

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre in the Fine Arts Building of Brockton High School, at seven thirty. These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

Present: Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant, Mrs. Judy Sullivan, Mr. Timothy Sullivan, Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Also Present: Executive Team, Ms. Karen McCarthy, Coordinator of Title 1 Services, Soraya DeBarros, Chartwells Food Services, Melissa McLaughlin

Vice Chair Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He announced that School Committee was involved in a Safety and Security Parent Information meeting that was still in progress; the Committee would address a few quick matters of business before moving to suspend the meeting to return and finish the ongoing meeting in the auditorium. Mr. Minichiello then asked the Superintendent to take the items out of order that she needed to address. Superintendent Smith explained that the meeting in the auditorium was dealing with some very important events with respect to the safety of our students and schools, she invited everyone present to join her in the auditorium for the remainder of the meeting.

First, the Superintendent called on student Bermain Bastien for the Student Report. Ms. Bastien announced the following: National History Day will be held on Wednesday, January 20th, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. in the Azure cafeteria; the 1st semester ends on January 26; freshman mentors are now available and have begun meeting with students; the boys and girls teams both emerged as winners in The Big Three track and field event.

Next, the Superintendent announced that Karen McCarthy, Coordinator of Title 1 Services, was selected as the recipient of the prestigious *National Association of Federal Education Program Administrator's (NAFEPA) State Leadership Award* and will travel to Washington, DC to be honored at the organization's annual meeting. Mrs. Smith congratulated Ms. McCarthy, and asked her to say a few words. Ms. McCarthy said she was highly honored to be chosen by her peers and thanked School Committee for the recognition.

The Superintendent announced that Melissa McLaughlin and the Fine Arts café won a Facebook contest and will receive \$2,500 worth of equipment from Cambro Industries. The Superintendent asked Ms. McLaughlin to explain further; she said by winning the contest she will be able to select some much-needed storage equipment from the company's catalog. Superintendent Smith said she has always enjoyed the events that the café has catered for her, and she looks forward to continuing this relationship. Ms. McLaughlin responded that the students also enjoy doing these events.

The Superintendent invited Tom Burke, Director of Food Services, and Erin Long, Regional Manager for Chartwells, to come forward to give a presentation. Mr. Burke and Ms. Long announced that Donna Childs, a BHS Food Services employee, has been selected to receive the Chartwells' *Be A Star* national award. Mr. Burke spoke highly of

Ms. Childs' work ethic and dedication to her job. Ms. Long said Ms. Childs initially won the regional award, and was then selected as *Culinary Leader of the Year* at the national awards. Ms. Childs was presented with an award and congratulated by all.

At this point Mr. Minichiello asked the Committee to vote to temporarily suspend the meeting for the purpose of returning to the auditorium to finish the Safety meeting; he announced they would reconvene after the meeting.

Mrs. Sullivan moved to temporarily suspend the meeting to allow School Committee to attend the ongoing Safety meeting. The motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The meeting was suspended at 7:45 p.m.

At 7:55 p.m., School Committee returned. **Ms. Plant moved to reconvene; the motion was seconded.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked Committee members whether there were any items they wanted to remove for discussion, there were none requested. Mr. Minichiello then removed items C, D, and E.

Mr. D'Agostino moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January 5, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Approval of BHS Wind Ensemble Overnight, Out-of-State Trip Apr. 8-10, 2016
- Notification of Personnel Appointments of Certified and Non-Certified Personnel
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

With respect to item C, the Peter G. Asiaf, Jr. Scholarship, Mr. Minichiello thanked the family of Mr. Asiaf and supporters of the scholarship for this generous donation scholarship. Superintendent Smith said she had the pleasure of teaching his children, she said they were a wonderful family during the time of true neighborhood schools, and to have a scholarship in his name is quite fitting.

Mr. Gormley moved to accept the scholarship, the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello announced that Item D is a donation of two printers to the Angelo School from former Ward 7 School Committee member Raymond Henningson, Jr. He thanked Mr. Henningson for the generous donation; Superintendent Smith also thanked Mr. Henningson and said that the district welcomes and appreciates these in-kind donations.

Ms. Plant moved to accept the donation; the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said the status for Item E, the *Request for Authorization to Submit a Preschool Planning Grant*, has changed, he asked the Superintendent to elaborate. Mrs. Smith said there is a preschool opportunity that the EEC has extended to communities; with respect to this request Brockton recently received word that we will receive \$40,000 to submit a proposal for a preschool expansion grant. She said she will keep School Committee updated on the progress. Superintendent Smith said there is a need for more preschool classes, however, there are space and budget challenges that come with this endeavor. She said this is a small amount of money but it is a step in the right direction.

Ms. Plant moved to authorize to submit for a preschool planning grant in the amount of \$40,000 and to submit a plan in support thereof. Mr. Sullivan seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said he is grateful for our state legislators who continue to advocate for Brockton and share key information; he thanked Claire Cronin for sending along the notification about this grant.

Communication

Mr. Minichiello announced that the Mayor sends his regrets that he cannot attend tonight's meeting, he is attending the Mayor's Conference in Washington, DC.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent began her report by thanking those who attended this evening's Safety presentation, she said it will be seen on cable and the message will grow. She thanked Lt. Mills, the police and fire departments, Representative Dubois, school committee and executive team members for being present. She said safety in our schools is extremely important and we need the involvement of parents and the community; she asked parents to pay close attention to what their children are doing on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media, and to continue to partner with the schools for the safety of our students.

Chartwells Presentation

Mr. Burke introduced Kate Quealy, the new district resident dietician who will support the operation team, keeping up with the ever-changing state and federal regulations to ensure that Chartwells is in compliance, she will also spend time in the schools educating students about nutrition and food, and conduct staff trainings within the Food Services department. He then invited Ms. Quealy to introduce the new online menu program by Nutrislice. School Committee was given a copy of the power point presentation.

Mrs. Quealy demonstrated how to use the new, interactive online menu that is available to everyone. By clicking on a menu item the reader can access nutrition and allergen information about the meal, it is also printable. The menu is available in several languages by choosing from a drop-down menu. The website address is <http://brocktonpublicschoolsnutrislice.com>, and can also be accessed through the Brockton Public Schools website. Ms. Quealy said that school nurses, who deal with diabetic children, have found this to be extremely helpful.

During a question and answer period, Ms. Plant asked whether they were familiar with the *Health Eating Physical Activity* menu program, Mr. Burke responded he had not heard of it, and that Chartwells follows the National School Lunch guidelines. Mr. Sullivan asked whether there was an option on the site where a student can comment about the menu, Mr. Burke responded that was not available, but they do have regular discussions with student councils about the menu. Mr. Minichiello asked how often and how the menu changes;

Ms. Quealy responded that each month different variations of menu items are added. The food focus of the month, the Massachusetts Harvest of the month, and student satisfaction are all a part of the changes. Mr. Minichiello asked whether a hot breakfast sandwich is offered, he suggested that this is something all kids like that would be a good option, especially for the grab-and-go. The Superintendent added that in her conversations with youth groups food is always a topic and Chartwells has always been open to suggestions.

2015-2016 Enrollment and Registration Presentation

Superintendent Smith invited Soraya DeBarros to report on the 2015-2016 registration and enrollments. Ms. DeBarros first extended an invitation to committee members to visit the new location at 60 Crescent Street, she said she would be happy to arrange a tour of the facility.

Ms. DeBarros gave a comprehensive report using a power point presentation; a copy of this presentation was handed out and a detailed report was given to School Committee for review prior to tonight. Data was reported on the transactions processed: by grade, by day and even by hour, the type of transaction (transfers in to the district, transfers or school changes within the district), minority vs. non-minority. The report also comparisons to prior years, data on parents receiving their first, second or third choice, and results from an exit survey. Key points and changes in this year's registrations included in the report:

- Total enrollment 17,485, an increase of 27 students over last year at this time
- This year the district mainstreamed the highest number of bilingual students - 234
- There was a large influx of Cape Verdean students at the high school this year
- The challenge of a new language, Quechan, spoken by many families from Ecuador
- All pre-K – 12 registrations are now done at the Center (with the exception of Edison students over the age of 22)
- Students attending the Gilmore pre-school will no longer need to be re-registered for kindergarten
- Kindergarten registration will begin February 29th
- The Center continues to move forward with electronic registration forms, a kiosk with an electronic queuing system, photo identification of students
- Other districts are now looking at the Center as a model
- Electronic signing pads will soon be available; parents will sign once and the signature will go to all forms, including lunch forms

Finally, Ms. DeBarros spoke highly of the award-winning Parent Engagement Center that is also housed at the Parent Center, which continues to offer workshops and trainings for parents and families. She said the loss of 14 parent liaisons due to budget cuts has been deeply felt. The Superintendent thanked Ms. DeBarros for the presentation and said the district is very proud of our Parent Center, she said that the decision to cut the parent liaisons was very painstaking, she does not expect anything different this year.

Ms. DeBarros responded to questions from School Committee.

- Mr. Minichiello asked Ms. DeBarros to extend the appreciation of the School Committee to her staff for the presentation and he commended them for the high marks on the survey.
- Mr. Sullivan asked whether the school tours have stopped with the loss of the parent liaisons, Ms. DeBarros answered that school office staff have taken over and done a wonderful job with this.

- Ms. Plant asked how difficult it will be to get the paperwork in the Quechan language; Ms. DeBarros responded this is something they are working on.
- Mrs. Sullivan asked why parents would not get their first choice, Ms. DeBarros responded seat availability is the issue, applications that are not completed and submitted on time are the main reason, but parents can be added to a waitlist. On that topic, Ms. Plant asked whether there has been a case where there are no available seats in an entire zone and how transportation would be handled in that case; Ms. DeBarros responded that currently the south zone is running out of seats, the district would have to provide transportation and would put in a stop, providing it meets the BPS guidelines.
- Mr. D'Agostino said the only concern he has heard is about siblings being split up; Ms. DeBarros responded that only happens in kindergarten; however, when parents do not complete their files in time the students are not assigned until they comply and by then seats may be gone; these students do eventually get back into the school.

The Superintendent said that school committee has been working on space issues for a number of years and she is pleased that the Facility Master Plan has finally gone out to bid. She said we are seeing that parents want neighborhood schools and added that the budget will be a very important part of this planning.

Superintendent Updates

The Superintendent announced that Mr. Andrew Donovan has been appointed Interim Housemaster of the Green Building at BHS, she is pleased to have him on board. Mr. Gormley said that he was pleased to receive that news, he said Mr. Donovan is a true professional and worthy of the position.

Mrs. Smith shared the agenda topics for Saturday's retreat, then asked Mr. Minichiello about a possible alternate date. Mr. Minichiello suggested January 30th, there were no objections. Mr. Sullivan asked for clarification; Mr. Minichiello said the retreat will be moved to January 30th and the January 23rd date will be cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Minichiello said that he was fortunate to attend *Your Future, Your Decision* at West Middle School last week. U.S. Attorney General Carmen Ortiz sponsored the event and he said the students were very responsive and interested. Mr. Minichiello said he was particularly impressed with speaker Lashawn Amado, a young man who spoke about changing the direction of his life by changing the choices he made. He said Mr. Amado said he would speak at other schools if requested.

Mr. Gormley congratulated the boys and girls track teams, both winners of the Big Three Championship indoor track meet held at Wheaton College. He said these events are not well attended, although track is one of the most participated in sports at Brockton High School, and he encouraged people to try to attend.

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
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