

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

Also Present: Executive Team Members; Principal Nessralla, Kelly Walsh, Alicia Darling

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He explained that tonight's meeting would include the election of officers and other organizational school committee business as required.

Election of Secretary

The Superintendent of Schools serves as Secretary of the School Committee.

Mr. Minichiello recommended that Superintendent Kathleen Smith serve as Secretary of the Brockton School Committee in 2017.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Recognition of Out-Going Vice Chair

Mr. Minichiello was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service as the 2016 Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mayor Carpenter and Superintendent Smith expressed their appreciation to Mr. Minichiello for his dedication and service. Following the presentation, there was a round of applause for Mr. Minichiello, who has now served as vice chair for seven consecutive years.

Election of 2017 Vice-Chair

Mayor Carpenter explained the responsibilities of the position of the Vice-Chair then opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. D'Agostino nominated Mr. Minichiello for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2017 calendar year, the nomination was seconded.

Voted: to elect Mr. Minichiello as Vice-Chair for 2017, 6-0-1 (Mr. Minichiello did not cast a vote)

Election of CSAB SC Members

The Bylaws of the Community School Advisory Board provide for the election of two (2) School Committee members to serve on the Board for a one-year term.

Mr. Gormley was nominated by Mr. D'Agostino; Ms. Plant was nominated by Ms. Asack, to serve as representatives to the Community School Advisory Board.

Seeing no other nominations, Mr. Minichiello moved to appoint Mr. Gormley and Ms. Plant to serve on the Community Schools Advisory Board in 2017.

Voted: to appoint Mr. Gormley and Ms. Plant to serve on the Community School Advisory Board, unanimous.

Approval of Rules and Orders of SC

The Rules and Orders of the School Committee are subject to annual ratification. The Rules and Orders of the School Committee were given to school committee for review and also included in tonight's meeting agenda book.

Mr. Sullivan moved to adopt the Rules and Orders for 2017.

On the motion: Mr. Minichiello stated that the January 21st retreat will be a good time to review and further discuss any changes or updates to this document; he asked members to keep it handy for future discussion.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

(A copy of the FY 2017 Rules and Orders of the School Committee will be inserted in the permanent record).

Appointment of 2017 Subcommittees

The Mayor, as Chair of the School Committee, announces the subcommittee assignments. A list of the 2017 appointments was handed out this evening to members for their review and consideration. Mayor Carpenter said after working with Superintendent Smith and Vice-Chair Minichiello these assignments are being presented for acceptance by School Committee. He also reminded members that they are encouraged to attend meetings even if they are not on the committee.

Mr. Gormley moved to accept notification of the 2017 Subcommittee Assignments as presented.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello reinforced Mayor Carpenter's comments that school committee members should feel welcome to attend all subcommittee meetings, and to give input.

(This concludes the organizational business.)

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members for any requests to remove items for further discussion; Mr. Minichiello asked to remove Item B, a travel request from the Plouffe School.

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

- Minutes of the December 20, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Notification of Appointment of Certified and Non-Certified Personnel
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Retirement, Resignations, Leave of Absence

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item B, Mr. Minichiello invited Plouffe School Principal Michelle Nessralla, along with staff members Kelly Walsh and Alicia Darling, to speak further about the request to bring Plouffe students on an educational trip to New York City in June of 2017. The Plouffe team shared a short video of last year's trip to Philadelphia, PA. Following the presentation, questions with respect to fundraising and how students are selected were asked by school committee members, Principal Nessralla responded. Members also complimented Ms. Nessralla and staff on the benefits of this trip and how well it is organized; Mayor Carpenter said he hopes that other middle schools would consider a trip like this for their schools with guidance from Plouffe staff, who have now done a number of these trips.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Plouffe School trip to New York City.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent acknowledged the hard work of school committee members and thanked members, the Mayor and Vice-chair for their continued support and leadership.

Student Representative Report

Somto Onubogu reported the following: On Wednesday, January 11th, the FBI will give a Youth Academy "in-school field trip", students can sign up in the main office; student Access testing will begin January 17th and continue through early February, the BHS Planetarium is now officially open.

Reopening of the Planetarium

The Superintendent said that earlier this evening the planetarium hosted close to 40 people for a grand reopening presentation and she is excited to bring this back online for students as well as the community. She thanked Principal Wolder and her team, 3M, Brockton Redevelopment, Boston Scientific, Karen Watts, Jonathan Shapiro, the Mayor's Office, Facilities, Instructional Technology and all who played a part in this long-awaited renovation; a welcoming back to former staff is being planned and as soon as there is a date it will be announced.

Diversity Task Force

The Superintendent reported that Dr. Moran recently presented the district's action plan to the committee. Included in that plan are opportunities such as the Future Teachers Club, Rising Educators Club, to encourage our students to enter the teaching profession and come back and serve in Brockton. She said she will give a presentation at Messiah Baptist Church on this, to inform families and the community as to why we are looking for Brockton graduates to come back and serve here. The Superintendent said budget struggles have limited Brockton's recruitment abilities but we will do the best we can to honor the action plan.

South Middle School Leadership Update

The Superintendent said she is pleased to announce the administrative appointment of Ms. Lisa Giaquinta as the Interim Assistant Principal at South Middle School.

Upcoming Retreat

The Superintendent said at the January 21st retreat budget discussions will begin as well as several other topics, she asked committee members to notify her office as soon as possible if there is a topic you would like to place on the agenda.

Polar Plunge

The Superintendent shared that she had the opportunity to take the Polar Plunge dip on New Year's Day and she proudly displayed the Brockton Kids Count (BKC) sign on the beach. She said she would like to challenge school committee with respect to joining her and using this platform as a fundraiser for the BKC campaign next year, as it is supported only by private donations.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent provided a list of items referred to subcommittee in 2016 that are still outstanding and advised that these items will be discarded at the end of each year. Mayor Carpenter advised school committee that if they are in agreement, this list can be reassigned back to subcommittees for 2017. There were no objections. Ms. Plant said she would like to add revisiting the dress code to a Policy subcommittee meeting.

New Business

Mr. D'Agostino said that barely one year ago, four members of the school committee were brand-new and he thanked the experienced members for their guidance and assistance throughout their first year. Mr. Gormley echoed the comments.

Mr. Minichiello concurred, and thanked the new members for their hard work and commitment and having the right motivation, to do what is right for the students He also thanked Superintendent Smith and Mayor Carpenter for their hard work and excellent leadership.

Seeing no other New Business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
wka

Handouts: 2017 Subcommittee Assignments
Memo re: Outstanding Subcommittee Items