

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theatre of the Dr. William H. Arnone School at seven-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Daley; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, Secretary

NOTE: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

Absent: Mr. Carpenter

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

**Recognition of BHS
Voice of Democracy
Scholarship Program
Recipients**

The Mayor began this evening's meeting with the *V.F.W. sponsored Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program* student recognitions, and introduced Mr. Dennis Dobbins of the V.F.W. Post 1046. This was an audio essay contest for high school students that fosters patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion. This year's theme was "Does America Still Have Heroes?" Following are the names of the student winners:

- Joane St. Hilaire, 3rd Place
- Rachel Persson, 2nd Place
- Maria Navarro, 1st Place

Each recipient was presented a Certificate of Recognition by Dr. Malone and Mayor Balzotti, and an emblem, medal and money award from the V.F.W.

Dr. Malone told the students recipients that it is very important when applying to college that this essay is included as an accomplishment, as it is an academic achievement. The Superintendent congratulated the students and parents, and thanked Mr. Dobbins and the V.F.W.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti reviewed for School Committee and spectators the purpose of the Consent Agenda. She then asked if School Committee members wished to remove any item(s) from the Consent Agenda, Enclosures #1 through #8.

Mrs. Joyce made a motion to remove *Enclosure #7, Notification of Personnel Appointments* from the consent agenda.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- Enclosure #1 – Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on February 9, 2010
- Enclosure #1A – Minutes of the School Committee Public Hearing on February 23, 2010
- Enclosure #2 – BHS Science Department Trip on April 10, 2010, to Plymouth, MA, for 45 students and eight (8) chaperones
- Enclosure #3 – East Middle School Out-of-State Trip on June 2, 2010, to New York City, NY, for 50 students and nine (9) teacher-chaperones
- Enclosure #4 – Donation from MacAdam Loughry Charitable Foundation to BHS Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$2,000, and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor
- Enclosure #5 – Additional New Scholarship *Joseph A. Prioli for 2010* to be included in the BHS scholarship booklet
- Enclosure #6 – Submission of *FY10 Elementary and Secondary School Counseling RFP* to the U.S. Department of Education, seeking funding up to \$400,000 per year for a 36-month project period, for a total maximum of \$1.2 million
- Enclosure #8 – Notification of Personnel Action, including leaves of absence and a change in retirement

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce made a motion to refer *Enclosure #7, Personnel Appointments*, to the Finance Subcommittee for discussion regarding the appointments of five custodians and one administrative assistant.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Budget Forecast

Dr. Malone then introduced Aldo Petronio, Executive Director of Financial Services, for an update on the FY2011 Budget Forecast. Mr. Petronio announced that the Superintendent has written to the state delegation for help in bringing additional funding to the budget. Mr. Petronio said that the House will present its figures between February and May, and the Senate, between February to April. He said that the Governor will try to make up cuts with Stimulus money. Mr. Petronio also discussed level funding.

Dr. Malone reiterated his concern with the Governor's proposal to level-fund Chapter 70. His concern is that those districts whose enrollment has reduced will have a windfall, while the districts like Brockton, whose enrollment has increased, will have a hardship.

Mayor Balzotti said that she has spoken with the Governor about the funding formula and inequity, and she is making sure that those items are at the forefront.

Updated Emergency Roof Repair Needs

Superintendent Malone then introduced James Hayden, Executive Director of Operations and School Administration to give the report on *Updated Emergency Roof Repair Needs*. Mr. Hayden reviewed the report for the School Committee which highlighted schools and the dates they were constructed; type, age and condition of the roofs; the cost replacement; 2000-2010 expenditures (patching and repairs); 2007-2010 custodial overtime caused by

leaking roofs; major repairs; and current leaks. The North Middle, Davis and Raymond schools have the most critical needs. Mr. Hayden took questions from the School Committee and told them that the School Department is looking at the best way to attack the problems and get the resources.

After more discussion, Mrs. Beyer moved to refer the issue of emergency roof repair needs back to the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Learning & Teaching Dr. Malone discussed under Teaching and Learning the following:

- **Gateway to College Program**
An innovative, small high school currently serving 100 Brockton students who have been unsuccessful in the traditional setting, located at Massasoit Community College. The program offers many amenities, i.e., specialized staff; an opportunity to obtain a high school diploma while building college credit; small class size; and a fast track to an Associate's Degree.
- **Innovation Schools**
Dr. Malone described the Innovation School model for the School Committee, providing a handout detailing a conversion applicant sample timeline. The criteria for the establishment of an Innovation School was outlined in the handout. The Superintendent asked School Committee members to consider this model.
- **Chief Learning Officer Job Description**
Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that the Chief Learning Officer (CLO) position is included in his FY2011 Reorganization Chart. He said that his reorganization will be spending less money than what is being spent now. Dr. Malone said that he would like to post this position in order to gain an applicant pool as soon as possible.

Mrs. Joyce moved the discussion of the Chief Learning Officer position to the next School Committee Retreat.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Superintendent Malone introduced John Jerome, Interim Deputy Superintendent, to give the report on *K-12 Summary Regarding Safety and Emergency Planning*, which mainly focuses on Brockton High School.

Mr. Jerome gave the report which addressed 16 recommendations for improvements that can be made for the day school and after school programs to improve the safety and security of all members of the High School community.

Mr. Jerome also discussed future steps to increase safety and security than can be taken, identifying priorities, estimated timelines and the budget for each. He said that the Crisis Response and Management Committee will continue to gather feedback on safety and security issues to plan for future trainings and prepare to implement the objectives of the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools grant submitted on February 26, 2010. Objectives, he said, will be implemented with or without the grant funding.

The second part of Mr. Jerome's report dealt with the findings included in the Campus Violence Postvention-Intervention-Prevention Management Action Report, the result of Dr. Malone's arrangement for an investigation into the state of Brockton Public Schools' security. The investigation which took place on December 18, 2009, was conducted by Robert Macy, Ph. D., Founder and Executive Director of the Boston Center for Trauma Psychology; Co-Director of a Category III National Center for Child Traumatic Stress Network site at the Trauma Center/JRI in Boston; and Founder and Executive Director of Boston Children's Foundation of Boston.

Mr. Jerome reviewed the recommendations contained in the report concluding with a Draft Scope of Service and Costs.

Following discussion, Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello moved to refer the report to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Safety and Security.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Minichiello discussed his February 24th letter to the Governor regarding the School Funding Fiscal 2010-11, in which he spoke of Chapter 70 and emergency funding relief for the Brockton community.

Mayor Balzotti announced that she had had an exciting week in the Brockton Public Schools. She said that she judged the high school Science Fair and was very impressed with the effort and knowledge that went into the projects.

The Mayor also thanked the Downey School students for creating a display for City Hall and recently visited.

Mayor Balzotti thanked the Arnone School students who welcomed her with a sign that they made for her *Read Across America* visit.

The Mayor said that she had a terrific week, saying that she is working her way around to every school.

Mr. Bath announced the Breakfast for Champions event scheduled on March 21st and spoke favorably about the BHS Drama Club dress rehearsal for the state competition. He said the competition was a week from Saturday.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.

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