

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 15, 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 items that were under discussion.

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at seven-thirty o'clock followed by a salute to the flag.

**Hearing of
Visitors**

Jeanne Holmes

Mrs. Jeanne Holmes indicated that she attended all of the budget meetings and saw how hard all School Committee members worked on the budget in light of the financial stress we are in. She stated that difficult choices have to be made now, and we can't afford to vacate a building we own and continue to rent a building that should have been closed.

Alexander Gomes

Alexander Gomes, Belmont Street grade 6 student, read a letter he wrote to the School Committee requesting that the Belmont Street School not be closed.

**Approval of
Records**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Financial
Statement**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the FY2007 Financial Statement dated April 30, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Communication

Grade 1
Assignments

Superintendent Nembirkow distributed a copy of a memorandum regarding Grade 1 School Assignments. He indicated that the assignments are usually done in April/early May, but due to the delayed grade 7 process, it is necessary to do it now. He indicated that he instructed Ms. Buckley to send the notices out this week.

**Report of
Chief Supervisor
of Attendance**

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

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Presentation on
Guidance Model**

Dr. Susan Szachowicz, Principal, and Mrs. Catherine Leger, Guidance Department Head, 9-12, highlighted a presentation on the Comprehensive Developmental Guidance Model used at Brockton High School. The school counseling program is based on the school and district goals. The curriculum,

Access Center, Project Diploma, PSAT/NMSQT, MCAS, College Process, Career Advisement Plan, etc., were highlighted. After a lengthy discussion and many questions, Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented. Mrs. Leger distributed a packet of information to all School Committee Members that included her presentation, Guidance Newsletters, Calendar of Events, SAT Prep Resources and other events that are available to students.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

FY2008 Proposed School Department Budget

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the proposed School Department Budget for FY2008 was formulated through submission by all departments to address the Personal Services and Ordinary Maintenance to best meet the needs of the students and staff of the Brockton Public Schools. Superintendent Nembirkow, Mr. Kimball and Mr. Suziedelis highlighted a powerpoint presentation on the budget. The following three sheets were distributed to all members: Overview of the worksheet for FY2008 year, breakdown of the proposed savings of the Belmont Street School Closing, and a detailed budget breakdown of Personal Services, Ordinary Maintenance, additions, etc. The Superintendent's adjusted budget is \$128,521,446. The Mayor's budget is \$127,222,185. This results in a funding gap of \$1,299,261. A series of options were presented in order to close the gap. The Finance Subcommittee's recommendation was to close the Belmont Street School to save approximately \$1.3M, and with the associated savings of specialists, amounts to \$1.4M. After discussion, Mrs. Beyer moved to close the funding gap by closing the Belmont Street School.

Yeas: Belcher, Beyer, Daley, Foley, Joyce

Nays: Dobrowski, Hancock

Voted: to close the Belmont Street School, 5-2

Mr. Dobrowski moved to reduce the line item amount of full-day kindergartens from \$236,000 to \$177,000.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Hancock moved to cut the Professional Development line item by \$100,000.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Foley moved no reduction in the technology line item. Mr. Daley would like to see that the full amount of \$250,000 go into instructional technology (classroom) not into administrative. Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the DOE annually surveys communities regarding the number of computers, etc. Out of 329 districts, Brockton was ranked 306. We are in the bottom fifteen percent, and it is our goal to be in the middle. Several questions were asked of Mr. Suziedelis who is in charge of technology.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved not to eliminate \$100,000 in funding from the MY TURN Program. School Committee members requested that Mrs. Duffy make a

presentation before them next year during the budget process so that they could ask questions. They would also like to receive a follow-up report on the statistics of the students in the program who actually graduate from two-year and four-year colleges. Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that he would draft a letter to send to Mrs. Duffy and forward it to School Committee members for review and input and then send it to Mrs. Duffy.

Voted: to accept motion, 6-1(Dobrowski)

Mr. Foley moved to add the \$256,209 in savings to the Technology line item to be used for instructional/classroom technology.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved to approve the Proposed FY2008 School Department Budget in the amount of \$136,295,190. Mr. Kimball will send a breakdown in the next few days.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Foundation for Learning Proposal

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools, issued an RFP for Foundations for Learning Grants to provide assistance to eligible children to become ready for school. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools in response to the Foundations for Learning Grants RFP, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The proposal would be in the amount of \$294,445 to support the eighteen-month project.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Adult Basic Education

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the Adult Learning Center to submit a proposal to request, and if successful, expend funds from the Massachusetts Department of Education to support continued Adult Basic Education instructional and support services for FY2007-2008. The purpose of the funding is to provide free access for undereducated and limited English proficient adults to a continuum of Adult Basic Education instructional and support services. The funds would be in the amount of \$642,253 in direct funding and \$74,718 in indirect funding administered through the local Workforce Investment Board and the Brockton Area Private Industry Council, for a total of \$716,971.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Renewal Registration Epinephrine

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a renewal request to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health permitting unlicensed school personnel to administer epinephrine in a life-threatening situation. Renewals are requested every two years.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Summer of Work & Learning

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of a request, and if successful, authorization to expend funds from the Brockton Area

Workforce Investment Board for the Summer of Work and Learning. Funding would be in the amount of \$51,000 and would cover the cost of students' wages and staff and related expenses in the summer of 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Massachusetts Action
for Healthy Kids**

Mr. Belcher moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a proposal to the Massachusetts Action for Healthy Kids, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The Brockton Public School Departments of Wellness, K-8 and 9-12 are committed to utilizing this funding to support the activities of the after-school BHS Student Wellness Team established this year. The proposed award would be in the amount of \$5,000.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**School Choice
Program**

The School Choice Law contained in the Education Reform Act of 1993 presumes that each School Committee will admit non-resident students under the Choice Program unless there is a vote to the contrary by June 1 of each year, following a Public Hearing on the issue of whether or not to participate. A Public Hearing was held this evening, May 15, 2007. Mr. Foley moved to open up to fifty (50) seats available for interdistrict students at Brockton High School with no more than ten (10) non-resident students accepted in Grade 9 and the remaining forty (40) students distributed across Grades 10-12. The Guidelines will need to be revised to eliminate the first bullet in reference to K-8 students and other procedural issues. Discussion took place on siblings of those accepted into the program.

Yeas: Daley, Dobrowski, Foley, Joyce

Nays: Belcher, Beyer, Hancock

Voted: to accept motion, 4-3

**Summer SC
Meeting Dates**

Mr. Belcher moved the Superintendent's recommendation to establish the following Summer School Committee Meeting Dates: Tuesday, July 10, and Tuesday, August 21, 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Out-of-State
Trips**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following Out-of-State Trips:

1. Arnone School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 7, 2007
2. Raymond School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, May 29, 2007
3. West JHS, grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 8, 2007 (Mrs. Joyce mentioned the \$34 cost of the trip as well as the number of chaperones. She also stated that the bus company will be Castaway Motor Coach not Southeastern Bus Company.)

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Transfer of Funds

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to transfer funds in the amount of \$400,000 from the FY2007 School Department Personal Services Account to the FY2007 Special Education Out-of-District Tuition Day School Account. A shortfall resulted from rate increases and additional non-residential outside placements after the FY2007 Out-of-District Tuition Budget was developed in December, 2005.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Notification of Personal Action

Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #15:

1. Leaves of Absence
Alisa Scott – BHS (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2007-2008 school year)
Lisa Corr – Plouffe (12-wk. unpaid Medical – Eff. 3/15/07)
2. Resignations
Erin Ciovacco – BHS (Eff. 6/18/07)
Steven Cummings – North JHS
Matthew Dawson – BHS (Eff. 6/18/07)
Catherine Lothrop – Arnone (Eff. 4/20/07)
Penny March – North JHS (Eff. 6/30/07)
Blair O'Connor – BHS (Eff. 6/30/07)
Matthew Van Kirk – BHS (Eff. 6/30/07)
Darwin Caffrey – Lincoln Monitor Teacher Assistant (Eff. 4/20/07)
David Arena – Downey Paraprofessional (Eff. 5/11/07)
3. Retirements
Barbara Gallant – BHS Paraprofessional (Eff. 7/31/07)
Agatha Sheehan – BHS Paraprofessional (Eff. 7/31/07)
4. Retirement – to participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan
Peter Spillane – BHS Maintenance Craftsman (to retire 5/25/2010)
5. Change of Retirement Date
Pamela Mansbach – Arnone (from 8/30/07 to 8/14/07)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Bid Review Subcommittee

Mr. Hancock, chair, proceeded to read the Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting Report of May 7, 2007. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented. Mr. Dobrowski indicated that in the past they were given the names of the winning bidders, and they would like to know the names in the near future.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the FY2008 School Bids/RFP's to the vendors as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Daley, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of May 8, 2007, on the discussion of the Preliminary FY2008 School Department Budget. Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Accounts Review

Mrs. Beyer, chair, indicated that the Accounts Review Subcommittee met on May 15, 2007, to review the accounts for the period of April 11 through May 9, 2007. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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