

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting March 1, 2016

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

Also Present: Executive Team, Laurie Silva

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

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter directed school committee members to delete Item B from the consent agenda, he explained this will be put on a future agenda and would not be looked at tonight. He then explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked committee members for requests to remove items for discussion. Mr. Sullivan requested Item E, Bid Review Report, and Mr. Minichiello requested Item G, Brockton Educational Talent Search scholarship.

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

- Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Report of the February 9, 2016 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of the February 9, 2016 Accounts Review Subcommittee Meeting
- Minutes of the CSAB January 13, 2016 Meeting
- Authorization to Submit:
 - QRIS 2016 EEC Program Quality Improvement Grant - \$9,000
 - American Honda Foundation - \$77,500
 - Mass Cultural Council STARS Residencies - \$5,000
 - DESE FY16 Summer Food Service Expansion - \$50,000
 - Brockton Redevelopment Authority Comm. Dev. Block Grant - \$82,000
 - Boston Scientific Foundation - \$20,612
- Notification of Non-Certified Personnel Appointments
- Notification of Personnel Actions (Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements)

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Sullivan summarized the report of the Bid Review subcommittee meeting (Item E). He said a request was made at the meeting to survey high school students concerning school meals; the Superintendent responded she will follow up with Food Services Director Tom Burke.

Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the report of the February 24, 2016 Bid Review Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said he wanted to publicly recognize the generosity of the Brockton Educational Talent Search organization for the \$500 scholarship for Brockton High students (Item G).

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the scholarship.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

2017 Budget

The Superintendent said that as a community Brockton must come together and advocate for funding for our students. She thanked the Mayor, Mr. Petronio and Mr. Condon for their tireless work to identify areas in the governor's budget that are unacceptable with respect to needs of the district.

The Superintendent included a brief report on the Joint Committee on Ways & Means *Education and Local Aid Hearing*, during which she and several other superintendents spoke to the committee about how the proposed CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) method for counting low-income students will harm their districts, by leaving out students who are not on any state database. For this reason, the Superintendent reported they have asked that an alternate means of identifying low income families be allowed. She said we are doing all we can to ensure this is not the budget we will have in Brockton, and that Brockton is fortunate to have a strong advocate in Representative Cronin, who is on the House Ways & Means Committee.

Mayor Carpenter said we are looking at an austerity budget unless things change and, even with some changes, it will still be a difficult budget. He said because of the enormity of the challenges the city and school district are much farther into the budget than normal, he added that Brockton is receiving good support from our state legislative delegation.

The Superintendent concluded her update on the budget by stating that the goal of the school department during this process will be to protect the classroom.

Charter School Update

The Superintendent said the idea behind charters is to provide something different, a charter school should not come in and offer a college prep program to "compete with your award-winning high school", it will drain funds from our public schools. Mayor Carpenter agreed, stating that the people running the school do not live in Brockton and have no interest in the impact on our school system. The Superintendent said she is committed to watching closely to ensure the charter is accountable to its mission and that public dollars go to educating children.

Gaston Caperton Honor Roll Award

On a happier note, the Superintendent announced the district has been named to the Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll and asked Principal Wolder to explain. Principal Wolder said this is a College Board Honor Roll for improvement with underrepresented students on SAT tests and in AP courses. Principal Wolder was pleased to report there has been a significant increase in enrollment in AP courses and IB classes.

Mr. Minichiello commented favorably on the award-winning high school staff and commended Brockton teachers for their involvement beyond the classroom, achieving successes that other urban districts have not. He said it is important to maintain and continue to add resources so our students have the opportunity to reach the next levels.

PARCC – The Superintendent said Deputy Superintendent Barry will speak to school committee at the next meeting about plans for the PARCC/MCAS testing this year.

Student Report

Mayor Carpenter invited Gavin Rocha to give the student report. Gavin listed a number of congratulations: the drama club qualified for finals, Empower Yourself won in an economic competition, boys hockey qualified for the state tournament, boys basketball also qualified for state tournament, wrestler Cole Wyman won at all-states and will move on to nationals, he gave notification of dates of parent conferences, MCAS tests, and a presentation by the FBI Academy. Mr. Gormley added to Gavin's list, recognizing Eddy Fong for winning the all-state 55 meter hurdle championship.

Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board Grant Award

The Superintendent asked Laurie Silva to share the good news about this grant award. Ms. Silva explained that Brockton's proposal incorporated the needs of the area and employers in the region, specifically health care industries, information technology, and advanced manufacturing. The \$336,596 grant will cover the cost to purchase and install equipment for the high school to support training for our students in these three areas. Mayor Carpenter commented that in a recent study, city developers had identified two of the same industries--health care and information technology, food processing was the third.

The Superintendent concluded her report on teaching and learning by thanking Superintendent Luis Lopes of Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School for the continued collaboration with BPS and for her recent tour of the school, also:

- A Winters End Celebration will be held on March 19th at which Bill McGauley will be recognized with a community service award;
- The 50th Anniversary of the Sound of Music Children's Concert will be held on Sunday, March 6, 3:00 p.m. in the BHS auditorium;
- This is Read Across America Week, she encouraged members to take the opportunity to read to classes across the district

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent said she would have her office poll members for a Superintendent Contract Subcommittee meeting to discuss goals.

New Business

Report of the February 24, 2016 Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Minichiello reported the following: On Tuesday, February 24, 2016, the Finance Subcommittee met; at the meeting there was discussion with respect to community school programs. Justification for the proposed salary schedule was presented by M. Richardson, P. Dupuy, and M. Zachary. In addition, Mr. Petronio presented a request to offer early retirement incentives as an option to help with the upcoming budget, and finally, Mr. Petronio presented an overview of how the FY17 budget is developed.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the report; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Minichello moved to approve the committee's recommendation to adopt the proposed Community School Salary Schedule as outlined; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the Voluntary Retirement Incentives presented by Mr. Petronio and recommended by the committee; the vote was unanimous.

Lastly, Mayor Carpenter announced the details of the BHS Choral Concert on Wednesday, March 9th, at 7 p.m. and the ArtSmart Reception at the Brockton Public Library on March 22nd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
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