

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, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan
Absent: Superintendent Smith

Also Present: Deputy Superintendents Thomas and Barry, Dr. Murray, BHS Principal Wolder, Robert Perkins, BHS Associate Principal

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

The following visitors addressed school committee with respect to changing the BHS demerit system: Jacob Tagger, Angel Cosme, Bishop Tony Branch, Manny Mendes, Javon Dixon, Calogano Chamber, E.T. Okunbor, Bradley Souffrant. Mr. Tagger, Mr. Cosme, and Bishop Branch commented on a prior school committee meeting at which they felt school committee's response to one speaker over another was not respectful; Bishop Branch also addressed changing the title "Housemaster" at BHS.

Mayor Carpenter thanked all speakers and told them their concerns will be seriously considered by school committee.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members to indicate if they would like to remove any items for discussion; Mr. Sullivan requested Item B, Acceptance of Donations for School Supply Drive, and Mr. Minichiello removed Item C, Acceptance of Donation from PPG in Avon, MA.

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

- June 21, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- June 7, 2016 Minutes of Public Hearing on FY17 Budget
- BHS Girls Volleyball Team Overnight Field Trip
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item B, Mr. Sullivan announced that a school supply drive will be conducted beginning next week, he acknowledged the donations from Irvings Home Center and the Brockton Housing Authority in support of this drive.

Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the donations for the School Supply Drive.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to item C, Mr. Minichiello acknowledged the generous donation of \$4,000 in grants to Brockton High School that will purchase materials for STEM education.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the donation from PPG.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Superintendent's
Report**

New Final Site Website

Mr. Thomas reported on that the projected August 1 rollout of the new BPS website: parents will be notified via a connect ed call. He said the site is compliant with Section 508, has a language translation tool, and interfaces well with mobile devices and in the near future the BHS Online DECA Store will be added.

Charter Update

Mr. Thomas reported that as of today, the school department has received 170 requests for records for students transferring to the New Heights Charter School, Mr. Walker has been extremely appreciative of the assistance provided by the school department.

In response to a question, Mr. Thomas said Brockton is required to provide transportation for Brockton students to the new school.

**ITEMS TO REFER
to SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Minichiello suggested that the proposed July 26th finance subcommittee meeting be moved to Tuesday, August 2nd at 6:30 p.m., there were no objections. A policy subcommittee meeting will be scheduled on August 16th prior to the regular school committee meeting to review mandated substance abuse prevention policies.

Mr. Gormley asked that the committee take a look at our registration and enrollment policy with respect to capping class size, at a policy meeting to be scheduled.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

FY2017 Budget

Mr. Thomas said he would like to begin the budget discussion with a review of instructional staffing needs, he would like to hear from Principal Wolder with respect to the high school schedule, and then Deputy Superintendent Barry and Dr. Murray to speak to the needs of middle and elementary schools.

High School: Principal Wolder and Mr. Perkins explained the "*Impact of RIF and Elimination of Positions*" document (attached) which addressed scheduling issues and responded to questions from committee members.

Several questions about priorities were raised; Principal Wolder responded that given the opportunity to recall teachers, she would prioritize the two (2) foreign language teachers and a full complement of math and science teachers (two math and one science). However, she said the English and social science positions are equally as important in order to offer necessary electives.

With respect to the new schedule, there was discussion about the impact of the additional period on the class availability; Principal Wolder explained there need to be more electives to fill student schedules. Discussion followed about possible electives and options for student classes; Mayor Carpenter asked Principal Wolder to look further into work study for seniors.

Mayor Carpenter conveyed his concerns about the budget: He is appreciative of the high school needs; the district needs to consider restoring positions at the alternative school; middle and elementary class sizes are still a concern. He suggested reserving some available funds to address needs that will arise when we are closer to the opening of school, and stated there is still a shortfall in the transportation budget that needs to be looked at. He advocated for reinstatement of two mid-level administrative positions, the K-8 Department Head of Guidance and the Assistant Principal at the Goddard and, finally, said he would like to see four SROs back in the schools but needs the school department to contribute 50% of the cost, approximately \$150,000.

Ms. Barry and Dr. Murray reported on the most critical needs at the elementary and middle school levels.

Middle School Needs - 20 positions were cut in May, recommend recall of 11 teaching positions (4 language teachers, 4 English teachers, 1 humanities and 2 social studies). Dr. Murray reported that the current number of charter school transfers (170) will not impact class size across the district.

Elementary Needs: 14 positions were cut in May, Ms. Barry recommends the recall of 4 teaching positions, 2 grade 5, 1 grade 4, 1 grade 1.

Ms. Barry said grade 5 is the greatest concern with respect to overcrowding, running out of seats in the northwest, south and citywide zones are already full. *Recommends adding one grade 5 class in northwest zone, one grade 5 in citywide zone.*

Grade 4 - no seats available in northwest zone, *recommends adding one grade 4 class in northwest zone.*

Grade 1 - South is full with very few seats remaining at Huntington. *Recommends adding one grade 1 class in south zone.* Ms. Barry added that a class size of 28 in grade 1 is extremely challenging.

Mayor Carpenter said we need to maximize every seat in every building and asked for facilities usage and policy subcommittee meetings to be scheduled shortly after the start of school to discuss registration and enrollment, and building usage.

With respect to school committee action tonight, Mayor Carpenter said Principal Wolder would need to know tonight if any high school teaching positions would be brought back in order to begin developing the schedule. He suggested the decision on middle and elementary positions and school police SROs could be made at the August 2nd finance meeting. He stated he would ask for a vote tonight on the *two mid-level administrators* he recommended earlier. *Mr. Minichiello requested that the report from the July 11th finance meeting be approved before any votes were taken.*

Report of July 11, 2016 Finance Subcommittee meeting: Mr. Minichiello gave a verbal summary of the report of that meeting (included in the agenda book). Following his report, **Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the report of the July 11, 2016 Finance Subcommittee meeting.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said he would recommend recalling *eight teaching positions at Brockton High School, and four (4) additional teaching positions to be allocated at the Superintendent's discretion, a total of 12 teaching positions.* Whether positions should be earmarked for the alternative school was discussed, Mr. Minichiello felt his recommendation would give the Superintendent full discretion to allocate the four discretionary positions in order to deal with issues, including the alternative school. Ms. Plant said they have not seen anything about the alternative school and would like to look at numbers; Mayor Carpenter asked Mr. Thomas to invite Principal Burns to the next finance meeting.

Mr. Minichiello moved to recall eight (8) teaching positions at Brockton High School and four (4) additional teaching positions at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter requested that the committee vote to bring back the *K-8 guidance position* and the *Goddard School Assistant Principal*. A brief discussion took place with respect to whether this vote could wait until the next finance meeting.

Mr. Gormley moved to reinstate the K-8 Department Head of Guidance position and the Goddard School Assistant Principal position.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to the August 2nd finance meeting, Mr. Minichiello asked for transportation figures to be available, whether a transportation subcommittee meeting would be needed can be determined at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Minichiello complimented the public property department and school custodial staff for keeping the city pools exceptionally clean.

Ms. Plant brought forward a request from Bradley Souffrant, he has done research on other option to the current demerit system at BHS and would like to present to school committee. Mayor Carpenter suggested this is appropriate for a policy subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Plant spoke with respect to remarks made during the hearing of visitors this evening where several speakers said school committee appeared disrespectful to Mr. Souffrant at his previous appearance at a school committee meeting. She said it was "innocent on the part of school committee but may have caused some friction". She felt "Mr. Souffrant deserves an apology", and wanted to be sure that we will "be able to work these young adults in our community and show them that we are listening to them and respecting them."

Mr. Gormley acknowledged students from the *Summer of Work and Learning program* who cleared out brush and cleaned up the tennis courts behind the Davis School.

Mr. Sullivan commended the Mayor and Mr. Thomas for getting the Facilities Master Plan approved at City Council on Monday, he said it is critical that a realistic capital plan is done and he thanked City Council as well.

Seeing no further New Business, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Thomas, Deputy Superintendent/Secretary
wka

handouts: Middle and Elementary School Critical Needs