

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting December 20, 2011

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 o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Sullivan

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Daley then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items:

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of SC on December 6, 2011
- Authorization to submit FY 12 Title II-B MA Mathematics-Science Partnership Program RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Acceptance of Supervisor of Attendance Report, November 2011
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: LOA's; Resignations

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Hearing of Visitors

Messrs. Joseph O'Sullivan and Timothy Sullivan, former Brockton Education Presidents and Brockton Public Schools teachers, spoke on behalf of Mrs. Beyer this evening, highlighting her career and her dedicated service to the community. Mr. Sullivan said that Mrs. Beyer and Messrs. Bath and Daley always had the children in the Brockton community at heart.

Mr. Scott Holmes, Chair of the Community School Advisory Board, thanked Mrs. Beyer and Mr. Bath for their service to the Board, and all three out-going School Committee members for their contributions. He also discussed upcoming plans the Brockton Community Schools Summerfest.

Recognition of Out-Going SC Members

Dr. Malone, in his recognition of the three out-going School Committee members Janice Beyer, Richard Bath and James Daley, said that the Committee members have been advocates for children; they are people who stepped up and volunteered, and without them the School Department would go nowhere.

Dr. Malone and Mayor Balzotti presented the three School Committee members with engraved plaques in recognition of their service, as follows: Mrs. Beyer, ten years; Mr. Daley, eight years, and Mr. Bath, four years.

Dr. Malone called upon Kathleen Smith, Director of the Community Schools Program to speak on the service of all three out-going School Committee members' to the Community School Advisory Board which favorably impacted so many children in the City.

Items to Refer to Subcommittees

Mayor Balzotti asked that any items be referred to the 2012 Subcommittees, effective January 3, 2012.

Ratification of MOA of IBAA &TEA

The members of the Independent Brockton Administrative Assistants and Technical Employees Association voted to ratify the MOA on December 12, 2011. Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Administrative Assistants and Technical Employees Association for the period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

Voted: to ratify the above MOA, 6 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Carpenter)

Proposed Head Injury Policy, JJIBKA

The Brockton Public Schools developed a proposed BPS-SC policy on *head injury* in order to be in state compliance. The need to have such a policy was first discussed by Superintendent Malone and presented to the School Committee at the November 21, 2011 Policy Subcommittee meeting, listed as *Concussion Policy*, and the proposed policy was sent to Committee members in the December 2, 2011 Informational Bulletin.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Brockton Public Schools-Brockton School Committee Head Injury Policy JJIBKA, and list it on the BPS Website.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Request for Add'l. Personnel

The Superintendent noticed the School Committee at the regular meeting on December 6, 2011, of his intent to request two additional personnel through grant funding. The School Committee voted to include the item on this evening's agenda. Dr. Malone said that concerns discussed by School Committee members at the December 6, 2011 Regular Meeting of the SC were addressed. Mr. Minichiello raised a concern that the new positions, *Bilingual Department Head, Grades K-5 and Coordinator of Math and Science, Grades 6-8*, would be filled, if within the system, with the best and brightest, and the children who are instructed by these individuals would lose great educators. Mr. Minichiello said the children deserve the same high quality instruction they were getting. "This money," he said, "is not continual; it's grant money that we don't want to lose."

Mr. Daley inquired about the "red circling" process, the posting of the two positions, and the placement of long-term substitutes. Both Dr. Malone and Mr. Jerome responded.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the salary range for the positions, and Dr. Malone and Mr. Jerome responded, saying that, if the positions are included in next year's budget, the salary would be more due to a full year.

Mayor Balzotti added that the School Committee will need to decide while planning the FY 2013 budget if it wants to keep the new positions.

Mr. Carpenter made the motion to approve the two new additional administrative positions with the stipulation that the Superintendent agrees to give both (employees) RIF notices prior to the date required in the contract and to make sure that the School Committee has the flexibility to reconsider the positions in the next budget. The motion was seconded.

A discussion took place on the motion with comments made by Mr. Bath and Mrs. Joyce regarding the School Committee's authority to eliminate positions in the process of balancing the budget. Mr. Jerome responded.

Voted: 1 – 5 – 0, motion failed

Dr. Malone said, "We will get a lot of work done by August 31st, particularly around the math. The two positions will be eliminated on August 31st."

Mr. Carpenter expressed his concern regarding the approval of said positions on the last Regular Meeting of 2011 with three Committee members leaving, and suggested involvement of legal counsel.

Mayor Balzotti called for a motion, and Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the abovementioned two new additional administrative positions requested by Dr. Malone.

Voted: 6 – 0, motion carried (Mr. Carpenter acquiesced)

Following the vote, Mr. Bath asked what will happen to all the work performed by the two people. He asked, “*Who will pick up the slack; is there a plan B?*” Dr. Malone responded.

**Non-Union
Compensation
Agreement**

As part of the agenda of the Finance Subcommittee meeting on November 21, 2011, Committee members discussed the Non-Union Compensation Agreement. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Brockton Public Schools non-union employees salary increases for September 2011 and February 2012, accordingly.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

New Business

Mrs. Beyer commented favorably on the Brockton High School National Honor Society Induction ceremony of December 19, 2011.

Mayor Balzotti acknowledged new School Committee members Andrew Robinson, Ward 2; Anthony Donegan, Jr., Ward 3; and Michael Healy, Ward 6, all of whom were seated in the audience this evening. The Mayor said that, in her nearly 20 years of public service and entering her second term as Mayor, she wanted to acknowledge the difficulty that public service can pose on family in trying to make a balance.

The Mayor said, “*I commend you all for your service and I want to let you know, as residents, I appreciated all your service to the City and look forward to seeing you at community events. To all members of the public and School Department, it has been an honor and privilege to serve you as Mayor. I look forward to serving another two years and wish all the happiest of holiday seasons, and happiness and good health in 2012. I hope we have another successful two years.*”

Mr. Minichiello expressed deep appreciation to Mrs. Beyer and Messrs. Bath and Daley for their service and contributions. He said that Mr. Bath and he came on at the same time as “newbies.” “*I will miss your honor, analyses and famous academia comments,*” he said.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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