

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Also Present: Executive Team; Karen Watkins-Watts

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. Mr. Minichiello announced that due to a Mayor's conference the Mayor will not be in attendance tonight.

The Superintendent asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Brockton educator Leslie Paul, who taught 42 years and then continued to volunteer in the district, and also to remember the mother of two Brockton students who tragically lost her life last week. She thanked the school principals and support staff who immediately jumped in to help the children and family.

## **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members if there were any requests to remove items for further discussion; Mr. Sullivan removed Item G, Sprint 1Million Project.

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

- Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Authorization to Submit: AmeriCorps VISTA Grant Program
- Authorization to Submit: Youth Opioid Prevention Grant - \$50,000
- Authorization to Submit: Clean Energy Activity Day Pilot Program - \$7,995
- Authorization to Submit: UMASS Chinese Language Grant - \$10,000/yr. for 5 yrs.
- Authorization to Submit: Mass Skills Capital Grant Program - \$495,674
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations,
- Retirements

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item G, Mr. Sullivan said he wanted to acknowledge the sizeable donation of 500 smart devices and free internet access from Sprint and would like to hear more about it. Superintendent Smith said a grants update was planned later in her report and more information about the donation is included in that presentation.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to approve Item G, Participation in the Sprint 1Million Pilot Project.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Superintendent's  
Report**

**Student Representative Report**

Somto Onubogu reported the following:

- Approximately 900 BHS ELL students took WIDA Access testing today
- National History Day is tomorrow morning in the Azure Cafeteria, winners will move on to the state competition
- BHS Science Fair will be held February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 - 10:30
- Grade 8 orientation is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.
- Finals are the week of January 23 - 25<sup>th</sup>

**Diversity Task Force Update**

The district's diversity task force, which includes a number of community members, has met several times this year and has drafted an action plan for the district. We are looking at the diversity of our staff. The Superintendent said she looks forward to presenting this to school committee once it is finalized.

**Monitor Site Visits (MSV)**

The Superintendent reported that Brockton has qualified for grant funds that can be used to address concerns before schools become a level 4 or 5. Brockton will use these funds at the Arnone and Baker schools, where an independent company will conduct *monitor site visits*. The process includes having conversations with principals, district leadership, teachers, looking at a number of areas. The focus is on leadership - shared responsibility and professional collaboration, intentional practices for improving instruction, student specific supports and instruction for all students, and school culture and climate. At the end, a full report is submitted that will show where we are and where we need to be, and will assist the district in making decisions. The Superintendent said she will share this information with school committee.

Mr. D'Agostino asked that school committee members receive copies of the MSV reports when they come in.

**Department of Public Health Universal Health Screening (SBIRT)**

Grade seven students across the state are participating in a universal health screening that is proactive, not reactive, it is designed to assess risk with respect to drug and alcohol use. The Superintendent stressed that this screening is *not* a drug test. The Ashfield and Davis schools have completed the screenings, which are being conducted by well-trained and experienced retired school adjustment counselors and nurses.

**Planetarium Dedication**

An event that will include invitations to former planetarium staff is being organized by BHS Science Department Head Jonathan Shapiro; the Superintendent asked members to please get in touch with Mr. Shapiro or her office if they know of anyone they think should be included.

### **BHS Alumni (Development) Association**

The Superintendent reported that she is working with the alumni office at Brockton High School to bring in part-time staff that will assist in the cleanup of the alumni database, she said it is important to get the ball rolling and begin to utilize this great resource.

### **Direct Certification State Meeting**

The Superintendent said she and Mr. Petronio will attend a workshop in Framingham tomorrow evening from MassBudget titled "Low Income to Economically Disadvantaged: Moving Ahead on the Foundation Budget Review Commission".

### **MLK Breakfast**

The NAACP held an excellent breakfast in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, the Superintendent congratulated Steve Bernard who has stepped down as president and is being replaced by Mr. William Brewer.

### **Marshall Memo**

In the January 9<sup>th</sup> publication of the Marshall Memo, an article by Mike Schmoker cites Brockton High School as one of the few schools implementing specific best practices and making good gains; the Superintendent will include this article in the packet to school committee.

### **Grants Update - Karen Watkins Watts**

The Superintendent invited Mrs. Karen Watkins-Watts to present a grant department update. Mrs. Watkins-Watts, using a power point, gave an overview of grant office objectives, resources, mission and goals, grant funding to date as well as a comparison over the past five years. She said Brockton has averaged approximately \$20 million in grant money each year, approximately 65% of that comes from entitlement grants, which have remained fairly flat.

Mrs. Watkins-Watts spoke about the *Sprint 1Million Project*, the grant provides 500 smart devices and four years of free internet access for our high school students for the purpose of closing the homework gap for low-income students. The Sprint activation fair has been scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>; she explained that preference will be given to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders with good attendance and academic progress and no code of conduct violations.

During discussion, Mr. D'Agostino said he would like a copy of the presentation to have grant information on hand. Mr. Minichiello asked members to be in touch with Mrs. Watkins-Watts with any grant opportunities they are aware of.

### **WIDA Access Testing**

The Superintendent invited Dr. Cancell to report on the WIDA Access online testing currently being administered at Huntington, Hancock, Raymond, Downey, South and Ashfield schools. Dr. Cancell reported that on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> there were some issues with technology statewide, roughly only 50 students in Brockton were affected. Students were kicked off of the test in the morning, however, these students were able to get back on later in the day and nothing was lost. He said the state is looking into what they can do and hopefully they will make appropriate adjustments to the scores. Other than that exception, Dr. Cancell said things seem to be going very smoothly.

**Items to Refer to Subcommittee**

None.

**New Business**

**Report of the January 17, 2017 Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee**

Mr. Minichiello gave the following report of the meeting held earlier this evening: Present at the 5:45 meeting were Ms. Asack, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Minichiello, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Petronio. Items discussed were the warehouse lease which is close to expiring, and a proposal to purchase a portable generator. With regard to the warehouse, the committee discussed putting out a bid through procurement for a three-year lease subject to a one-year option to opt out if a space is found to purchase; the committee also decided to do due diligence and approach the city to try to find a building to purchase, if the right set of circumstances becomes available. The committee voted to move both of these items forward. Mr. Minichiello concluded his report; there were no comments from members.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the report; the vote was unanimous.**

**Mr. Sullivan moved to ratify the committee's recommendation to put out a bid for a three-year lease with a one-year option to opt-out, and to seek a proposal to purchase a warehouse if the right circumstances come to fruition.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello addressed the second item, the recommendation to go forward to city council for the purchase of a portable generator.

**Mr. Gormley moved to approve the recommendation of the committee to go forward to City Council for purchase of a portable generator.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to the purchase of a portable generator, Mr. Minichiello explained that it is a capital purchase and needs to go through city council.

**Report of the January 17, 2017 Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Mr. Minichiello gave the following report of the January 17, 2017 Policy Subcommittee meeting:

Present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. D'Agostino, Ms. Plant, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Asack, Mr. Minichiello, Dr. Cancell, Superintendent Smith.

Dr. Cancell and Superintendent Smith reviewed some of the policies that affect the school committee; members agreed that they would like more time to review these policies and will set another (policy) subcommittee meeting through the Superintendent to continue the discussion.

The subcommittee voted on one item, to not change the policy on school visitations (BHC). Mr. Minichiello concluded his report; there were no further comments from members.

**Ms. Plant moved to approve the report; the vote was unanimous.**

**Ms. Plant moved to approve the recommendation to keep BPS Policy BHC with respect to school visitations *unamended*.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Other New Business**

Mr. Gormley highlighted two new athletic programs in the city:

- Brockton Youth Baseball – a new little league organization has been formed serving youth ages 4 – 16, parent meetings are scheduled at South Middle School on Feb. 1 at 6:45 and at Brookfield School at 6:45 on March 1. Registration is available on line or at the schools above, on-line registration begins on January 25th.
- Another new league, a youth track program, is now holding open registration for youth ages 5 – 14, website address is Brocktontrackclub.com. The city has never had a track program outside of our schools.
- Athletic Director Kevin Karo made a presentation to Save Our Sports (SOS), Brockton High will be getting a new "strength and conditioning center", approximately 75% funding will come from SOS and 25% from the school department.

Mr. Minichiello congratulated Mr. Kenney and Ms. Bradshaw of Spectrum gymnastics for rebuilding the gymnastics program at Brockton High; he said the new team is getting stronger and performing very well.

Seeing no other *New Business*, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary  
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