

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 o'clock. 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. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Also Present: Executive Team, Principal Lovell, Tom Burke

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag. He announced that Mayor Carpenter was at a meeting at City Hall and would be here shortly.

**Hearing of Visitors**

At tonight's meeting, the following visitors addressed school committee with regard to the recommended closing of the Barrett Russell School: Mr. Andy Robinson, former Ward 2 school committee member, Barrett Russell Principal Joanne Camillo, Reading teacher Claire Sheehan, and parent Michelle Gilbert all spoke on behalf of keeping the school open.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Mr. D'Agostino moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety.**

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

**Communication**

Mr. Minichiello shared a letter from Mayor Carpenter requesting support from the Chartwells Community Outreach fund. Mr. Minichiello reported the request was presented to school committee at the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Finance Subcommittee meeting and unanimously recommended for approval tonight.

**Mr. D'Agostino moved to approve the allocation of \$15,000 from the Chartwells Community Outreach Fund to support the Mayor's Summer Parks Initiative.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Report of the Student Representative

Student Representative Bermain Bastien's report included the following: Senior prom tickets and caps and gowns are currently on sale, seniors last day is May 25<sup>th</sup>, the BHS Spring musical will be held May 13 through 15, the Harbor One Art Show is on display in the lobby of the Fine Arts building and the awards ceremony will be held Thursday at 9 a.m., MCAS Math is being taken on May 17 and 18, she congratulated Obinna Igbokwe on his acceptance to seven out of eight Ivy league schools, and a thank you to teachers in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day. The Superintendent extended her appreciation to all of the BPS teachers as well. She announced that Obinna has selected Harvard and said our teachers position our students for great success, recognizing BHS, Arnone and Plouffe schools for their part in Obinna's education.

### Chartwells Donation to Blessings in a Backpack

Tom Burke, Director of Chartwells Food Services, and Linda Machnig, Union President, presented Janet McDuffy from Blessings in a Backpack with a \$2,000 donation raised by the food services staff. Mr. Burke said since learning about the program, the staff has been passionate about helping with the program, as well as raising money. He said the program has grown from two to seven schools, now helping 300 children.

### Introduction of 2016 Administrative Interns

The Superintendent was pleased to invite Dr. Kathleen Moran forward to introduce the 2016 Administrative Interns. Dr. Moran welcomed the administrative interns and announced names and assignments. 2016 Administrative Interns: Gloria Cho, Kaitlin Clark, Keri Clark, Jon Garcea, John Lynch, Melissa McNeil-Pleasant, Susan Nash, Kerry Pearson, Rachel Umbrianna.

### Ashfield School Presentation

As part of the Superintendent's desire to invite all schools to highlight activities and learning at their schools, Principal Barbara Lovell gave a power point presentation about the Ashfield School. Following the presentation, school committee asked questions about the use of tablets as a part of the learning day and about the credit recovery and academic support programs. Principal Lovell said she has about 175 tablets for 500 students; Mr. Minichiello said he was inquiring about the tablet use because it has been a goal of school committee to be able to provide one to one devices across the district.

### Ratification of New Dental Plan Memorandums of Agreement (MOA's)

Six memorandums of agreement, one for each bargaining unit in the school department, were on the agenda for school committee ratification. These memorandums agree to replace the current dental coverage provided by the city to all its employees with Dental Blue Freedom Plan, effective July 1, 2016.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to ratify the MOA's between the Brockton School Committee and all school department bargaining units with respect to the new dental plan.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Ratification of the New High School Schedule MOA

Mr. Minchiello explained that the underlying goal of the new high school schedule was to provide more opportunity for students to take the courses they needed.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to ratify the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the BEA with respect to implementation of the new high school schedule, as presented.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Ms. Plant asked whether the students' start end times were affected, the Superintendent responded that their day remains the same.

Ratification of BEA Religious Observance Leave MOA

The Superintendent explained that it was necessary, for legal reasons, to change some of the language in the contract with respect to religious leave, and an additional personal day was given with the idea that it can be used for religious leave. Ms. Plant asked whether staff has been allowed appropriate leave with respect to the religious holidays that were removed from the calendar, the Superintendent responded the contract allows staff to take days without pay if needed.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to ratify the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the BEA with respect to Religious Leave Time, as presented.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Budget Update

Superintendent Smith reported that she has made cuts to administration, programs and supplies, and in order to balance the deficit she is recommending up to 100 RIF notices, with the expectation of 59 positions not to be filled. She reported that at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting the Mayor announced he would fully fund the foundation budget. She reported there is still the possibility of more funding coming from the state as legislators continue to advocate for the district. She said work on the budget will continue for the next couple of months, but the recommended budget she is looking at allows the district to approach the FY18 school year in a stable position. She cautioned that large class sizes could require her to bring back some of those 59 positions.

Status of Victim of Hit and Run Accident

The Superintendent said she has spoken with the parents of the West Middle School student severely injured in a hit-and-run accident during the April vacation, he is home and has a long recovery ahead of him. Parents expressed their gratitude to West and the BPS community for the support they have received.

Art Week - Finally, the Superintendent announced that Art Week events are going on all over the city, she encouraged everyone to support these events. Mr. Minichiello asked that the calendar be posted on the BPS website.

**Items to Refer to Subcommittee**

Superintendent Smith said the following subcommittee meetings need to be scheduled: Policy, Safety & Security, and Facilities. Mr. Minichiello recommended that Safety and Security be brought to the forefront and he will work with Mrs. Alves to schedule these in the near future.

**New Business**

Report of the May 3, 2016 Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Minichiello gave the following report from the Finance meeting held earlier this evening: The Finance subcommittee met at 6 p.m. and received budget updates from the Superintendent and Mr. Petronio. The committee was presented with a mid-May deadline with respect to providing notice to staff, at that meeting the committee deliberated and voted on the Superintendent's recommendation to issue up to 100 RIF notices. Mr. Minichiello said school committee would need to vote on this recommendation tonight.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the recommendation to allow the district to send up to 100 RIF notices in time for the May 15 deadline; Mr. D'Agostino seconded the motion.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said this approval was given with regret, this is a difficult budget to recommend. He said at the upcoming May 10<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting the committee will have another opportunity to tweak the budget.

Art Show – Mr. Minichiello complimented the student artwork on display in the Fine Arts lobby and said he was happy to see so many parents, staff, and community members supporting the event this evening.

Mr. D'Agostino brought forward and read aloud the following resolve with respect to education funding; he said it has been presented to city council and he would like school committee to vote to adopt.

WHEREAS, the Governor's budget for FY2017 includes an increase of \$72 million, or 1.6%, statewide for Chapter 70 K-12 Education; and  
WHEREAS, the Chapter 70 budget for the City of Brockton is recommended for an increase of just \$343,480, or only .02%; and

WHEREAS, the end result of the proposed FY17 budget is a reduction of \$6,546,084 in the city's total foundation budget entitlement,  
WHEREAS, the primary reason for the disparity in the percentage of funding increase for the city as opposed to the state is a change in the funding for low income or economically disadvantaged students; and  
WHEREAS, this change has distorted the pattern of state revenue assistance for educating low income students from many of the poorest communities to more affluent communities; and  
WHEREAS, this change has resulted in a loss of \$5,878,64 in Chapter 70 funding from FY16 to FY17 for this category of Brockton students; and  
WHEREAS, this loss of foundation budget entitlement imperils the city's ability to provide adequate education for its students now and in the future; and  
WHEREAS, this condition is contrary to both the spirit and intent of the Hancock decision by the Supreme Court regarding equity in education funding;  
NOW, be it resolved that the School Committee of the City of Brockton hereby requests that the FY17 Chapter 70 budget funding for low income students be revised so that the communities whose districts educate the vast majority of low income or economically disadvantaged students are adequately assisted in accomplishing this objective.

After the reading, Mr. Minichiello said he speaks for the entire school committee that it supports the resolve.

**Mr. D'Agostino moved that school committee adopt the resolve as presented.**  
The motion was seconded.

Voted: to adopt the resolve, unanimous.

Mr. Gormley then brought forward and read aloud the following resolve that opposes the bill to lift the cap on charter schools; he asked school committee to support the resolve.

#### Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and  
WHEREAS, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and  
WHEREAS, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and  
WHEREAS, Brockton Public Schools is losing millions of dollars to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$408 million this year alone – a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and  
WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and  
WHEREAS, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and  
WHEREAS, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;  
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Brockton School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.

**Mr. Gormley moved that school committee adopt the resolve as read. The motion was seconded.**

Voted: to adopt the resolve, unanimous.

Ms. Plant passed out copies of several emails and letters she has received with respect to the closing of the Barrett Russell School. Copies of four letters were given to school committee and to the Secretary for the record.

Mr. Sullivan thanked the principal and staff of the Barrett Russell School for coming tonight in support of the school, and for the good work they have done. Ms. Asack also thanked the group for giving their time to show her the school, she said it would be a shame to close such a welcoming, vibrant school in a ward where a lot of time and investment have gone into building a relationship in the neighborhood.

Seeing no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary  
wka

handouts: Copies of Letters in Support of Barrett Russell School  
Chapter 70 Funding Resolve