

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting February 13, 2007

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

Present: Mayor James Harrington, Chair; James Daley, Vice-Chair; Mr. Hancock; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Foley, Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Dukess, Deputy Superintendent

Absent: Superintendent Basan Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Dr. Susan Dukess, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, represented the Superintendent this evening in his absence.

Hearing of Visitors

Jeanne Holmes

Ms. Jeanne Holmes addressed the School Committee in support of gymnastics as a full varsity sport beginning next year with the necessary funding. She spoke of the success of gymnastics at Brockton High School this year and mentioned the number of skilled and talented students presently involved who would make a very competitive gymnastics team. Ms. Holmes informed the School Committee that many parents and students are pleased that gymnastics has returned to Brockton High School.

Tami Joia

Ms. Tami Joia from the IDEAS Company addressed the School Committee on the subject of funding for children with special needs, and wished to further discuss alleged violations in this area by the Brockton Public Schools.

Mayor Harrington informed Ms. Joia that her accusations were not appropriate in this forum and instructed her to contact him during the business day at his office.

Approval of Records

Mr. Daley made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee on January 2, 2007.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Hancock made the motion to approve the FY07 Financial Statements dated September 30, October 31 and November 30, 2006, as presented.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Report of Chief
Supervisor of
Attendance

Mr. Daley made the motion to approve the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for January 2007.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Junior/Middle School
Initiatives Report

Mr. John Jerome, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning, 6 – 8, gave a presentation on Junior/Middle School Initiatives. Mr. Jerome introduced the Instructional Leadership Teams for each of the schools to discuss programs, goals and results, i.e., reading intervention (*READ 180*), transitional math (*TransMath/FASTT Math*), and math instruction using an interactive white board. Elective courses and new project challenges were also discussed.

Mr. Jerome also called upon Jean Chani, Director of Reading/Language Arts/Social Science, and PreK-8, to answer questions asked by the School Committee.

After a period of discussion, Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above report, as presented.

On the motion, Mayor Harrington said that the dedication of the staff is making a difference.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

2007 New Scholarships

Dr. Dukess announced that the following new scholarships need to be accepted by School Committee for inclusion in the 2007 scholarship booklet for Brockton High School: Brockton Library Foundation; Ellis B. Hillgrove III Scholarship Foundation; Richard W. Johnson Memorial Scholarship; Reggie Poyau Memorial Scholarship.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above new scholarships for inclusion in the 2007 scholarship booklet.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, 6 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Foley abstained)

Approval of BHS Trips

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the BHS Overnight/Out-of-State Key Club Trip with the amendment that the ratio of chaperones to students be no greater than 5:1.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following Overnight/Out-of-State BHS trips:

→Talent Search (TERI College Access) to attend the Trio Day New Hampshire College Visits on February 23-24, 2007

→Upward Bound (TERI College Access) to attend the Trio Day New Hampshire College visits on February 23-24, 2007

A discussion took place on the motion by Mrs. Joyce who inquired about the identity of the chaperones attending the two trips. Mrs. LeFort, Associate Principal, responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, as amended, unanimously

CSAB Minutes

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Minutes of the Community School Advisory Board meeting on December 13, 2006.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

SC Official Duty
Expense Reimbursement

The Official Duty Expense Reimbursement given to School Committee members in the conduct of School Committee business has not been reviewed in over twenty years. The duties of School Committee members have increased tremendously with the passing of the Education Reform Act. Members need to attend more meetings; therefore, they do more travel within the city. They incur more postage expense due to postal increases, cell phone expenses and make voluntary donations to support school activities.

Mr. Belcher moved the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the Official Duty Expense Reimbursement \$1,500 for a total of \$3,000 per year.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Notification of
Personnel Appts.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #9.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Notification of
Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #10:

Leaves of Absence/Teachers:

Kristen Cinelli	Brookfield	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 4/24/07
Rebecca George	Ashfield	12 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 3/26/07
Elizabeth Gunnison	Plouffe	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 5/29/07
Kristen Martin	Angelo	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 3/15/07
Kathleen O'Brien	Angelo	Extension of MAT LOA for remainder of 2006-2007 school year
Kerry Olson	Arnone	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 2/26/07
Heather Ronan	Raymond	12 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 3/8/07
Rupali Patil	BHS	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 4/4/07

Resignations:

Cherie Bourne, Teacher	Ashfield	Eff. 2/9/07
Colleen Cruise, Teacher	BHS	Eff. 1/24/07

Darla Gowen, Para. Gilmore Eff. 1/31/07
Jayne Hagerty, Para. Davis Eff. 1/8/07

Retirement:

Ruth Buckley, Caf Worker Huntington Eff. 1/15/07

Change in Retirement Date:

Martha Duggan, Teacher Kennedy From 10/10/08 to 10/1/07

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Facilities Usage &
Planning Report

Mr. Hancock read the Reports of the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee meetings held on January 17, 2007, which discussed school configuration options and February 5, 2007, which discussed system wide facilities.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Reports of the January 17, 2007 and February 5, 2007 meetings, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation of the option that provides for new full day Kindergartens as per the following: Ashfield, one; Downey, one; Franklin, one; Hancock, four (Belmont Street) and Raymond, one (Special Education).

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Finance Subcommittee
Report

Mr. Daley read the Report of the Finance Subcommittee meeting held on February 5, 2007.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of the February 5, 2007 meeting, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed 2007 – 2008 School Calendar.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Accounts Review
Subcommittee

Mrs. Beyer read the Report of the Accounts Review Subcommittee meeting of February 13, 2007.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of February 13, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Daley commented on the out-of-district special education student placements and costs. He said that the students involved very much need these placements.

Mr. Hancock said that he was sworn in by Governor Patrick to, once again, serve as a member of the local government advisory council. He mentioned that a number of issues are being looked at, i.e., the transportation budget, possible changes in the board of education structure and the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Hancock said that there is hope on the horizon.

Mr. Foley discussed the NAACP ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Competition, its definition, eligibility requirements and the benefits of participating. The National Competition will be held in Detroit, Michigan at the end of June 2007, and the local competition date is April 2007. Mr. Foley announced the telephone number to call for applications.

Mr. Belcher announced that April 21, 2007, will be the third Annual *Keep Brockton Beautiful Day*. He discussed the hours and events and asked that anyone interested contact the Mayor's Office.

Mrs. Joyce said a number of parents are working very hard to form a lobby group to lobby legislators to fund the transportation mandate. A meeting will be held at the Davis School on March 1, 2007, at 6 p.m. Mrs. Joyce encouraged those interested to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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