

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

Also Present: Executive Team

Absent: Mayor Carpenter, Chair

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by the flag salute. He announced that the Mayor was unable to be here this evening due to important city business and sends his regrets.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members if they would like to remove any items for discussion; he removed Items D, H, and I for further discussion.

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

- Approval of Nov. 15, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of Report: Nov. 30, 2016 Accounts Review Subcommittee Mtg.
- Acceptance of Report: Nov. 15, 2016 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
- Approval of Overnight, Out-of-State BHS Ski Club Field Trip
- Approval of Overnight, Out-of-State BHS Cross Country Team Field Trip
- Authorization to Submit: FY17-18 DESE Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant \$40,000 – 80,000 (Adult Learning)
- Acceptance of Notification of Certified and Non-Certified Personnel Appointments
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged the generous donation of a scholarship by Raymond Henningson, to be given to a student who plans to go into teaching. He personally thanked Mr. Henningson for his support for the schools

Mrs. Sullivan moved to accept Item D, The Raymond M. Henningson, Jr. Scholarship; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello addressed Item H, a donation from Mr. Bill Pryor and Walmart of Brockton, of various school supplies for the Raymond School and expressed his appreciation.

Mrs. Sullivan moved to accept Item H, the donation to the Raymond School from Walmart of Brockton. The vote was unanimous.

Finally, with respect to Item J, Mr. Minichiello acknowledged the generosity of Stop & Shop on Belmont Street for the donation of 25 complete Thanksgiving baskets to the Raymond School, through the efforts of Assistant Manager Ms. Sue Matheson.

Mr. D'Agostino moved to accept Item H, the donation to the Raymond School from Stop & Shop. The vote was unanimous.

Superintendent Smith thanked the donors for their partnerships with our schools, and also Mr. Henningson for his scholarship which supports the district's goal to encourage more young people to go into the teaching profession.

Superintendent's

Student Representative Report - Somto Onubogu reported the following: This weekend the drama club will present "Almost Maine"; the senior class is still accepting donations of toys and clothing to be given to local families through the Salvation Army; the BHS Holiday Concert will be held December 13 and 14, and high school term 2 progress reports will be distributed December 19th. The Superintendent said the principal's office was filled with toys and asked Somto to let the student body know that school committee is very pleased with what the seniors are doing.

Charter School Update -The Superintendent announced that New Heights will open in Brockton on December 12th; there are 238 Brockton Public Schools students who are now enrolled at New Heights. Mr. Thomas said Brockton will utilize four buses to transport 187 students on Tier 2. Mr. Thomas said the district was unable to accommodate New Heights' requests for afternoon pickup times of 3:35 Monday through Thursday and 1 p.m. on Fridays due to Brockton's run times. Instead, they will be picked up at 4 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., respectively; morning pickup time will be in line with our middle schools, around 7:10 a.m.

Code of Conduct (District Capacity Project) - The Superintendent announced that after the November 21st meeting between a group of school administrators and a group from Engaging Schools, going forward the discussion will include looking at our student handbooks, a possible community task force to look at our code of conduct. She reminded members that this will be a district-wide code of conduct. She said she will be looking for a representative from school committee to serve on the task force and will try to have meetings scheduled later in the day to accommodate work schedules. More information will be shared at the school committee retreat.

Urban Superintendents Network - the Superintendent shared that the group's goal this year is to look at advocacy with respect to equity in education, she said Brockton is not the only one feeling what we are feeling, it is across every urban district. She reported that there are already rumblings in legislature about looking at the Chapter 70 Review recommendations and has spoken with Representative Cronin about inviting urban superintendents to attend the gateway city caucus that will include all of the representatives and senators.

DESE Accountability Forum - the Superintendent reported that Brockton was host to a DESE forum on Tuesday, November 29th; the DESE is gathering feedback as to what the new accountability measure might look like with respect to the Every Student Success Act. She said she wants to be sure that Brockton stays at the forefront of this to ensure that there are things in accountability that will benefit the district.

Accountability Waiver – the Superintendent report that we have applied for a waiver with respect to online testing for all grade 4 and grade 8 students and she will notify school committee after receiving information from the state.

Diversity Task Force – The Superintendent reported that Dr. Moran and the Human Resources Office are heading up this task force, Mr. Steve Bernard has been instrumental bringing together a group of community members. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th at which the district will present its plans for what we would like to accomplish this year. The Superintendent said the school department was recently graded by the city's Diversity Task Force Commission and she is not comfortable with that grade. A report from that task force will be presented in January and will provide further insight into the reasoning behind the grade, she said she would like to invite one of the task force members to serve on the school department's task force.

The Superintendent shared the following brief updates:

- Last week, New England Cable News (NECN) mistakenly used the name "Brockton Public Schools" when reporting on a bomb threat in Palmer, Massachusetts, causing some disruption in the district and phone calls from several parents.
- Water bubblers at schools across the district are still being tested for lead levels, when the report is complete it will be shared with school committee. Many school districts across the state are also undergoing this testing.
- She was pleased that the entire school committee participated in the holiday parade. Mr. Minichiello added his thanks to members for their participation and acknowledged the participation of several schools in the parade, some with floats.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Ms. Asack referred the Foster Street Warehouse Lease for a Facilities meeting; Ms. Plant inquired about Policy Manual subcommittee meetings; the Superintendent responded that there will be a policy meeting scheduled Tuesday, January 17th, we are working with MASC on updating our policy manual and school committee will receive a presentation on how the policy manual is being updated. Also referred by Superintendent Smith was a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 6 p.m., to have a presentation/tour of the newly renovated planetarium.

Unfinished Business Superintendent's Contract Report

Mr. Minichiello gave the following report:

The Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee met at 6:15 p.m. earlier this evening to review the Superintendent's evaluation report. The Superintendent scored very well, proficient, with an overall rating of 3.19 and that rating will be given to Human Resources to implement the equivalent increase. The committee went through the entire evaluation and, overall, the Superintendent received a very good report. It is obvious that Superintendent Smith is dedicated, she puts in numerous hours and leads by example, and her commitment to the city is apparent with 40 years of service in the district. During that evaluation, the Superintendent offered to meet individually with school committee members to discuss any individual concerns they may have.

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the report of the Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Sullivan commented that people here do not realize that not only does the Superintendent live and pay taxes in Brockton, she has worked her way up and made it to the top and he said he is very impressed. He said it is a pleasure to work with her.

Mr. D'Agostino acknowledged the level of dedication from Superintendent Smith, she is "clearly as committed and dedicated as we could ask a Superintendent to be."

Seeing no further discussion, Mr. Minichiello called for the vote on the motion; the committee voted unanimously to approve the report.

New Business

Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Mr. Minichiello gave the following report:

The Finance Subcommittee met at 5:45 earlier this evening to review a proposed rate increase in the Extended Day Program. Patricia Dupuy and Laurie Silva explained that the state's EEC office has increased its rate of reimbursement, and in order to remain in compliance and receive full reimbursement from the EEC, the district must consider matching that increase for private-pay families. At the meeting, the committee voted to recommend the rate increase as presented.

Mr. Gormley moved to approve the report of the Finance Subcommittee meeting with regard to the EEC increase. The vote was unanimous.

MOU between School Committee and Brockton School Custodians

Mr. Minichiello said it is unfortunate that the district has had to take steps and develop this memorandum of understanding with school custodians, which has to do with clearing school property of dirty needles before children arrive at school. He thanked the custodians for stepping up and keeping our children safe. The memorandum of agreement provides a modest stipend of \$457 for custodians to take on this extra duty; Mr. Minichiello said that Mr. Thomas has made sure that everyone has received proper training.

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the MOU between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton School Custodians; the vote was unanimous.

Announcements/Acknowledgements

Mr. D'Agostino shared the following:

The Kennedy School reported 97% participation at the fall parent conferences, he congratulated the Kennedy PAC for one of the most successful bookfairs they have ever had. Secondly, he recently attended a South Middle School PAC meeting at which Principal Lynch talked about how they could increase parent involvement; he wanted to make a public plea for parents to get involved in the organization.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Mr. Dave Gorman for another successful, well-attended Jingle Bell Run fundraiser, and the Hancock PTA for a very successful Spaghetti Supper, where money raised is used for the Children Helping Children fund.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
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