

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, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith, Secretary, student Gavin Rocha

Absent: Ms. Plant

Also Present: Executive Team, BHS Instructor Dr. David Mangus

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

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter invited *Brit Sorensen*, BHS Librarian, who spoke in favor of keeping at least one certified librarian position so the district does not lose access to the MA Library System student access database, and *Nicole McLaren*, BHS English teacher, spoke with respect to the loss that has been felt by students and staff as a result of layoffs.

The Superintendent responded that we are doing all we can and will be working over the summer to be sure we are well-prepared to open in September.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members to indicate if they would like to remove any items for discussion; Mr. D'Agostino requested *Item G, FY16 Investing in Innovation Grant*, and Mr. Minichiello requested *Items E and F, donations to the BPS music program*.

Ms. Sullivan moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items:

- June 7, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- June 7, 2016 Minutes of Public Hearing on FY17 Budget
- May 31, 2016 Safety/Security/Transportation Meeting Report
- Authorization to Submit: FY16 Career & Tech Ed Partnership Grant
- SY 2016-2017 School Committee Meeting Dates
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

With Respect to *Item G, Authorization to Submit an FY16 USDOE i3 Investing in Innovation Pre-Grant Application*, Mr. D'Agostino inquired about the 15% private sector/in-kind match requirement, the Superintendent responded.

Mr. D'Agostino then moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation with respect to Item G. Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to *Item E, Grammy Foundation \$2,000 Donation*, and *Item F, Brockton Symphony Orchestra \$500 donation*, Mr. Minichiello wanted to publicly acknowledged the generosity of these donations made to the Brockton schools music program.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the donation from the Grammy Foundation.
Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the donation from the Brockton Symphony Orchestra.
Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smith thanked student representative Gavin Rocha for his service as student representative to the school committee, and acknowledged alternate Bernain Bastien, who was not present. Gavin expressed his appreciation to school committee members for the opportunity to serve and the wonderful experience he has had this year.

2016 Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Smith announced that BHS biotechnology teacher Dr. Dave Mangus was named *The Hall at Patriot Place and Raytheon 2016 Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year*; BHS will receive \$5,000 toward STEM education. She invited Dr. Mangus to speak; he thanked Raytheon and the Kraft family, and humbly commended Principal Wolder and BHS administration, staff and students for their support of the program.

Charter Update

The Superintendent reported that along with Dr. DeBarros, Deputy Superintendents Thomas and Barry and Dr. Cancell, she met with administration from New Heights Charter School on Wednesday, June 15th with respect to student transfers. She said she was given a list of names, discussed the procedure for requesting student records and shared documents with New Heights. To date, the parent registration center has received 35 signed records release forms. At this point, the Superintendent said this is the only solid number she has with respect to students leaving to attend the charter school.

Mr. Sullivan asked whether renovations have begun at the site that will house the charter school; the Mayor responded there has been ongoing dialogue but did not know whether work has started.

The Superintendent's report included the following:

- A brief update on end-of-the-year business
- Congratulation to the BHS music program for awards at the music festival
- Kudos to the Raymond School and the District Capacity Project committee for the UNIDOS launch of the Portuguese language program
- The district was again awarded a \$163,900 Coordinated Family (CFCE) grant
- Brockton High School has received four (4) \$1,000 grants from PPG in Avon, MA, for STEM education
- Congratulations to Cheryl Opper as a 2016 Athena Award recipient
- Department Head of Guidance John Snelgrove was recently quoted in *neaToday* with respect to initiatives and ongoing work in the area of traumatized children

The Superintendent announced a \$1,000 donation from Brockton alumni Patrick O'Brien, to North Middle School. Mr. O'Brien's accompanying letter talked about his teacher at North, Effie Vellios, and the positive impact she had on his educational experience.

Supplemental Calendar

The Superintendent presented the 2016-2017 supplemental calendar for the committee's review and approval, and opened the floor for discussion.

Seeing no discussion, Mr. Minichiello moved to adopt the 2016-2017 BPS School Calendar Supplement, as presented. Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**ITEMS TO REFER
TO SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Superintendent referred a policy subcommittee meeting to address the MGL requirement for a policy regarding substance use prevention education; a facilities subcommittee to discuss the warehouse lease and possible SOIs (statement of intent) for building renovations, and a superintendent's contract meeting for the superintendent's annual evaluation. She said she would like these scheduled during the summer.

With respect to facilities, Mayor Carpenter said, together with the city CFO, he has filed a *request to borrow* to fund the cost of the facility master plan; this will go before city council on July 18th. He explained the cost of the facility master plan was much higher than anticipated; he said he will be asking school committee members to contact city council members in the near future.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

APPROVAL OF BPS STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOKS

The Mayor announced that this item is on the agenda for approval and opened the floor for discussion. Seeing none, Mayor Carpenter called for a motion.

Mr. Gormley moved to approve the 2016-2017 student handbooks as presented.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

FY2017 Budget/Report of June 14, 2016 Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Mayor Carpenter asked Mr. Minichiello to take the lead with respect to the budget discussion. Mr. Minichiello said he would handle this in two parts: a vote on the report, and then separate votes on each action taken at that meeting.

First, Mr. Minichiello gave a verbal summation of the enclosed June 14th meeting report. Following his report, he commented that it was clear at the meeting that there was a lot of concern about bringing back teachers and, at that time, members believed that there was \$618,000 in funding forthcoming from the state. Since that meeting, members have learned that may no longer be the case.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the report with a caveat that each action within the report is voted on separately. Mayor Carpenter clarified that the motion is only to accept the report. Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter instructed the committee that at this point the committee would vote on each of the recommendations within that report, individually.

Recommendation to bring back 14 teaching positions: Mr. Minichiello reiterated that when the committee voted to use all of the \$371,868 available funds to bring back fourteen teachers, it was believed that \$618,000 was forthcoming from the state budget. However, later information indicated that the FY16 state budget looks to be \$350 million short, and the FY17 state budget is short anywhere from \$450 - \$750 million. As a result, he said, we do not expect to see that \$618,000 in supplemental funds any time soon. In light of that fact, Mr. Minichiello said he recommends that this item be referred back to Finance subcommittee pending more information about that supplemental allocation, so the committee can prudently allocate the \$371,868. He reminded members that if the money is committed and the district does not receive the supplemental money we were expecting, there is no chance of funding any of the other programs that we value.

Mr. Minichiello moved the following: Based on recent uncertainties, to refer the previous vote to allocate all available funds to recall fourteen (14) teachers back to finance subcommittee, pending more information on supplemental funding from the house and the senate. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion on the Motion:

Mayor Carpenter said he spoke with all four members of Brockton's legislative delegation today and the word that keeps coming through from them is "uncertainty." Addressing the finance meeting report, he clarified what seemed to be a misconception about differences in Chapter 70 funding in the house and senate budgets. The budget is now at Conference Committee; he said Rep. Cronin has assured him that legislature wants to protect local aid, but everyone is cautioning there are no guarantees.

Furthermore, he said the additional \$100,000 McKinney Vento funding proposed in the House budget did not make it into the Senate budget; right now it is uncertain whether it will make it into the final budget.

Based on the uncertainty of funding, enrollment figures and the impact of the charter school on middle school numbers, the Mayor said it would be prudent to take a step back to let the dust settle, and give the Superintendent and administration time to identify specific teaching needs. He said he appreciates the committee's priority to bring teachers back, thought needs to be given to the cuts to other areas that would support that. He advised it could be another three to four weeks before final numbers are received from the state, he is not comfortable with this recommendation right now and agreed that bringing this back to finance subcommittee will allow for better data to inform decisions. Mayor Carpenter also suggested the committee may need to look at how *new* students are assigned, in order to manage class size.

He said school committee also needs to address the \$500,000 deficit in the non-Net budget, and he is "cautiously optimistic" that additional funds may come in that he is willing to pass through, if he is confident that it will be used effectively to meet the needs of all our students. He added that he is happy to sit down with the Superintendent to put together some recommendations for school committee consideration.

Finally, Mayor Carpenter notified school committee that effective Monday, the three SRO's (school resource officers) will be reassigned back to regular police duty as a result of a reduction in the city police budget. He said he is a strong believer in SRO's and will consider putting this on the table when we know exactly what, if any, additional funds are available from the state.

Mr. D'Agostino said he is disappointed that we are back in this position, he agreed that there is too much uncertainty around funding right now. He asked for the cost of an SRO, the Mayor gave the figure of \$75,000 each.

Seeing no further discussion, Mayor Carpenter called for a vote on the motion.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous. Mayor Carpenter exercised his option to vote and cast his vote in favor of the motion.

Vote to Prepay FY17 SPED Out-of-District Costs with FY16 Unexpended Funds

Mr. Minichiello moved the recommendation to spend up to \$1.5 million of FY16 available funds to be used to pre-pay Special Education Out-of-District costs for FY17 as allowed by law. Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Vote to approve the FY17 NET and Non-NET Budgets

Mr. Minichiello moved the recommendation to approve the FY17 NET school spending budget request of \$167,396,656 as proposed by the finance committee of the school committee, and to approve the FY17 Non-NET school spending budget request of \$9,059,107, with clarification that \$7,559,107 is from local funds and \$1,500,000 from other sources, as proposed by the finance subcommittee of the school committee, the motion was seconded. Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Minichiello complimented presenters at the Raymond School UNIDOS launch, he said there is a lot of enthusiasm for this project and the more options we can provide our students, the better.

Mayor Carpenter announced there are summer jobs still available for youth through BAWIB and City DPW Refuse Department, details and applications are available on the city website; Brockton After Dark starts July 5; also starting July 5th is the city parks initiative for children ages 7 - 12 which includes free breakfast and lunch, he said any child can show up for breakfast or lunch, whether they participate in the program or not. Mr. Minichiello urged people to remember children are out of school and to pay extra attention when driving around the city, in light of the number of pedestrian accidents that have occurred in Brockton.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD Superintendent/Secretary

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