

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theatre at the Dr. William H. Arnone School, at seven o'clock.

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

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. There were no requests.

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- *Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2013 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leaves, Resignations, Retirement*
- *Approval of Chief Supervisor Of Attendance Report for February, 2013*
- *Acceptance of CSAB Minutes of February 13, 2013 Meeting*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation; unanimously.

Mayor Balzotti then referred the School Committee to a handout from Mr. Michael Thomas, Interim Principal of Brockton High School, requesting approval of a field trip for three students from the DECA program to attend a leadership conference in Anaheim, California on April 24 – 28, 2013. Mr. Thomas said that the timeliness of the event required immediate attention so that, if approved, travel arrangements could be made.

After a brief discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the April 24 – 28, 2013 out-of-state field trip for three BHS DECA students and chaperone.

Voted, to approve the motion, unanimously.

Superintendent Search Committee

Mayor Balzotti announced that Enclosure #10, under New Business, would be taken out of order. Mr. Minichiello introduced Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of MASC, to address the Committee on the next step in the search for a new superintendent.

With respect to conducting the interview, Mr. Koocher told the Committee that he was pleased that they had responded so well with questions relevant to the upcoming interview. Each Committee member received a sealed, confidential envelope which contained the document Mr. Koocher created from these questions, which will be used during the interview session. He encouraged a "rigorous" interview, and suggested that

the Committee ask all of the questions, and also that the Mayor not only preside over the meeting, but actively participate in the questioning as well.

With respect to posting the meeting, Mr. Koocher strongly recommended that the meeting be posted in such a way that will give the Committee all of the latitude they will need. He stated that the open meeting law requires that you indicate all of the matters that the Chair reasonably expects to be raised at the meeting, such as interview, deliberate, possibly come to a decision; all of this should be included in the posting.

With respect to hiring a superintendent, Mr. Koocher suggested that when and if the Committee is ready to vote to tender an offer to a candidate, that tender should always be subject to a *mutually agreed contract of employment*. This will give the Committee the ability to go through the contract negotiations process. He advised that the model contract from the Superintendent's Association is written from the *best interest of the superintendent*; the model contract from MASC would be written from the *best interest of the School Committee*. Mr. Minichiello asked Mr. Koocher if having only one applicant would be an issue; Mr. Koocher replied "no, that is not unusual." Mr. Minichiello informed the Committee that they will each receive a copy of the applicant's information in their packet this Friday.

Mr. Minichiello then asked Mr. Koocher to confirm the following statement.

"After a rigorous interview session, the language that is used to advertise and post, if it is broad enough, then the Committee can do whatever they then decide in terms of the next step—whether it is to take time to deliberate, to actually take a vote, or to open up the search if the Committee decides that the candidate is not acceptable, we don't limit ourselves as long as we use the broad language."

Mr. Koocher responded that was a correct statement, using the broad language would allow the Committee to have full discretion as to the breadth to which it wishes to act.

Superintendent's Report

Makeup Day for March 8, 2013 Day – Mr. Jerome reported that a formal notice to parents was sent home on Monday with the decision that Good Friday would be used to make up the snow day, it will be a half day of school. Both Mr. Jerome and Mrs. Joyce stated that the School Committee is sensitive to everyone's religious beliefs, and want to communicate clearly to all parents and school administration that an absence on that day can be waived if the parent so requests.

Director of Special Education

Dr. Kathleen Moran reported that the first round of interviews was done last week, three names have been forwarded to the Superintendent for a second round of interviews. Mr. Jerome recalled that there was interest from Committee members to sit in on these interviews; and he invited any member to notify him if interested.

Student Handbooks

Mr. Jerome recalled that the Draft 2013-2014 Student Handbooks were sent to Committee members two weeks ago in their Friday packet for review. He asked the Committee to take time to review the handbooks and he would like to bring them forward for approval at the April 9, 2013 meeting. The handbooks were prepared much

earlier this year at the suggestion from Committee members that they would like ample time to review them.

Mrs. Joyce moved to add the 2013-2014 Student Handbooks as an item for consideration to the April 9, 2013 agenda.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

MCAS Update

Mrs. Elizabeth Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching PreK-8, reported on the status of MCAS testing. There was a brief question and answer period about the current MCAS test with regard to the Common Core standards, and how the changeover to the PARCC test in the 2014-15 school year is being incorporated and addressed.

FY 2014 Budget

Mr. Aldo Petronio, Executive Director of Financial Services, presented the Superintendent's Initial 2013-2014 Budget to the Committee this evening. He stated that he was introducing the budget, but at the next Finance subcommittee meeting he will bring more supporting documents for discussion.

Mr. Minichiello said he would like to schedule a Finance Subcommittee meeting soon; at Mr. Jerome's suggestion to begin the process sooner rather than later, April 2nd was agreed on by all. Mr. Minichiello reminded the Committee that at the March 5th meeting he reported that Chief Gomes of the Brockton Police Department would be put on the agenda for the next Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Joyce asked Mr. Petronio about the current bus transportation provider and when the contract would expire. Mr. Petronio responded that there are two more years on the contract; Mrs. Joyce said she would like to explore other options. Mr. Petronio said he would send her a copy of their contract.

More discussion followed.

Edison Academy

Mr. Michael Thomas and Mr. Scott Pearsons, Principal of the Edison Academy, updated the Committee on an incident that occurred at the Edison Academy on the previous evening. Issues of Safety and Security were discussed, including whether this program would be better located off of the Brockton High grounds. During discussion, it was suggested that this issue be brought forward to a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Minichiello then moved that this be further discussed at a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

Items to Refer to To Subcommittee

A *Finance* Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for April 2nd at which time Chief Gomes will address the Committee, and the 2014 budget will be discussed.

Mr. Carpenter requested a *Facilities Usage and Planning* subcommittee to further discuss the reopening of the Russell School.

A *Curriculum Subcommittee* meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Edison Academy.

Unfinished Business

At the January 2, 2013 Organizational Meeting, the Rules and Orders of the Brockton School Committee for 2013 were adopted. Mr. Minichiello explained that it was the intent of the Committee to remove the Communication Protocols and the Board-Superintendent Governance Protocols, but it was overlooked. In order to remove these protocols from the Rules and Orders, the Committee needs to amend the previous motion to include that language.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to amend the previously adopted motion by the School Committee on January 2, 2103 approving the Rules and Orders of the School Committee, by adding the following language: "...deleting pages 24 and 25, permanently removing the Board-Superintendent Communication Protocols and the Board-Superintendent Governance Protocols from the Rules and Orders of the Brockton School Committee."

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello reported on the Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee Meeting that was held this evening at 6:30 p.m. He reported that an agreement was reached with Mr. Jerome and the School Committee, which he felt was in the best interest of both the taxpayers and the Interim Superintendent.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to accept Mr. Minichiello's report of the Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee.

Voted: to accept the report, unanimously.

Mr. Healy said that the sidewalks were attended to well by the city; he thanked the Mayor for the good work in preparing the streets, sidewalks, and parking lots during this recent storm.

Mr. Minichiello recognized the staff from the Gilmore School and the fine work done at the recent Spaghetti Dinner event there, it was a great family event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John R. Jerome
Secretary