

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Theatre at Brockton High School.

Present: Mayor Carpenter; Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Superintendent Smith, Secretary; Mr. Henningson, Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Wilson

Also Present: Executive Team Members A. Petronio, M. Thomas, C. Murray, J. Sabamaguire, S. Terrasi, E. Cancell, K. Moran

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He asked those in attendance to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of Senator Thomas Kennedy, who passed away June 28th.

Consent Agenda

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

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

- *Approval of June 16, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *Approval of June 16 2015 Minutes of Public Hearing on FY16 Budget*
- *Approval of BHS Girls Varsity Volleyball Team Overnight Trip*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent first wanted to speak about Senator Kennedy, she said she is grateful for his devotion to the city and school system. She thanked the children of the extended day program, who lined the sidewalk in front of the Arnone School, holding flags, as his funeral procession passed by.

The Superintendent announced the appointment of Ms. Cristina DeNovais to the position of Department Head of ESL & Bilingual, 9 – 12.

The Superintendent announced the retirement of two principals, *Gilmore School Principal Dr. Helen Virga and BB Russell Principal Mark St. Louis*. She spoke highly of Dr. Virga and said she will assist in the transition of the new principal at the Gilmore School. Mr. Minichiello, Mayor Carpenter and Mrs. Wilson shared their fond memories of Dr. Virga.

The Superintendent referred to Principal St. Louis as a "master" with students who struggled in school, he made sure they were given every opportunity to succeed. She said she will call on Mr. St. Louis' expertise in the future. Mr. St. Louis came

forward to say a few words about his career with the school department and acknowledge his staff and his family, who were present.

Other updates:

- The district is currently undergoing a Coordinated Program Review by the DESE, Deputy Supt. Barry is heading this up
- The Massachusetts Association for School Superintendents held its annual conference last week, she thanked Executive Team members that attended
- The Communications Officer position is currently vacant, the Superintendent said she will be looking at the position differently and hopes to have a job description soon which she will share with School Committee, she will advertise the job widely
- Both she and the Mayor feel a facilities master plan is a high priority, it will be a comprehensive plan and will include community input. The Superintendent said Brockton is positioned very well to receive additional funding from the State
- The district is currently placing the 90 involuntary transfers, unfortunately, close to 60 teachers are still laid off
- She would like to move the School Committee retreat, formerly held in August, to September; this will be a better time to discuss budget priorities and goals
- Ed Eval – all BPS teachers will be on Baseline Edge starting in September of this year. With respect to the Superintendent's evaluation schedule for upcoming years, she suggested that the mid-cycle review be done in January, and her summative review be scheduled after the budget process is finished. The Superintendent and Mr. Minichiello agreed to schedule a meeting to complete her evaluation next month (August).
- The Superintendent is pleased with the progress being made on the Strategic Plan, she would like to have the plan shared districtwide and information for parents as well

New Business

Supplemental School Calendar

Mayor Carpenter called the Committee's attention to the supplemental calendar included for discussion and approval. He invited School Committee comments or questions.

There being no discussion, Mr. Jordan moved to adopt the supplemental school calendar as presented.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The Superintendent pointed out that additional in-service days, across grade levels, have been added to provide for staff professional development and common planning time.

Superintendent Smith asked Dr. Julianne Andrade, Coordinator of ELA, to speak about the effects on the district if the Governor's veto of the kindergarten grant funding stands.

Dr. Andrade said that this grant has decreased over time, last year the district received \$605,000, which includes full funding of 16 kindergarten paraprofessional positions. When 9C cuts were announced last year, the district had to return

\$137,000, resulting in lost funding for three paraprofessional positions. The school department picked up the cost of those positions for the year. Also lost was funding for the kindergarten showcases, backpacks for incoming kindergarten students, and NAEYC accreditation and annual dues. Dr. Andrade said even if the veto is overridden she expects a cut of some amount. Mr. Minichiello asked Dr. Andrade to keep the school committee informed.

The Superintendent announced she was notified today that Title 1 funding came in with a 7% increase; she hoped for more but is pleased that there is an increase. She reminded School Committee that there are clear and strict mandates as to how Title 1 dollars are spent; she is looking at literacy coaches, interventionists, Title 1 teachers.

With respect to the email threats made against Brockton High School back in April, the FBI is involved; Principal Sharon Wolder, as well as the Superintendent of Whitman-Hanson School District, have been called to Tennessee to testify. The Superintendent reported that she has been asked to provide information about the cost to the district for the disruptions. She said she was very pleased with the work done by local police, as well as state and federal agencies.

Mayor Carpenter announced the Edison Academy graduation is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m. in the BHS auditorium. He said he is very proud of the way the program is growing each year, it has allowed the district to address a student population that formerly may have been lost.

There being no further New Business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Superintendent/Secretary

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