

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

Present: Mayor Carpenter, Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Thomas, Deputy Superintendent, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith

Also Present: Executive Team, Principal Proudler. Alicia Silipigno, Denise Fumicello, Jaclyn Abrams

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter explained the hearing of visitors protocol, then invited the following to address school committee:

Mr. Ryan Hamblett, Plouffe school teacher, passed out a booklet he prepared in including letters from his students, he spoke against eliminating teaching positions; Joanna Schnitz, BHS English teacher who just received her third layoff notice, also spoke against the layoffs. Sue Doherty, BHS Librarian, and Britt Sorenson, certified librarian, spoke against the elimination of the two remaining librarian positions, Ms. Doherty passed out an article entitled "Study Ties College Success to Students' Exposure to a High School Librarian". Ms. Sorenson said that her position as a certified librarian gave her school free access to online resources, which they will lose with her reassignment to a grade 3 classroom. She also asked school committee to consider utilizing the BPS technology-trained librarians as technology trainers, instead of completely eliminating their positions.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked committee members if they wanted to remove any items for discussion; there were no requests.

Mrs. Sullivan moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Thomas said there was no student report this evening, he invited Principal Colleen Proudler to share a power point presentation about the Arnone School.

Presentation: Arnone School

Principal Proudler introduced the *Readers' Workshop Model*, a professional development opportunity provided by Teaching Learning Alliance (TLA) and

funded by Title II, currently in use by the Angelo, Arnone, and Downey schools. Principal Proudler said this method uses lab classrooms and job-embedded instructional coaching designed to improve instruction in the classroom and has been very successful. Instructors Alicia Silipigno, Jaclyn Abrams and Denise Fumicello explained the teaching methods and how the program encourages and improves reading.

Mr. Minichiello said it was good to find out that teachers are in need of books in their classrooms, school committee would be happy to bring in books their children are too old for; Ms. Plant agreed and said she will deliver the books to the Arnone. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to have a citywide book drive and will speak with the Superintendent. He said he wants Brockton teachers to know the school committee appreciates what they do here in Brockton and recognizes the efforts they put into their job. Mayor Carpenter thanked the Arnone team for their good work.

Presentation: District Strategic Plan

Deputy Superintendent Barry's power point presentation included a brief review of the development and purpose of the plan, for the benefit of new school committee members, and an update with respect to where the district plan is to date. Mrs. Barry said one thing she would like to convey to the committee is how many people are involved in the fulfillment of the plan.

Mr. Minichiello asked Mrs. Barry how the strategies and goals are applied at each level (elementary, middle, and high school); Mrs. Barry responded that all levels are equally represented by a team. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to be sure the collaborative work, sharing of best practices, continues across all levels because of the great resources within the district. He asked whether the work with EDI met the district's expectations, Mrs. Barry responded affirmatively, they were very supportive and flexible. She said that the recent *Brockton Kids Count* initiative is a vibrant, successful example of working within the district strategic plan (community engagement goal).

Discussion/questions included the following:

- How will the budget cuts impact the strategic plan? Mrs. Barry responded that it is a little early to tell, last year some important structures were eliminated, as well some things have been backed up and some have been delayed. She said this can be brought forward at a future school committee meeting.
- Ms. Plant said the best way to meet the *supportive environments* goal would be by having the teachers in the classroom, the layoffs directly impact this goal. Mrs. Barry agreed.
- Are teachers' individual goals incorporated into the school improvement plans? Mrs. Barry responded yes, teachers are encouraged to look at the school plan when developing their own goals.

Vote on School Choice

Mayor Carpenter gave the following report: The School Choice Public Hearing was held earlier this evening, at 6:30 p.m. as required by law. Last year the school committee voted to continue to participate in the school choice program with the criteria of no more than 50 seats at the high school and 10 seats at Edison Academy. At tonight's meeting school committee needs to vote on whether or not to participate for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mrs. Sullivan moved that the Brockton Public Schools continue to participate in the School Choice Program for the 2016 - 2017 school year with the same criteria currently in place.

Voted: to adopt the resolution, unanimous.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

None.

New Business

May 10, 2016 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report/Recommended Budget

Mr. Minichiello reported that at the May 10 Finance Subcommittee Meeting, after review and discussion of the state of the FY17 budget, the committee came to the conclusion to recommend the requested amount of \$8,985,636 for transportation (non-net), with the understanding that this would need further discussion down the line. With respect to the net school spending, Mr. Minichiello reported that the committee decided to adopt the \$167,396,656 figure provided by the Mayor. He said members expressed their appreciation for the Mayor's consideration in giving school committee a figure ahead of time, and for meeting the foundation budget in spite of facing a difficult budget on the city side as well. Finally, Mr. Minichiello reported the committee was in agreement that future finance meetings will include further discussion of line items that could be brought back with any new additional funds, and the transportation budget. He said that tonight's recommendation allows the Mayor to go forward to City Council with his budget.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the report of the May 10, 2016 Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Subcommittee to forward the School Committee Proposed FY2017 budget request of \$167,396,656 in Net School Spending, and \$8,985,636 in Non-Net school spending, to the Mayor for consideration in his budget preparation for FY17.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, 5 - 1 - 0 (Mr. D'Agostino opposed)

Mayor Carpenter said he will now present his budget to City Council by next Tuesday, he cautioned that the budget figure is not yet final. Mr. Minichiello said this has been a team effort and everyone is trying to do their part in terms of lobbying for adequate funding.

Mayor Carpenter spoke about the district's budget challenges as a result of fundamental underfunding by the state's Chapter 70 formula. He said there is hope that Brockton will see additional relief with respect to the low income certification, but Brockton has seen a fundamental operating deficit of \$10 million per year because the added cost to educate ELLs, special education, homeless, children living in poverty with all of its challenges, is not being met within the Chapter 70 formula. As a result, he said we will continue the conversation about an equity in education lawsuit. The Mayor stated that in order to make a strong case for the equity lawsuit the city needed to meet the foundation budget. He concluded by saying we are in a much better place than he initially expected, no one is happy about the budget, we remain hopeful that there will be some additional funding coming in, we will then work to strategically apply these funds to get the most for the district.

Mr. D'Agostino clarified that he did not vote in favor of the budget; Mayor Carpenter asked that the vote be corrected to reflect Mr. D'Agostino's vote opposing the motion to approve the proposed FY17 budget.

Kudos and Announcements

- Mr. Minichiello praised the Spring musical Footloose, Mr. Thomas agreed and acknowledged the hard work of staff, crew and the cast.
- Mr. Minichiello and Mayor Carpenter said the JROTC Dining Out was a phenomenal event and congratulated Sgt. Clark and Lt. Colonel Clark. Mr. Thomas testified that school committee stepped in and picked up the cost of instructors when federal funding was eliminated a few years ago to keep the program alive. Mayor Carpenter said the program is in need of another teacher, there are currently 210 students enrolled in the program with only two instructors.
- Mr. Thomas announced that on Thursday, May 19th, the Huntington Parade will be held at 12:30 p.m. and Senior Awards are at 5:30 p.m.; the Pops Concert is next Wednesday, May 25th, at 7 p.m.

Seeing no further New Business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Thomas, Deputy Superintendent/Secretary

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handouts: Booklet from Ryan Hamblett
School Librarian Article
Copy of Arnone Powerpoint Presentation
Copy of District Strategic Plan Presentation and Supporting Documents