

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter, Superintendent Smith

Also Present: Deputy Superintendent Thomas, Dr. Murray, M. Bolton

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the flag salute. He announced that Mayor Carpenter was called to a report of a bicycle-car accident involving a child and would be late. Later in the meeting, Mr. Minichiello announced that he had received a text message from the Mayor informing him that he would be unable to make it to tonight's meeting due to the accident.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members if they would like to remove any items for discussion; there were no requests.

**Mr. Gormley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the consent agenda in its entirety.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Student Representative**

Somto Onubogu reported that in general the atmosphere at the high school is respectful and productive as it should be. She announced that Freshman PACT (mentoring) began yesterday, juniors will take the PSAT on Wednesday, parent/teacher conferences will be held Thursday from 6 - 8, and the Halloween Hallways event will be held October 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 8 in the Red building. Mr. Minichiello asked Somto to speak further about the atmosphere at the high school in the wake of the incidents two weeks ago; Somto responded that it is a very normal and productive atmosphere, which she said "cements the fact that those incidents were very isolated and not par for the course".

Mr. Thomas commended school committee for authorizing the funding that allows every high school junior to take the PSAT free of charge during the school day. He said this is something that began several years ago, and it is an extremely valuable opportunity for our students.

**Charter School Update** - Mr. Thomas reported that, as of today, 234 Brockton Public Schools' students are enrolled at New Heights Charter School. New Heights is reporting full enrollment of 300. Mr. D'Agostino asked whether 234 was the number reported on the October 1 state report, Mr. Thomas said he would look into that.

**Accelerated Repair Program Update** - Mr. Thomas updated the committee on the status of the project as the district enters into the last year of the program. Roof repairs: Brookfield and Ashfield are 95% complete, Gilmore is 80% complete. Barrett Russell windows are 100% complete, boilers at Ashfield and Gilmore are also 100% complete, there are still open change orders and a dispute with a contractor is currently in litigation.

Mr. Thomas responded to several questions and invited committee members to attend the next meeting to speak directly with the architect.

**Middle School Sports** – Mr. Thomas invited Dr. Murray to speak about the start-up of middle school sports; Dr. Murray reported the new hybrid program began on Monday with the goal of engaging as many students as possible for 1 ½ hours per day after school, four days per week. He said sessions will be approximately six-weeks long and explained that there will be a tournament piece as well. He was pleased to report that before-school sports are available which provides for students to start their day with exercise and a nutritious meal. Mr. Gormley agreed that students who start the day with exercise tend to perform better.

Mr. Thomas, Mr. Minichiello and Dr. Murray thanked the many people who have collaborated to make this program work. Mr. Minichiello said this was a tough decision during a difficult budget, but it was the consensus of the school committee that not having a middle school sports program would leave too many middle school students with idle time.

## **New Business**

### **Middle School Parent Conference Calendar Change**

Dr. Murray asked the committee to consider the recommendation before them this evening to change the half-day, fall middle-school parent conference date from Thursday, November 10 to Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the Friday Veteran's Day holiday. He felt having conferences on a half day before a holiday would have a negative effect on parent participation, he said middle schools changed the format a few years ago to afternoon and evening appointments rather than evening only, and participation has greatly improved, over 80% last year. Dr. Murray stressed the importance of the parent-teacher meeting and said he would not want to see this drop because of the holiday. He said notification will be put out on social media, a connect ed phone call will go out and reminders will be sent home. Dr. Murray responded to several questions from school committee.

**Mr. Gormley moved to approve the request to change middle school parent conferences from Thursday, November 10 to Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, and adjust the half day accordingly.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

### **New Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy**

Mr. Minichiello reported that the enclosed policy was discussed and favorably recommended by school committee at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Policy subcommittee meeting. He reviewed the policy, which would require the school department to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles when possible, and is fully supported by Mayor Carpenter.

**Ms. Plant moved to adopt a new Brockton Public Schools Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

### **Other New Business/Announcements:**

Mr. Minchiello reported that he was able to attend the recent Open Meeting Law training provided by the Attorney General's office and hosted by Mayor Carpenter; he said he

was pleased that Brockton is doing things in the right way, and told members to contact him with any questions they may have.

Mr. D'Agostino asked whether there was an update on the recent article members received from the Superintendent with respect to possible mid-year budget action at the state level; Mr. Thomas said he would follow up with Mr. Petronio and forward any new information.

Mr. Minichiello reminded the public about Friday's home football game; Mr. Gormley added that this is a Big 3 Championship game and the winner will move on to playoffs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Thomas  
Secretary  
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