

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: 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; Director of Community Schools Laurie Silva; Grants Manager Karen Watts

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Richard Bennett, BHS Teacher, and Mrs. Kim Gibson, addressed the committee.

Consent Agenda

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

Mrs. Sullivan moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the consent agenda in its entirety.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Introduction of Student Representative

The Superintendent introduced BHS senior Somto Onubogu; Ms. Onubogu began her report with a statement with respect to the incidents on Thursday and Friday. "These incidents do not represent the spirit of Brockton High. We, the student body, uphold a culture of respect, responsibility and maturity and the actions of some individuals has not changed this, we will continue to uphold this culture." Somto then shared a calendar of high school events.

Recognition - Lowes Heroes Project

Superintendent Smith said she was pleased to welcome Mr. Chad Gaucher, Mr. Jesus Fernandez and Mr. Bill Sinclair from Lowes in Brockton; she thanked them for the work and materials donated to the Goddard School, adding a vegetable garden, scoreboard and seating area for sports, and several beautification projects around the grounds. Ms. Karen Watts shared details of the work that was performed and participated, with the Superintendent and Mayor Carpenter, in the presentation of a certificate of appreciation from school committee.

Administrative Appointments

Superintendent Smith congratulated and introduced two administrative appointments - the new principal of South Middle School, Mr. Joe Pomfret, and the new Director of Business, Instructional Technology, and Career Education Mr. Kevin DaPonte.

October 1 Enrollment - the Superintendent reported total enrollment as of October 1 - 17,344, compared to last year's figure of 17,383. This number is slight less than the previous year.

Charter School Update - the Superintendent reported that the district has lost over 220 students to New Heights Charter, she pointed out that the total enrollment figure is only

down 39 students, as the district continues to grow. She said she continues to be in communication with the charter school to work in the best interests of Brockton students. She also announced the DESE recently denied an application for a new charter school, The Entrepreneurial Village, targeting Stoughton, Avon and Brockton.

Ballot Initiatives – The Superintendent reported she attended a legislative presentation on the legalization of marijuana ballot initiative and said it is critical for parents and community members to read about the impact on our community; she said a presentation is currently being planned for the public. Secondly, Superintendent Smith said the question 2 initiative deals with the expansion of charter schools and it is important to support public school systems.

Mayor Carpenter also spoke against question 2, he added that it is important to know the city lost \$6 million in Chapter 70 funding to outside tuition, he encouraged the public to be educated with respect to for-profit charter schools that are targeting the city's budget and schools.

Accountability and Assessment Update – The Superintendent reported she is very pleased with Brockton's results; with all of its challenges Brockton continues to show improvement. She welcomed Brockton High School and North Middle School as level 1 schools, together with Kennedy and East. She congratulated Raymond and Hancock school for making noticeable gains, and recognized the hard work of Deputy Superintendent Barry, Executive Directors June Saba Maguire and Cliff Murray.

2016 Summer Programs Presentation – Laurie Silva

Ms. Laurie Silva gave a power point presentation highlighting the student programs that took place throughout the summer. She mentioned that the Summer of Work and Learning Program will no longer be funded by the state.

Programs include Summer Leaders (rising 9th graders), Power Scholars (formerly the academic summer success), Engineering Everywhere, several ELL programs at all levels and all focused on science; Act 1, Scene 1, Get Ready, Raise up Basketball, Aquatics for youth and adults, the fee-based summer school for graduation credits, various "camps" for younger children and the Smart Start program, which enrolls students up to grade 7 during the summer.

Ratification of MOA Between Brockton School Committee and IBAA&TEA

Human Resources Supervisor Matt Beals reported that the committee will be asked to vote to ratify a three-year contract for administrative assistants and technology employees. New to the bargaining unit are employees of the Information Technology department. Union President Janet Landerholm answered questions about the contract.

Mr. Gormley moved to ratify the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the IBAA & TEA from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 as presented.

Voted: 7 - 0 to approve the motion, unanimous. Let it be noted that Mayor Carpenter did not cast a vote.

Items to Refer To Subcommittee

The Superintendent said she would like to continue scheduling subcommittee meetings on Tuesday evenings that are not regular meeting nights, there is a lot of work to be done.

Finally, Superintendent Smith addressed the unfortunate incidents that occurred at Brockton High School on Thursday and Friday, she said everyone was very disappointed with the actions of a small number of students. She said there is discussion ongoing with respect to developing a "code of conduct" that will be a discipline code that works within the law and also ensures we don't have throwaway students. She asked Principal Wolder to speak further.

Principal Wolder talked about how Chapter 222 has affected the way the school is allowed to discipline, stating that it is now intervention versus suspension, but ultimately it is about the safety of the school. Principal Wolder credited faculty and school police for their handling of the fights. She spoke about several factors that contributed to the events on Thursday and Friday, including social media, the growing population/less staffing and a student population with growing social and emotional challenges.

Mr. Gormley said he would like the committee to revisit the district's policy with respect to student cell phone use, particularly the social media aspect. He also said he would like to look at doing some things differently, more restorative, that he feels has been working in the Boston schools. The Superintendent responded that there needs to be some dialog with respect to the handbook and a code of conduct for the district. She reported she has scheduled a phone conversation with a consultant next week to discuss these issues.

Mr. Minichiello said he was at the high school on Thursday and observed a staff totally committed to the school and students. He said there is a need for more clear definition of how the Chapter 222 law works. Ms. Wolder agreed, and responded that she is planning to have an attorney speak with the staff at the upcoming BHS in-service.

Mayor Carpenter said he felt some fair points were raised during the hearing of visitors. He spoke about the role of the school committee with respect to policy and said that this is an opportunity to make changes, he said it is important that middle schools are also included in this conversation. He talked about the role of school police, and reminded everyone that it is the responsibility of the school to handle discipline. He acknowledged the limits of Chapter 222, and added this is not an excuse to not have a safe school.

New Business

Champions Park - Mayor Carpenter said he was pleased to report that earlier today Mr. Roy Andrade, owner of Everett's Auto Parts, made a commitment to provide the needed \$50,000 to complete the work on Champions Park, the area around the Rocky Marciano statue. Mr. Andrade gave a \$25,000 donation today, and pledged to raise the other \$25,000 through private donations. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Friday evening at 6:30 p.m., then a check presentation ceremony will be held during half-time of the Friday varsity football game. Mayor Carpenter acknowledged the many supporters and workers on the project and thanked Mr. Andrade and his family.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
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