

The Regular 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: Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Henningson; Mr. Jordan; Mrs. Joyce;
Mrs. Wilson; Mr. Robinson; Mrs. Sullivan; Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mayor Carpenter, Mr. Henningson, Jr.

Also Present: Executive Team

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

Vice-Chair Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag. He asked everyone to remain standing, then announced that Brockton had lost "an angel", a four-year-old Gilmore School student died suddenly, apparently from medical complications, and asked for a moment of silence in her memory. Following the moment of silence, Superintendent Smith expressed her condolences, but said she was glad that the district was able to quickly provide grief counseling at the school. Mr. Minichiello said Mayor Carpenter was unable to attend tonight but had asked him to relay his regrets.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Minichiello called on City Councilor Dennis Eaniri. Councilor Eaniri said he wanted to inform School Committee and the public about the dedication of the 60 Crescent Street building in honor of former Mayor Paul V. Studenski, Jr. that will take place on November 9, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. He thanked Deputy Superintendent Thomas, Superintendent Smith and Communications Officer Michele Bolton for assisting him with this project.

Recognition

Mr. Minichiello took Item A, under the Report of Superintendent of Schools, out of order. He announced that the School Committee was pleased to recognize Synlina Rosa, a Plouffe Academy sixth grade student, for her bravery and heroic actions during a fire at the three-family building she lives in. Synlina quickly woke her own family, then went up to the 2nd and 3rd floors and alerted those families, resulting in everyone safely evacuating. Mr. Minichiello and Superintendent Smith presented Synlina with a certificate of recognition and a Plouffe School t-shirt. Synlina's family was also in attendance.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items for discussion; Mrs. Joyce removed Item E, Plouffe School Out-of-State trip to Philadelphia, PA.

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

- October 20, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Report of October 26, 2015 Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of October 27, 2015 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- September 9, 2015 CSAB Meeting Minutes
- Authorization to Submit: FY16 Safe & Supportive Grant - \$10,000
- Authorization to Submit: FY16 NorthEast Electrical Project Grant - \$50,000
- Authorization to Submit: FY16 Strategic Support/Underperforming Schools and

Districts Grant - \$56,089

- Notification of Personnel Appointments – Certified and Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello invited Mrs. Joyce to ask questions of Principal Nessralla and her team. Mrs. Joyce congratulated the team on the wonderful trips they have taken students on and said she wished this could be done system wide, she told Principal Nessralla that she was very proud of the trips she has taken her students on. Mr. Minichiello commented that Mrs. Joyce has always been the one to thoroughly vet these trips for the safety and wellbeing of the students. Her diligence has forced some corrective fine-tuning in the details of the trips, for the benefit of student safety.

Following the discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the Plouffe School Out-of-State, Overnight Field Trip to Philadelphia, PA.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent Report The Superintendent began her report by acknowledging the hard work and many hours this School Committee has given, she said they have done a wonderful job. She welcomed new school committee members Lisa Plant, Joyce Asack, and Tim Sullivan who were in the audience and congratulated Mayor Carpenter for winning the election and all of the returning or newly seated councilors and school committee members. She said she has spoken with Mr. Henningson who has been a tireless advocate for our students, and that she expects him to continue to work in various ways for the students and the district.

BHS Student Report (Gavin Rocha)

Mr. Rocha reported the following:

- Over 650 children took part in the Halloween Hallways event
- The BHS Veterans' Day Ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10th
- 291 students will receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship on Thursday, November 19th, he noted that this is the first year that Science was included;
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held November 23rd at 6 p.m., Gavin will be inducted at that time as well

Incident at BHS

Superintendent Smith spoke about a recent incident at the high school where a student, with her parent, approached another student during lunch on the grounds of the high school with the intention of physically attacking the student. The Superintendent commended teachers Deborah McNulty, Chris Sullivan, and Jeffrey Driscoll for their quick and appropriate action, keeping all students safe and controlling the situation. She then asked student Gavin Rocha how he felt at school, Gavin replied that he felt as safe now as before the incident, and it was his feeling that the student body was of the same mind. She asked Lt. Mills and Principal Wolder for their comments. Both Lt. Mills and Principal Wolder commended the staff at BHS for quick and appropriate action; Lt. Mills said school police have spent many hours training for situations like this and it paid off. Mr. Minichiello commended School Police for showing great restraint and judgement during the incident in which the student was armed with a taser. Principal Wolder said that students were quickly brought inside to safety, they were assessed to make sure they were okay, physically and emotionally. She

said the situations they face are challenging and it is good to know the staff can handle these types of incidents. Principal Wolder said she has dealt with the student and is also working with the family to help them with issues that prompted the behavior.

Mr. Jordan said that communication was key and the district handled it appropriately; Mrs. Joyce said safety is paramount and commended Lt. Mills and Principal Wolder for their daily vigilance at the school.

Superintendent Awards

Superintendent Smith announced that, at a recent ceremony, she was pleased to give out the annual M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence awards to this year's top four students at Brockton High School: Kendall Brinson, Samantha Connor, Samantha Hand, and Heidy Rivera.

Foundation Budget Review Commission Report

The Superintendent announced that the district has been awaiting the release of this report and she was heartened by the commission's findings that the foundation budget formula is no longer adequate to fund the increased health insurance costs, special education costs, and the added amounts intended to provide services to ELL and low-income students are less than needed to fully provide the level of services needed. Mrs. Joyce said she was happy to see that in addition to all of that, early childhood education was included in the report. She said it is important the Brockton continue to go forward with the equity lawsuit, she feels legislature will not take action unless pressured.

There was a lengthy discussion about going forward with the lawsuit, including other districts, the Superintendent said she will look for an attorney that will take the case pro bono.

PARCC

The Superintendent announced that the PARCC/MCAS results are still embargoed, she will share them in full when they are released. She said she is awaiting the State's decision on whether it will adopt PARCC or a different assessment; it is due out November 16 or 17.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference

The Superintendent reported she attended this conference today, tomorrow Mr. Minichiello and Mrs. Kirrane, Director of Health and Wellness, will participate on a panel discussion of the EOS breakfast in the classroom initiative. Mr. Minichiello said he visited the Raymond School today to see this in action, and he was pleased at how well received the program is and how it benefits the students. Principal McGrath told him there are significantly less student visits to the nurse as well as a drop in tardies. Mr. Robinson took the opportunity to talk about Blessings in a Backpack, which has now expanded into five schools and feeding 200 children. He thanked Food Services Director Tom Burke and his staff as well as many volunteers. The Superintendent suggested that when the new website is up it may be possible to have a link for people to donate to Blessings in a Backpack.

North Middle School Presentation

Principal Sean Ahern used a power point presentation to highlight his report on North Middle School. He said he is proud of the academics, but in addition North teaches that character matters, using the daily mantra of "work hard and be nice!" Part of the students' education is "community service learning", where students are responsible for school events, a garden in front of the school, helping in the community, all designed to educate

the whole child. Finally, he highlighted community partnerships with the Old Colony YMCA Leadership Program, the BSU Bridge Program, and the very successful Financial Literacy Program.

Superintendent Smith said when she visits the building it is noticeable that everyone is a part of the school, there have been some nice additions to the school. Members commented that it is great to see children having fun while they are learning, and thanked Principal Ahern for the presentation and his work at the school.

**Items to Refer
to Subcommittee**

The Superintendent said she would like to schedule the School Committee retreat on a Tuesday evening before the end of the year, she would have her office send out suggested dates.

New Business

Mrs. Wilson brought up the topic of a SPED advisory board to the School Committee and asked the Superintendent if she could reinvigorate this discussion and bring it to the forefront. She said she has had a lot of inquiries, there are issues with children at the high school and she feels the issues are getting lost. The Superintendent responded that she was also interested in developing this advisory board, she will speak with Special Education Director Laurie Mason and make sure it gets going.

Mr. Jordan said that he attended the MASC/MASS conference today and in speaking with vendors, he was surprised that most were very familiar with Brockton Public Schools, he said the district has a very positive reputation.

There being no further New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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