

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theater of the Dr. William H. Arnone 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, John Fidalgo, BHS Track Coach

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

## Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members if they would like to remove any items for discussion; Mr. Gormley removed Item D, *Donation from Brooks*, for further discussion.

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

- Approval of November 1, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Overnight, Out-of-State BHS TERI Field Trip to Warwick, RI
- Report of the October 25, 2016 Facilities Subcommittee Meeting
- Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item D, Mr. Gormley invited Coach John Fidalgo to speak further about the donation. Mr. Fidalgo said that the boys and girls track and field program has the largest number of students in the high school, with approximately 400 students during the year. Brooks will donate at least 204 pairs of running shoes, with a total value of around \$30,000. He introduced coaches Charles Russell, Brian Hoffman, and Matt Campbell and invited several track team members to come forward.

Mr. Fidalgo also announced that coaches have been working on a new program, a youth track club for any student who wants to participate. He said they are well on their way to be up and running by the summer, they have been certified by the USA Track and Field Association and are a 501C3 organization. He said it will be staffed by student athletes, no adults will be paid and they are hopeful to be able to offer scholarships. The Superintendent thanked Brooks, Mr. Minichiello said Brockton has a fine tradition of caring coaches, and said the community owes Brooks a big thank-you as well.

**Mr. Gormley moved to accept the donation; the vote was unanimous.**

## Superintendent's Report

### Recognition of Plouffe School Nurse Francisca Andrade

The Superintendent invited Principal Nessralla and Nursing Supervisor Linda Cahill to speak about this recognition. Principal Nessralla submitted a letter commending Nurse Andrade for her heroic act of saving the life of a student by performing the Heimlich maneuver on a choking child.

Nursing Supervisor Linda Cahill praised the consistent calm and professional demeanor of Nurse Andrade. A certificate was presented to Ms. Andrade by Mayor Carpenter, the Superintendent, and Ms. Cahill.

**Student Representative Report** - Somto Onubogu reported the following: The Veteran's Day assembly was well-received; report cards go home on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>; the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship award ceremony will be Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.; on Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. 62 students will be inducted into The National Honor Society, and finally, a reminder that the annual Thanksgiving Day football game will be played at Marciano Stadium at 10:00 a.m., against Bridgewater Raynham.

**Charter School Update** -The Superintendent thanked voters for overwhelmingly voting against the charter school expansion initiative. Mayor Carpenter expressed his appreciation to teachers, the Mass. Teachers Association for their hard work in opposition to Question 2, stating that taking funds away from urban schools to pay for charters is wrong. He said hopefully this vote will help us as we lobby at the state level for more funding. Mr. Minichiello agreed that the voters got it right and expressed his concerns about the oversight of charters.

**Presidential Election** - The Superintendent said the election provided a teachable moment for our teachers, as well as an opportunity for our teachers to stress the pillars of our District Strategic Plan - instructional excellence, safe and supportive environment, and community engagement - as we continue to meet the needs of our students.

**Code of Conduct (District Capacity Project)** - The Superintendent was pleased to report that a group of 18 educators will meet with Larry Dieringer and a group from Engaging Schools on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, she is excited to be moving forward with a *district* code of conduct; she shared the agenda of the meeting. The Superintendent invited school committee to participate and said she will share the agenda with members.

### **Springfield Public Schools Site Visit**

Superintendent Smith reported that a team will visit the Springfield School District on Thursday of this week to look at three different areas: how technology is implemented districtwide, their pre-school program and kindergarten entrance age, and the educator evaluation system. She said Springfield is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school district in the state, Brockton does not receive the amount of grant money for technology that they get, she is hopeful after this visit she will be able to better position Brockton to receive technology grant funds.

**BSU Partnership Grant** - The Superintendent was pleased to report that Bridgewater State University has been given a \$125,000 grant that supports our Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment program at BSU, allowing students ages 18 - 22 with intellectual disabilities to take classes at the university with typically developing students, and have an on-site experience at a college/university.

**George School Presentation** - Principal Natalie Pohl and Assistant Principal Ines Enos were invited to share what is going on at the George School. Ms. Pohl began with an overview of the student population: 889 students in 41 classrooms on three floors, including regular education, special education, two-way dual language and sheltered English immersion classes. She focused her report on the school's participation in the

Trauma-Sensitive Schools Demonstration Project, a research project to evaluate the impact of the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative. She shared how this fits with the positive behavior interventions and supports program (PBIS) at the school. Additionally, Ms. Pohl was pleased to share that several "buddy benches" have been installed. These are seats where children who are seeking someone to play with at recess sit, and students are taught that when they see a child sitting there to go and invite that child to play.

Following the presentation, Ms. Pohl answered questions and heard comments from members about the presentation. There were several comments about how the new traffic plan has rectified the former problems with student drop off and pick up.

**Ratification of MOA: Brockton School Committee and Monitor Teacher Assistants**

Mrs. Sullivan acknowledged the hard work of the negotiating teams done on this contract. Mr. Sullivan added that he feels it is a fair contract and also thanked members on both sides. Mr. Gormley commented that, as a former MTA, he was happy to be a part of negotiating this contract; he said the MTA's work very hard and he was pleased to be able to help move their contract forward.

**Seeing no further discussion, Mrs. Sullivan moved to ratify the agreement between the Brockton School Committee and the Monitor Teacher Assistants, effective September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2019.**

**Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.**

**Items to Refer**

The Superintendent notified members that a Building Naming Subcommittee is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, and she would like to have two meetings – facilities and policy, on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

Ms. Asack announced that Brookfield School has also recently put up a "buddy bench", next to it is a small garden dedicated to the memory of two former Brookfield students, Alan Richards and Matt Tangherlini.

Mayor Carpenter said he was pleased to have attended the dedication of a new Reading Room at the Davis School, complete with shelving, a mural, bean bag chairs, and 600 books, donated by the Danny Amendola "Catches for Kids" foundation. Mr. Amendola was present for the dedication and the students were very excited to meet him.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary

wka

Handout: George School Powerpoint Presentation