

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; Ms. Plant, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Mrs. Sullivan, Ms. Asack, Mr. Tim Sullivan, Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Also Present: Executive Team

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He explained that the Organizational Meeting, required by City Charter, is the meeting where officers of the school committee are elected and other appointments are made. He welcomed the four new members and returning member Tim Sullivan.

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter explained that this portion of the meeting allows members of the public to sign in to address School Committee, the Committee takes comments under advisement but does not respond. He asked that visitors keep comments to no more than three minutes. Mayor Carpenter then called on Bradley Souffrant.

Mr. Souffrant, a former Brockton High student, addressed the Committee with respect to his campaign to change the demerit system at the school. Mr. Souffrant told the committee that there are a group of youth who are "ready to take action", and stated "to everyone on the school committee, expect the unexpected this year", followed by "we are all ready to reach our goal by any means necessary." He said they are ready to work with any member who wants to work with them to help them reach their goal.

Mayor Carpenter called on Officer Nancy Leedberg, Brockton Police Department. Ms. Leedberg announced a screening of a short film, *If Only*, on January 12, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the War Memorial Building. The film addresses the opiate addiction problem that is dramatically impacting communities across the Commonwealth, Mayor Carpenter added that there are a number of events that will be going on as well.

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 2016.

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 2015 Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mayor Carpenter and Superintendent Smith expressed their appreciation to Mr. Minichiello; the Mayor noted that Mr. Minichiello has now completed his sixth year as vice-chair. Mrs. Sullivan said that Mr. Minichiello has done a great job and she has enjoyed working with him. Following the presentation, there was a round of applause.

**Election of 2016
Vice-Chair**

Mayor Carpenter explained the responsibilities of the position of the Vice-Chair and asked for a nomination.

Mrs. Sullivan nominated Mr. Minichiello for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2016 calendar year, the nomination was seconded.

Mr. Minichiello said he has had the privilege of serving with several school committees, the outgoing group was great and he looks forward to working with the new committee. He reminded new members that the position of vice-chair does not carry more weight or dictate how the committee thinks, he told members they cannot go wrong if they vote with the best intentions of the students in mind.

Voted: to elect Mr. Minichiello as Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2016 calendar year, unanimous.

**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. Gormley and Ms. Plant to serve on the Community School Advisory Board, Mr. Sullivan seconded both nominations.

Seeing no other nominations, Mr. Minichiello moved to appoint the nominees.

Voted: to appoint Mr. Gormley and Ms. Plant 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.

Mr. Minichiello moved to adopt the Rules and Orders for 2016, the motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

(A copy of the FY 2016 Rules and Orders of the School Committee will be inserted in the minutes record book.)

**Appointment of
2016 Subcommittees**

The Mayor, as Chair of the School Committee, appoints the subcommittees each year. A list of the 2016 appointments was included in the agenda book for School Committee review and consideration. Mayor Carpenter said the subcommittee assignments were made after working closely with the Superintendent and Vice-Chair, and are being presented for acceptance by School Committee.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept notification of the 2016 Subcommittee Assignments as presented, the motion was seconded by Mr. D'Agostino.

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 for discussion, there were none.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on the Consent Agenda in its entirety; Mrs. Sullivan seconded.

- *Minutes of December 15, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified, Non-Certified*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimous.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Mayor Carpenter announced he would take Items to Refer out of order, explained the purpose and asked School Committee members for any referrals, there were none.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent said she was sad to announce the passing of Mrs. Josette Dupont-Dubois, a BHS bilingual teacher with whom she had worked for many years. She extended her sympathy to the family and thanked Principal Wolder for the personal support she has shown to Mrs. Dubois' children during this time. She said First Student transportation has donated a bus to drive students to and from the services in Roslindale. The Superintendent then asked for a moment of silence.

BHS Student Rep – The Superintendent welcomed Birmane Bastien to give the student report. Birmane said she is a senior at Brockton High School and very excited to have been selected to be a part of the School Committee. Her report included dates for ACCESS testing (January 13), and National History Day (Wednesday, January 20, 8 – 10:30 am). She also spoke of the loss of Mrs. Dubois, calling her a kind and caring teacher, she said she will be missed at the high school.

Enrollment - The Superintendent reported that the current enrollment figure is 17,485, up by 27 students from last year at this time. Mayor Carpenter took the opportunity to explain how enrollment impacts Brockton's funding. He went on to say that Chapter 70 funding is determined by the enrollment figure on October 1st, which is unfair to the district because gateway cities continue to receive new students after that date and will not receive reimbursement until well over a year later. He said there will be a lot of discussion about the inequity of the Chapter 70 funding formula in the upcoming budget season, and he continues to bring this issue to the attention of our legislators. Mr. Minichiello said he agrees with the Mayor and addressing this inequity will be a topic for discussion at the upcoming school committee retreat. Mayor Carpenter said that another inequity is that Brockton houses the third largest *state-relocated* homeless population in the state, and although the city welcomes these students and families, this is causing an additional burden on the local budget. The McKinney Vento Act, which comes with homeless students, is a mandate that cost the district \$1 million last year, for which the city received reimbursement for roughly half of the cost.

Charter School Rebuttal – the Superintendent thanked the Executive Team, and in particular Dr. Terrasi, Mrs. Barry, Dr. Cancell, and Michele Bolton, for sitting with her and putting together a rebuttal that will be submitted to the DESE on January 6th. She said that there has *not* been an outcry from the community for a charter school, and what this charter is proposing Brockton already has. Mayor Carpenter agreed, stating that although he is not

totally opposed to the right charter school, this is the wrong school at the wrong time, it does not make sense and could potentially cost us millions out of our state local aid. He noted that two of our biggest and most expensive populations are English language learners and children with learning disabilities, this charter school does not propose to educate those populations as Brockton does. He said the design of this charter is to be a college prep school which is not what Brockton needs, that 92% of Brockton High graduates last year went on to post-secondary education. The Superintendent added that a recent statistic on student discipline listed the top 20 schools with excessive student disciplines, 19 of the 20 were charter schools. Mr. Gormley said that he teaches in Boston and he has seen a large influx of students returning from charter schools in the first three or four weeks of schools, parents would be very disappointed to have their students asked to leave a school they thought was going to be good for their child. In addition, special education services are not being provided properly and the public schools are left to clean up after the time in the charter.

The Superintendent gave the following briefs:

Brockton has received the draft Coordinated Program Review (CPR) report from the State and will respond within ten (10) days;

The Superintendent shared highlights of the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act;

The BPS "Final Site" website is being updated and will be unveiled in late Spring;

She will be meeting with school leadership teams to discuss goals that she will share with the Committee;

She would like to schedule the retreat for January 23rd; the agenda will include budgeting, review of the policy manual, superintendent evaluation and goals that need to be set, facilities and school committee protocols with work in the schools.

(At this point Mayor Carpenter left the meeting and Mr. Minichiello took over as Chair.)

PARCC Data Presentation

The Superintendent invited Dr. Cancell to present the results of the 2015 PARCC and MCAS tests. Dr. Cancell's power point presentation showed district and individual school results by grade and subject and compared previous years. Dr. Cancell explained the state's method of scoring students and schools, paying particular attention to detail for the new members. Overall, Dr. Cancell said that Brockton did well, he noted there is a substantial difference in scores depending on the way you took the test—pencil and paper or online, with online test scores significantly lower. He pointed out that not only did Kennedy Elementary and East Middle School achieve Level 1 status, but Brockton is the only large urban district that has never had a Level 4 school.

Ms. Plant asked how the district addresses a decline in scores, the Superintendent said the principals and the Office of Learning and Teaching focus on this immediately to find and addresses causes. Mrs. Barry said that because the end of the year assessment is really too late, formative assessments that are used during the year are actually just as important, if not more. Mr. Sullivan asked Dr. Cancell what his overall rank for the district would be, Dr. Cancell responded that the district outperformed its demographic, he said this was not Brockton's best year but under the conditions the district did very well.

Mr. Gormley said that the upward growth in Brockton should be celebrated, it is not like that in other communities and it is good to hear that we are holding our students to high standards. The Superintendent advised committee members that Dr. Cancell is available to meet with them individually and explain further. Mr. D'Agostino said he appreciated the way Dr. Cancell presented the data and broke down the report.

New Business

The Superintendent announced that a Safety and Security parent information night has been scheduled for January 19th, if there are no objections from the committee she would like to start that meeting at 6:30 p.m. and move the School Committee meeting start time to 7:30 p.m. There were no objections. Mr. Minichiello asked that the meeting be properly posted.

The Superintendent asked the committee to confirm the date of the School Committee Retreat as Saturday, January 23, from 8:30 to noon, all were in agreement. Mr. Sullivan asked where the retreat will be held, the Superintendent responded it will be posted as a public meeting and will be held at the Crosby Administration Building.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

/wka