

The Organizational 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 Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Henningson, Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Jean-Clark Wilson

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He stated for the public that this is the annual meeting for the organization of the School Committee, including elections of officers for the new year.

Election of Secretary

The Superintendent of Schools serves as Secretary of the School Committee.
Mr. Minichiello recommended that Superintendent Kathleen Smith serve as Secretary of the Brockton School Committee in 2015.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Recognition of Out-Going Vice Chair

Mr. Minichiello was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service as the outgoing 2014 Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mayor Carpenter and Superintendent Smith expressed their appreciation for Mr. Minichiello's commitment over the past 5 years.

Election of 2014 Vice Chair

Mrs. Joyce nominated Mr. Minichiello for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2015 calendar year.

Voted: to elect Mr. Minichiello as Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2015 calendar year, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter said Mr. Minichiello is the right person for the position, he communicates well between the Superintendent and School Committee. Mr. Minichiello thanked committee members for their faith in him and for working so well together, he said the Committee's philosophy of putting the children first makes decisions easier.

Election of CSAB SC Members

The Bylaws of the Community School Advisory Board provide for the election of two (2) School Committee members to serve on the Board for a one-year term.

Mr. Minichiello nominated Mr. Jordan, the nomination was seconded. Mr. Robinson nominated Mrs. Sullivan, that nomination was seconded. On the nominations, the vote was taken.

Voted: to elect Mr. Jordan and Mrs. Sullivan to serve on the Community School Advisory Board, unanimous.

Approval of Rules and Orders of SC

The Rules and Orders of the School Committee are subject to annual ratification. The proposed Rules and Orders were included in the agenda book for School Committee consideration.

Mrs. Joyce moved to adopt the Rules and Orders for 2015, the motion was seconded.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

A copy of the FY 2015 Rules and Orders of the School Committee will be inserted in the minutes record book.

Appointment of 2015 Subcommittees

The Mayor, as Chair of the School Committee, appoints the subcommittees each year. A list of the 2015 appointments was included in the agenda book for School Committee consideration, with one change submitted via handout. Mayor Carpenter stated that, when making these assignments, input from the Vice Chair, Superintendent, and requests from members are taken into consideration.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept notification of the 2015 Subcommittee Assignments as amended, the motion was seconded.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimous.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter reviewed the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were items School Committee members wished to remove from the agenda. There were no requests.

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

- *Minutes of December 16, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Minutes of December 2, 2014 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting*
- *Acceptance of November 12, 2014 CSAB Minutes*
- *Approval of November, 2014 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report*
- *Authorization to Submit:*
 - *21st Century CLCC Enhanced Learning for Students with Disabilities - \$30,000*
 - *Strategic Support to Specific Underperforming School Districts - \$50,000*
 - *Summer of Work and Learning Grant - \$78,068*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified, Non-Certified*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimous.

Learning & Teaching

Report of BHS Student Representative – Ms. Freeborn said the senior class collected 200 gifts for the Salvation Army holiday drive, students were treated to a moving presentation on distracted driving by Attorney Joel Feldman. In addition, National History Day is scheduled for Friday, January 16, from 8 – 10 a.m. in the Azure Cafeteria.

The Mayor said he was pleased about the distracted driving presentation and thanked the Superintendent for this step toward educating students about pedestrian and driving safety. He said this is a critical issue in the city and he will continue to work with the Superintendent with respect to informing the community about safe walking and driving. The Superintendent said it was a powerful presentation, she thanked Rep. Claire Cronin and the Mass. Academy of Trial Attorneys for bringing the presentation to the high school.

Superintendent's Report

Strategic Plan

The Superintendent reported that one of the goals of the BPS strategic plan involves working with colleges and community to recruit and retain a diverse and highly qualified teaching staff. To that end, the Superintendent, along with representation from the Mayor's office and four state and community colleges, met to discuss a "Grow Your Own" teacher

program. The program would start working with students at the middle school level who are interested in becoming teachers, she talked of developing a future teacher's club and supports for students along the path. She said the response from the colleges was enthusiastic; Chancellor Motley said this is something that she should be "demanding"; another meeting is scheduled in one month. The Mayor added that he believes strongly in developing our own teachers, in this way you will have faculty that represents the community. He said there is a positive dynamic that happens when children who grew up in the city come back to teach kids from the city, and said this is a good long-term strategy.

Charter School Rebuttal – the Superintendent reported that school administrators worked very hard over the vacation to develop the 17-page rebuttal that was submitted to the DESE on January 5th; in addition, the district filed a civil complaint on the waiver. She reported that the vote on the charter application will happen in February.

BHS NEASC Accreditation – The Superintendent reported that a draft report has been received and she had the opportunity to look at the document with Principal Wolder today; she expects a presentation for School Committee at a March meeting on the final document.

Appointment of Kellie Jones to Position of Director of Bilingual Education

The Superintendent recognized outgoing Director of Bilingual Education, Mr. Jose Pinheiro, for over 30 years of service and welcomed Kellie Jones as the new director; Kellie has served as Bilingual Department Head since 2006.

Items to be Referred To Subcommittee

Mayor Carpenter asked for subcommittee referrals; the Superintendent requested the following meetings:

1. Superintendent's Contract subcommittee on January 20th at 6 p.m. to review goals;
2. Policy Subcommittee meeting to review an Acceptable Use Policy and a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting to review Teaching Strategies Gold; since both are committees of the whole she recommended they be held on the same night. Tuesday, February 3rd was suggested, beginning at 6 p.m.

Seeing no objections, the Superintendent will schedule the meetings.

New Business

Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Mr. Minichiello reported that at the Finance Subcommittee meeting earlier this evening, the two agenda items for discussion were 1) a proposed rate increase in the Smart Start Extended Day Program, and 2) substitute teachers. The Superintendent and staff updated the committee with respect to the issue of substitute teachers, she talked about the district's plan going forward for substitute teachers at all levels and protocols for addressing staff attendance. Mr. Petronio updated the Committee on the substitute budget to date.

With respect to action taken on the proposed rate increase for private pay families in the Smart Start Extended Day program, the committee was presented with two proposed rate increases for consideration. At the meeting, Mrs. Dupuy reminded the committee that this is a compliance issue; the EEC requires that the district increase its rates to equal the voucher reimbursement rate. The committee voted to recommend the smallest increase, Proposal 1, for full School Committee approval. Mr. Minichiello then asked the Committee to vote on the report and the rate increase.

Mr. Robinson moved to accept the report of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to approve the Subcommittee's recommendation to adopt the Proposal 1 rate increase to Smart Start Extended Day private pay families, effective February 1, 2015; Mrs. Joyce seconded the motion.

Voted: to adopt the motion, unanimous.

Blessings in a Backpack - Mr. Robinson said he has been involved with the Blessings in a Backpack since their presentation at a school committee meeting about a year ago. He reported that there are currently 60 students who participate, in two schools—the Barrett Russell and the Kennedy. The cost is \$80 per child for an entire year, and he acknowledged the *Good Samaritan Medical Center* for making a donation of \$5,500 from its Community Benefits fund; this is enough to fund all 60 children for the remainder of the year. Mr. Robinson also acknowledged *Chartwells*, who has come on board and is providing space for food storage, allowing the group to buy in bulk at a lower price. Finally, Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital has started donating cases of fresh fruit on a bi-weekly basis. Mr. Robinson clarified that donations are not made to the Brockton Public Schools, they are given directly to Blessings in a Backpack, an independent organization and he invited the public to make donations if they are interested.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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