

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Theater at Brockton High School.

Present: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Henningson, Superintendent Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Healy

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter announced that during this portion of the agenda, members of the public who have signed in are welcome to speak, they should limit their comments to three minutes, and the School Committee will take comments under advisement but will not respond directly.

Miss Jasmine Bennett, a student from the Ashfield School, introduced herself and informed the Committee that she will participate in the People to People Student Ambassador program and travel to Alaska with the organization in July.

Mr. Ron Matta addressed the Committee to voice his concerns with regard to the school system.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were any items School Committee members wished to remove for discussion. Mr. Minichiello asked that Item E, the Donation from School on Wheels be removed.

Mr. Robinson moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items from the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of February 11, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Minutes of Policy Manual Review Subcommittee Meeting.
- BHS Science Club Deep Sea Fishing Trip Field Trip Request
- South Middle School Gettysburg, PA Field Trip Request
- Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified, Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, retirements

Voted: to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello pointed out the donation from School on Wheels, stating that the district has a good partnership with this organization and he expressed his appreciation for all of the good work that they do for the students.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to accept the donation from School on Wheels.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Report – Jessica Freeborn

Ms. Freeborn announced the following:

- At the BHS-hosted Regional National History Day Competition, several students from Brockton High School were selected to move on to the State competition at Stoneham High School in April.
- Also winning awards was the BHS Drama Club, for their presentation of “Wiley and the Hairy Man”.
- On March 14, 2014, the Drama Club will present, free to the public, “Wiley and the Hairy Man” at BHS.
- Congratulations go out to Jonathan Delorus who placed 4th in the New England Invitation Track Meet, while breaking a Brockton High record that has held for 17 years.

Superintendent Smith asked Ms. Freeborn to report to the student council that she would like to set up a lunch meeting with Youth Voice.

Kennedy School – Blessings in a Backpack

The Superintendent began by saying one of her goals is to give every school principal the opportunity to showcase their school at a school committee meeting, she was pleased to have both the Kennedy and Ashfield schools at tonight's meeting.

Principal Brian Rogan introduced former Kennedy School teacher Janet McDuffy, along with her daughters, current Kennedy School teacher Jami Milnamow, and Megean Schoenberg, who is an engineer, to introduce *Blessings in a Backpack*.

Megean gave a moving presentation, using power point, to illustrate the problem of hungry children and how *Blessings in a Backpack* enables children to bring home nutritious food on Friday to help them get through the weekend.

A question and answer period followed, during which school committee members were clearly inspired by the actions of this small organization, each member expressing their appreciation and willingness to assist. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to bring information to the schools in his ward, Mr. Robinson asked whether vacation weeks were taken into consideration, to which Mrs. Schoenberg responded yes, but at this time they are not able to address it. Mrs. Schoenberg explained the online fundraising site, Ifundy, at which donations are made and also matched 100% through the end of this school year. Mayor Carpenter said that the Mayor's Office is working on bringing back the summer parks program, which helps to address this problem during the summer, providing free lunches daily at parks around the city.

The Superintendent was very pleased to see the collaboration between school and business, in addition, she said seeing Brockton students come back and become part of the school system is something she wants to foster. She thanked the McDuffy family for their work and the very informative presentation.

Mr. Rogan then highlighted the new “outdoor classroom” being constructed in the courtyard of the school with the help of Eagle Scout Fred Mathelier. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Mathelier, who is a former Kennedy School student, currently a senior at BHS, and recently received early acceptance at Westpoint Academy.

Ashfield Middle School

Principal Barbara Lovell’s power point presentation was a very interesting overview of the Ashfield School. She highlighted the school’s diversity and the various elective classes that are open to all students. Especially of interest was the Credit Recovery class, where students who fail a course are assigned to make up or re-do assignments until he or she receives a passing score and the content teacher feels the student has the needed background to move forward, and the variety of science lessons, including having the students use their own cell phones as part of the experiment.

Committee members were appreciative and commended Principal Lovell on the presentation, Mrs. Joyce stated she was happy to see the success of the credit recovery class. There were many positive comments about Principal Lovell as a caring and concerned educator.

Transition Team/Strategic Planning Team

The Superintendent reported the Committee had received an update on the Transition Team work on Friday. She said that the Transition Team is changing to the Strategic Planning Team, and has is now working on vision, mission, and core belief statements. She said the team has looked at emerging themes and in the next couple of months they will work diligently to start to put together those emerging themes that will lead the district for the next three to five years. She added that The District Review Report is being reviewed and will also be considered when developing the strategic plan.

Mid Cycle Review for Superintendent Evaluation

The Superintendent announced that on-site training of school department administrators using the Baseline Edge Educator Evaluation program has begun, she will bring information back with respect to a date that School Committee members will receive training, this is the tool that will be used to evaluate the Superintendent, but it will not be available for the Superintendent’s mid-cycle review. She reminded the Committee that 100% of professional staff *must be* evaluated this year, including the Superintendent. She referred to the Accelerated Educator Evaluation Plan that was given to School Committee members and said that she I working hard with administrators and the BEA to support this plan.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Mr. Minichiello suggested that Building Naming and Facilities Usage subcommittee meetings need to be scheduled, Tuesday, March 11, 2014 was agreed upon.

The Superintendent said she felt a Superintendent’s Contract Subcommittee meeting was necessary in order to begin the mid-cycle review process; The Committee was agreeable to March 24, 2014 to set the meeting.

Unfinished Business

2014 – 2015 School Calendar

The Superintendent called attention to the 2014-2015 School Calendar that each member was given at tonight’s meeting. This calendar was submitted for a “first read” at the

February 11, 2014 meeting, the Superintendent said she would like the Committee to vote on the calendar if they were ready.

Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar as presented, the motion was seconded.

Discussion on the motion followed; the Superintendent pointed out that the calendar they were voting on includes closing school on Election Day, November 4, 2014, due to the gubernatorial election; the Committee agreed this was best for the safety and security of the students. The Superintendent added that she has been in discussion with the BEA with respecting to using this day to provide professional development for teachers.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello talked about the *Early Learning Innovation Summit*, at which many stakeholders from the community were present to hear about the *Footsteps to Brilliance* program. He said he was very impressed by this program which offers interactive and fun educational programs that families can access from home. He said the program is adaptable to a child's abilities, and is translatable. Mr. Minichiello said he would like the entire School Committee to see a demonstration and will arrange this with Mrs. Rosenthal when she returns to the area in April.

The Superintendent agreed with Mr. Minichiello and thanked the staff of the newly created Grants Management office for bringing potential funding sources to the Summit.

Mayor Carpenter announced that Wednesday, March 5, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m, an Overdose Prevention Forum will be held at the War Memorial Building. This forum is sponsored by the Mayor's Office, District Attorney, Police Department, Highpoint Treatment Centers, Learn to Cope, and Plymouth County Sheriff's Department.

Superintendent Smith announced there will be a ***Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Focus Group*** meeting on Saturday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at the Family Connections Center on Perkins Street in Brockton. She will send out the flyer in the Friday packet.

The Superintendent announced that *Read Across America* will be ongoing all week, schools are still looking for people to come in and read to classes. She thanked Dr. Julianne Andrade, Coordinator of Elementary Literacy, for directing this district-wide event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary/Superintendent

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