

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building at Brockton High School.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mr. Daley, Vice-Chair; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mr. Hancock; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

### **Moment of Silence**

Superintendent Nembirkow called for a Moment of Silence in honor of Army Captain Anthony Palermo, Jr., who was killed in Iraq over the weekend. Anthony was a 1998 graduate of Brockton High School.

### **Hearing of Visitors**

Prior to the Hearing of Visitors, Mayor Harrington reminded the speakers to keep their comments to three-minutes. He stated that the budget is not on the agenda this evening. He indicated that there will more Finance Subcommittee Meetings on the budget; no decisions have been made, and everyone will be allowed to speak at the Public Hearing on the Budget on May 8, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre.

Mr. Timothy Sullivan, BEA President, stated that this past week has been a major one. The \$1.5M reduction in the budget will have a negative impact on education in Brockton. The possible school closing of the Whitman or Belmont Street Schools has created uneasiness for students, staff and parents. He indicated that he was asked to read letters from the staff at the Whitman School and the Belmont Street School. The Whitman School staff presented arguments to keep the school open. The Belmont Street School staff stated that the last few years have been faced with uncertainty of whether or not they will be closed, and the staff has slowly been dismantled. If they remain open, they will welcome everyone to the school. Mr. Sullivan wished the School Committee the best as they review, assess and deliberate on the fate of the Whitman and Belmont Street Schools, Champion Charter School and several other worthwhile programs.

The following speakers, parents/residents of the City of Brockton, spoke on one of the options of balancing the budget and that option was on the closing of the Whitman School or Belmont Street School: Former Assistant Principal at the Whitman School Gerald Conefrey, Scott Holmes, Sue Russo, Scott Brown, Whitman School Nurse Pat Cook, Peter Paz, and Richard Bath. Speakers mentioned the positive experiences their children had at the Whitman School even though it didn't have a cafeteria or gym; the excellent teachers who care about the children; the leasing of the Belmont Street School when the City owns the Whitman School; communications; etc.

Ms. Barbara Duffy of the My Turn Program was present to plead her case for funding. She highlighted the program(s) and mentioned statistics on those going to

college. She had three former My Turn students with her. She asked that funding not be eliminated from her program.

Ms. Denise Seymour, parent, stated that she is concerned with all the negativity and mentioned that the Gospel Nightclub will be holding a positive function at the War Memorial Building on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at 9 p.m. Before the function they will have a time of prayer. She encouraged parents to either participate or pray with them.

Mayor Harrington indicated that no decisions have been made. These are options that are being presented for consideration. This is a process that we are going through, and all meetings are open to the public.

**Approval of  
Records**

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Financial  
Statements**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Financial Statement dated March 31, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Report of  
Chief Supervisor**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for the Month of March as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Superintendent**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that it is the responsibility of the Superintendent to present options to balance the budget. The final decision is made by the School Committee, and he, as Executive Officer, has to carry them out. All meetings are posted and open to the public. He invited those present to attend the Finance Subcommittee Meeting tomorrow night at 5 p.m. He stated that the Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School. He indicated that the School Committee has put in a lot of time and effort on behalf of the children of Brockton, and they deserve applause.

**Report on School  
Registrations/Grade 7**

Ms. Prudence Buckley, Director of the School Registration/Parent Information Center, was present to highlight a report on the Grade 7 Registrations and Assignments. She indicated that a total of 1,064 grade seven students were registered. The later registration period allow parents to consider the Davis K-8 and Gilmore Academy as additional choices. Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented and to authorize the notification of parents of the grade 7 school choice assignments for September of 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Authorization to  
Transfer Funds**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to transfer \$285,000 from the FY2007 Personal Services budget to the FY2007 Special Education

Operational Expenses account to address unbudgeted and/or unexpected expenses.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Authorization to  
Close FY2007  
Budget**

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to close the FY2007 School Department Budget effective April 11, 2007, except for emergencies and those anticipated needs during the last months of school.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that they received an insurance settlement on the Davis School gym floor. He thanked Mayor Harrington for his help in resolving this matter.

**Authorization to  
submit Carl D. Perkins  
Proposal**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a proposal to access funds under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Skills Education Act, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The purpose of the proposal is to fund professional development, integration activities and assessments for each freshman entering the program. Funding is also being sought to purchase equipment and supplies for each of the three vocational programs.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Approval of  
Chartwells'  
Scholarships**

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Chartwells School Dining Services Scholarships (4) for inclusion in the 2007 BHS Scholarship Booklet in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Acceptance of  
CSAB Minutes**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Community School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Approval of  
Out-of-State  
Trips**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following out-of-state trips:

1. Angelo School, grade 2, to Theatreworks in Providence, Rhode Island, to see a performance of Seussical on May 15, 2007
2. Downey School, grade 3, to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 7, 2007
3. Franklin School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, on June 8, 2007
4. Hancock School, grade 4, to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 7, 2007
5. Hancock School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 4, 2007

6. BHS Science Club to American Museum of Natural History in New York City on April 29, 2007

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **Acceptance of Donation**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the following donation from the Family and Friends of Steven Greene in honor of his 60th birthday: \$2,000 to help send deserving students to the Raise Up Basketball Camp through the Community School Summer Program, and to send a letter of appreciation to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **Notification of Personnel Appointments**

Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #12.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

### **Notification of Personnel Action**

Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following Personnel Action on Enclosure #13.

#### 1. Leaves of Absence

Basil Browne – BHS (Medical – Eff. 4/5/07 for remainder of 2006-2007 school year)

Carolyn MacKinnon – South Middle (Extension to Maternity – Eff. 4/13-5/14/07)

Kristen Martin – Angelo (Extension to Maternity for remainder of 2006-2007 school year)

Faith Tobon – West JHS (12 wk. Maternity and for the 2007-2008 school year – Eff. 5/1/07)

#### 2. Resignations

Ryan Stapleton – South Middle (Eff. 4/13/07)

Heather DeCarvalho – Champion Charter Monitor/Teacher Assistant (Eff. 3/23/07)

Mark Noone – School Police Officer (Eff. 3/17/07)

#### 3. Retirements

Basil Browne – BHS (Eff. 6/30/07)

Gary Bartorelli, Jr. – East JHS Custodian (Eff. 3/16/07)

#### 4. Change in Retirement Date

Patrick Hart – North JHS Principal (from 6/30/08 to 6/30/07)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

### **Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee**

Mrs. Joyce, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee Meeting of March 26, 2007. Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to recommend to the Policy Subcommittee the matter of requiring BHS Ski Club members to wear helmets and to have the BHS Principal assist in the revision of the policy.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to recommend the Policy Subcommittee review and discuss the proposals for the Junior High/Middle School Cheerleading Program.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Finance Subcommittee** Mr. Daley, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 29, 2007. Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the proposed fee schedule for the Brockton Public Schools/Community School Summer 2007 Program.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Finance Subcommittee** Mr. Daley, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of April 3, 2007. Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Accounts Review Subcommittee** Mrs. Beyer, chair, stated that the Accounts Review Subcommittee met on Monday, April 10, 2007, to review the accounts for the period of March 21 through April 4, 2007. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**New Business** Mr. Hancock updated the Committee on the School Building Committee Meeting which was held on Thursday, April 5, 2007. He stated that two clerks have been appointed and they are as follows: Philip Callahan for the Quincy Street School and Allen Kelley for the Colonel Bell Drive School. The tentative date for the ground breaking is Thursday, May 10, at 6 p.m. for the Quincy Street site and then to the Colonel Bell Drive site. He stated that the projects are on-going.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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