

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, Superintendent Smith

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Also Present: Executive Team

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag. He announced he would chair the meeting in the Mayor's absence.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked members if they would like to remove any items for discussion; Mr. Sullivan requested Item E, *Acceptance of Donation to School Supply Drive*.

Ms. Plant moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items:

- August 16, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- August 31, 2016 Accounts Review Subcommittee Report
- Authorization to Submit FY17/18 DESE Quality Enhancements in After School and Out-of-School Time Grant (ASOST-Q)
- Authorization to Submit FY17 French Dual Language and Immersion Grant (FACE)
- Notification of Personnel Appointments, Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item E, Mr. Sullivan thanked all who have contributed to the school supply drive, in addition he wanted to acknowledge the following donors:

Mr. Gary Pearson and Paula Guyette; Ms. Julie DosSanrosa; Mr. David Teixeira/Mattress Maker of New England, Mr. Timothy Cruz, Plymouth County District Attorney, and School Committee Member Lisa Plant.

Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the donations as listed.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Opening Day

Superintendent Smith said the tropical storm threat was a little concerning for opening day, but although there were a lot of umbrellas, the storm did not get in the way of the first day of school. She said students acclimated quickly and were already learning. With respect to her Twitter account, she announced she tweeted for the first time today and will send a tweet out every day to share good things happening in the schools.

She reported enrollment figures: 15,286 student enrolled, compared with 14,793 last year; 1,288 kindergarten students enrolled, 140 partially enrolled, we expect to surpass 1,400 kindergarten students this year. With respect to class sizes, the southwest zone is full and

class numbers are high in the northwest zone. The Superintendent thanked Director of Parent Information Center Dr. DeBarros and her staff for a job well done.

Elementary: Mrs. Saba Maguire reported no problems, all schools are now participating in *Breakfast in the Classroom*, elementary class sizes are high in grades 4 and 5 across the district. She was able to visit several schools, including the Raymond School where 90% of the students are already in uniform, the Baker and Brookfield schools started the year with new principals and everything was in place.

Middle School: Dr. Murray also reported an excellent opening. All buildings are quite full, but classes at North, West, and Plouffe are very full, averaging 31-32 students, the new *free lunch program* started smoothly, an added benefit is that students are able to get through the lunch line quicker, giving them more time to eat and socialize.

The Superintendent explained that Brockton received notification at the last minute that the district would receive free lunch, for four years, for all students. She thanked Mr. Burke and Mr. Petronio for their diligence. She clarified that students must pay for a la carte items and additional lunches. Mr. Minichiello thanked all involved.

High School: Principal Wolder reported an incredibly successful opening, with attendance at 92%, 4,214 students. Changes at the high school include:

- Student I.D.'s were available for pickup a week before school started;
- Students can now access their schedules through the student portal, many used their hand-held devices as they searched out their classes;
- Homerooms were eliminated; students now enter the school by scanning their I.D. at the ScholarChip kiosks placed at building entrances, with that their attendance is also entered. If students arrive late, the kiosk prints a late pass for the student;
- 130 trained student mentors worked to assist new students around the building;
- The new five-period schedule began smoothly; class sizes are good, there are still some things that need to be worked out with respect to student schedules.

Alternative Schools: Dr. Terrasi reported a smooth start at the Champion, Frederick Douglass and Goddard schools, he said Pathways will recruit from the drop out list.

The Superintendent thanked Dan Vigeant, Senior Network Administrator Rick Cheng and IT staff for addressing and fixing a problem with a server over the weekend.

Transportation: Mr. Thomas reported there are 50 buses and 53 vans transporting 8,500 students within the district. 36 additional vans transport students in and out of the district. Fifteen new buses are still in the process of being uploaded into the Where's My Bus? program. Ms. Plant asked if the charter school situation has affected busing; Mr. Thomas responded "yes", new bus routes and stops had to be created for those students who recently re-enrolled from the charter and were placed at East Middle school.

Facilities: Mr. Thomas reported no major projects were undertaken this summer, but many smaller upgrades and repairs were done across the district. He thanked School Police for assisting with traffic in the morning and at dismissal time.

Charter School: The Superintendent clarified that the charter is not part of the Brockton school system; some parents have indicated that was not clearly communicated. Ms. Barry reported that New Height's increasing challenges gave concern that charter students might show up on the first day thinking they could return to their former schools. She said they started the day with administrators at each middle school who

would contact these parents and explain that they would need to un-enroll their child from the charter school and re-enroll through the Parent Registration Center. 26 students returned from the charter school today, sixteen of those showed up thinking they could re-enter their former school and had to be redirected to the Parent Registration Center. Last week, 20 students returned to the district from the charter school. Ms. Barry said that when speaking with these parents, they expressed "losing faith" and misunderstandings in their communication with charter school representatives.

Enrollment and Registration: Ms. Barry reported that kindergarten registration is temporarily suspended until September 12th to allow the Parent Registration Center to process grades 1 – 12 students as quickly as possible, open houses are scheduled for this week and next and are posted on the BPS website.

A brief discussion followed, with members Minichiello and D'Agostino expressing their disapproval with the State's response to the New Heights problems--the issues with two locations in Brockton, their temporary location in Norwood and the delays in their opening. Members agreed that New Height's ongoing problems have cost the school department in energy and time; Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent, if possible, to quantify the cost of resources that the district has spent in dealing with charter issues.

The Superintendent wrapped up her report with the following:

- On September 20th, Commissioner Chester will attend the school committee meeting, she will co-present with him. He will talk about the new MCAS 2.0 along with other topics. She announced that she would like to start the meeting at 7:30 p.m. due to the forum at 6:00 p.m., there were no objections from the committee.
- She is committed to putting together a Diversity Task Force, she is looking for a representative from school committee. This task force will work on diversity issues in the school department, including recruiting and hiring practices.
- With respect to the charter expansion ballot question, the Superintendent asked people to help get the word out. Kim Gibson, President of the BEA, can be reached at the BEA office and can provide information.

**Items to Refer
To Subcommittee**

Safety/Security/Transportation and Finance meetings on Sept. 13, Superintendent's Contract will be held on September 27th to evaluate the superintendent. Facilities will be scheduled early in October to discuss the warehouse lease.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello reported that the school department was well represented at the recent NAACP forum held at Messiah Baptist Church, he said the Superintendent did a wonderful job answering some difficult questions.

Mr. Gormley advocated for high school sports, he encouraged people to attend these events and support the students.

The Superintendent announced a Music Festival on Saturday, September 10th, in remembrance of September 11, 2001; tickets are on sale and proceeds will benefit the Fraternal Order of Brotherhood of Firefighters and Military Veterans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD/Secretary
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