

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

Present: Mayor Balzotti; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair, Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, Secretary

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

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. Vice-Chair Minichiello requested a moment of silence to give deference to two Brockton Public Schools employees who recently passed: Gregory Tautkus and Howard Wagner.

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Supervisor of Attendance Report, February 2012
- BHS Science Club Trips to Plymouth, Ma, April 12, 27 & 29, 2012
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appts, Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action, Leaves, Resignations, Retirements, Change of Retirement Date
- CSAB Minutes of January 11, 2012
- February 8, 2012 Finance Subcommittee Minutes
- February 8, 2012 Policy Subcommittee Minutes
- February 14, 2012 Accounts Review Subcommittee Minutes

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Superintendent Matthew Malone informed the School Committee of a communication that was sent to all school districts regarding the recent, threatening mailings which occurred in two Massachusetts schools. The Commissioner's correspondence will be disseminated to all Brockton Public Schools tomorrow, and School Police have been placed on alert. School Committee members requested a copy of correspondence, and Dr. Malone agreed to email each member the document in the morning.

Pathways Center Initiatives

Dr. Malone then called upon Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to introduce Shanna Gray, Lead Liaison, Brockton's Way, and Heather Arrighi, Entrepreneur, to give the report on Pathways Center Initiatives, located at the Keith Educational Center. Mses. Arrighi and Gray discussed the many opportunities in which students can prepare for college and careers through the Pathways Center, and read a list of wraparound services that are provided.

Mr. Minichillo said that a lot of credit goes to the partners involved. *"It shows the School System is vibrant; getting different options to the students. The students and staff are enthusiastic – a win-win; good job."*

Mrs. Joyce congratulated the staff, saying that she is pleased to see how much this area of the System had grown in the last two years. She asked if there is an overlap of students who do more than one thing. She also asked about MCAS requirement, credit earned (college and high school), the referral process and how resources are determined.

Mr. Sullivan asked about on-site career training, and Mr. Donegan inquired about referrals, and the tracking of students' attendance, as well as expressing his concern for students who may *"get lost"* or *"drop out."*

Mses. Arrighi and Gray said that they are the group looking out for the kids who fall through the cracks. *"I think that is what we are doing – capturing those students,"* Ms. Arrighi said. Ms. Gray said, *"These "are" the kids who dropped out."*

Mr. Carpenter offered that he is a huge supporter of the Keith Educational Center and commented favorably on its great expansion, i.e., the Gateway to College program and the Council and Intervention Center (CIC), asking about the possibility of expanding the CIC. Mr. Carpenter also requested of Dr. Malone some hard data on graduation rates. Dr. Malone said that he would provide the information in a future Friday mailing to the School Committee.

Dr. Malone said that an expansion of the CIC may be considered going forward, but it needs to be determined whether or not the model decreases suspensions. This is not yet known. Speaking to Mr. Donegan's concerns, Dr. Malone reviewed for the Committee members both 37H and 37H 1/2 offenses, saying that student's attendance is mandatory. Students will not be allowed back to school until they have completed their ten-day suspension. *"We find a model that works for each kid. There is a counselor on board; this is ten days of school. You are doing the work, getting support and serving the consequences,"* he said.

*Afternoon Academy/
Night School
Unification*

Dr. Malone then introduced Kathleen Smith, Director of the Community Schools Program, and Laurie Silva, 21st Century Coordinator, to give the presentation on the *Unification of the Afternoon Academy and Night School*, its working title, the *"Edison Academy."*

Mayor Balzotti thanked Ms. Smith for her hard work and efforts.

Deputy Superintendent John Jerome stated that the "Edison Academy" will be funded with no tax payer or Chapter 70 dollars. It will be exclusively funded with Race to the Top funds. *"We will be able to maintain our Chapter 70 funds and actually see new money coming in through enrollments. It's about career readiness and college training."* he said.

Ms. Smith explained that the (academy) work had been ongoing since 2004, with the RttT monies and work, coming in, in the last year and half.

Ms. Silva gave the presentation which defined the academy's mission and vision, hours of operation and school design. Additionally, it was mentioned that the program will increase Brockton Public Schools' graduation rate.

Following the presentation, School Committee members made inquiries regarding:

- How the program squares off with the Pathways Center
- Groups that the academy is working with
- How the academy will move forward
- The naming of the academy
- Eligibility for Chapter 70 monies, albeit over-aged students attend
- Attendance of non-resident students
- Liability/over-aged students
- How the program will transact with special education
- Where the students who are enrolled came from

Questions were responded to by Dr. Malone, Mr. Jerome and Mses. Smith and Silva. Dr. Malone said that more answers will be obtained from the DESE and shared in the future. He said that there is a whole process to go through with the state. *"Other communities have these models; it is a revenue generator,"* he said.

Mayor Balzotti then called for a motion, and Mr. Donegan made the motion to accept the above reports.

*Superintendent's
FY'13 Recommended
School Department
Budget*

Dr. Malone thanked members of his Executive Team for working to put the FY '13 budget documents together this past week, and thanked Mayor Balzotti for caring about education. Dr. Malone said that the presentation of the FY '13 recommended budget this evening begins the work of the School Committee. He said that a Finance Subcommittee meeting will take place tomorrow evening and, along with the Mayor, asked Committee members to hold off questions until the March 7th meeting. Mr. Carpenter briefly inquired about health care costs, and Mayor Balzotti responded.

Items to be Referred to Subcommittees

Dr. Malone requested the scheduling of additional Finance Subcommittee meetings, as well as the scheduling of a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting to address elementary strategy. Mr. Minichiello asked Committee members to bring their calendars to the March 7th meeting.

2012-2013 School Calendar

School Committee members expressed their support of the Option A draft 2012-2013 School Calendar which contains an Election Day non-session day. Committee members feel that this option provides the most safety, as the Presidential Election brings a greater turnout of voters to the school polling places.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Option A 2012-2013 School Department calendar which includes a non-session day on November 6, 2012 Election Day.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mayor Balzotti said that she hopes everyone will exercise their right to vote!

Bid Review Subcommittee Report

Mr. Sullivan stated that a meeting of the Bid Review Subcommittee was held on February 28, 2012. He then moved to approve the report of the Subcommittee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce inquired about the FY2013 food service management provider process and Messrs. Petronio, Minichiello and Healy, all members of Subcommittee, responded.

Mr. Sullivan then moved to award the FY2013 Food Service Management Provider RFP to the Chartwells School Dining Service.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Carpenter spoke of the commendable fund raising efforts held at the Ashfield School in response to a house fire tragedy that occurred, affecting the lives of students enrolled at the Ashfield School. Mr. Carpenter asked to have those involved recognized at the School Committee meeting.

Mr. Carpenter also recognized Messrs. Sullivan and Sergi of the BHA for their donation of \$1,000 to the Plouffe PAC, which will be used to support needs for the outside grounds, i.e., the playground.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph .D.
Secretary

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