Schools, as well as East, North and West Junior High Schools and the South Middle School.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

BHS Achievements

At this time, the Superintendent announced another Brockton High School accolade. BHS was selected by U. S. News and World Report as a bronze medal winner in the annual issue on best high schools in America. The school was recognized for its work with

students from all groups. Mr. Nembirkow noted that the Brockton community works hard to make Brockton High School the school that it is, receiving national recognition. He said that Brockton has much for which to be proud. The Superintendent also announced the Brockton Public Schools-Bridgewater State College partnership that will provide a strong mentoring program for students.

Mr. Nembirkow then called upon Dr. Szachowicz, BHS Principal and Maria LeFort, BHS Associate Principal, to discuss other recent achievements at Brockton High School. This was done in a Power Point presentation which highlighted the athletics program; visual and performing arts; music; academic programs including technology, financial literacy and the JROTC Program, and programs that are new at BHS.

Dr. Szachowicz and Ms. LeFort also reviewed ELA and Math scores from 1998 to 2007 and announced many other student awards, including the Adams Scholarship recipients; the Term I Honor Roll; the National Honor Society Inductees; the NCTE Awards; National History Day, National Merit Program Commendation, and the two students who achieved perfect SAT scores in math. The additional awards and honors mentioned were: MA Compass School Designation; Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory – Schools Making Progress; U. S. Department of Education National High School Summit; National School Change Award, 2006; International Center for Leadership in Education Model School – 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

School Committee members thanked Dr. Szachowicz and Ms. LeFort for their report and their work. Following a brief discussion regarding BHS freshmen and outreach programs, Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report, as presented.

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that he will give a report to all urban superintendents this Friday in Boston, when three urban districts will be recognized for having the best programs for English Language learners. Brockton is recognized for having the best secondary program.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Parent Program on
Foreign Language,
Bilingual & ESL
Offerings**

Mr. Jerome, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning, K-8, introduced Jane Rizzitano, Department Head for Foreign Languages, 6 -12, and Kellie Jones, Department Head for Bilingual and ESL Services, K-8 (representing Jose Pinheiro, Director), to give the report on Foreign Language Offerings, the Two-Way Spanish Program and English as a Second Language courses. Additionally, an announcement on the school department website details the December 6th Information Session to be held at the Arnone School from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Following a discussion that included questions concerning the offering of Latin courses, Immersion students and the timeline for the implementation of the Medical Interpretation Program, Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report, as presented.

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that BHS will be the third school in the country offering a national medical interpretation certification program. The Brockton area is the largest medical field employer in the region.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

January SC Meetings

Currently, the School Committee meeting dates in January are Wednesday, January 2 and Tuesday, January 15, 2008. This year the Inauguration for elected officials is scheduled on Monday, January 7th; therefore, it is necessary to reschedule the meeting dates.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to schedule the School Committee meetings on January 8, and 22, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

CSAB Minutes

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the minutes of the Community School Advisory Board meeting on September 19, 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Personnel Appts

Mrs. Joyce 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:

Leaves of Absence (Teachers):

Cabellon, Rebecca	Davis	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 1/2/08
Hixon, Tracy	Raymond	12 Wks. FMLA, Eff. 11/29/07

Resignations:

Kinsella, Gina, MTA	Keith	Effective 11/7/07
Martin, Kimberly, MTA	Raymond	Effective 11/23/07
Robichaud, Nicholas, MTA	Raymond	Effective 11/16/07
Evans, Brian, Paraprof	Kennedy	Effective 1/18/08

Retirements:

Coordinator of Adult Learning Center		
Linda Faria Braun	Paine	To retire 3/7/08

To participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan

Ulianelli, Joseph, Custodian Gilmore To retire 4/27/2011

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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