

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School at seven o'clock.

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

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Mayor Balzotti then recessed the School Committee Meeting to open the annual, mandatory Public Meeting on School Choice.

Mayor Balzotti reopened the School Committee Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Hearing of Visitors

There were four parents of students from the Huntington School, who are also students in the Pathways to English program in partnership with Community Schools, who signed in to address the School Committee.

- Neusa Deon: Ms. Deon came to America from Cape Verde in 2003. Her son is in grade 5 and she has a three month old daughter. She is so happy to have the opportunity to learn English at the Huntington School. It has made parent/teacher conference understandable for her. She is looking forward to learning more English.
- Pedro Rosa: Mr. Rosa also came from Cape Verde just eight months ago. He is so happy to be learning English. His daughter is in the 4th grade and together they are enjoying learning.
- Paulo Fernandez: Mr. Fernandez has been in America for eight years. He has sons at the Huntington and BHS. The Family Connections program has helped him to help his sons with their schoolwork.
- Miguel Mendes: Mr. Mendes is grateful for the opportunity to learn English at the Huntington School. He has a daughter, Jennifer, at the school.

Mayor Balzotti praised Mrs. Saba, Mrs. Smith and the staff at the Huntington for bringing the program to the parents. She also applauded the parents who spoke, telling them how brave they were to get up and speak in public, especially, as English is not their first language.

Dr. Malone added that the program is budgeted at the Huntington for next year, and he hopes that it can be expanded to other schools in the future.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove *Enclosures #1, #4 and #5*. Mrs. Joyce asked to remove *Enclosures #3 and #4*. Mr. Daley then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee (P. Joyce) 4.26.11
- Minutes of Community Schools Advisory Board Meeting (K. Smith) 3.9.11
- Huntington School: Grade 5 Canobie Lake Park 6.17.11 (Rain date 6.20.11)
- Arnone School: Grade 5 Canobie Lake Park 6.15.11
- BHS National Model Schools Conference 6/27 – 28, 2011 (Nashville, TN)
- BHS Peer Mediation / 180 Talk Show 6/31/11 (NY, NY)
- Approval of Chief Supervisor of Attendance April Report
- Notification of Personnel Action

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello made a motion to postpone approval of the minutes, *Enclosure #1 / A.1) SC Regular Meeting Minutes of, Enclosure #4 / A.4) Finance Subcommittee (T. Minichiello) 5.3.11* and *Enclosure #5 / A.5) Finance Subcommittee (T. Minichiello) 5.10.11* until they are amended to comply with the Open Meeting Laws.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce wanted the enclosure item, *Enclosure #9 B.3) BHS National History Day*, read aloud and mentioned that the students who reached this level of achievement usually presented at School Committee meeting. Dr. Malone read the enclosure aloud and said that the student would be invited to present at the June 7 meeting.

Mrs. Beyer then made a motion to approve *Enclosure #9 B.3) BHS National History Day*.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce asked, with respect to *Enclosure #10 B.4) BHS National Model Schools Conference*, if this was the first time BPS would be presenting.

Sharon Wolder, Associate Principal of BHS, explained that the presentation was the result of the program that *Learning Together* piloted at BHS and, yes, this was the first time they were presenting; however, Dr. Szachowicz would also be at the conference as a presenter.

Mrs. Joyce made a motion to approve *Enclosure #10 B.4) BHS National Model Schools Conference*.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone acknowledged the hard work of the School Committee, the Operations Team of the Brockton Public Schools, Mayor Balzotti, Jay Condon and the City Council for working collaboratively to bring the Green Repair Program/Marciano Stadium Upgrades together for the approval of City Council. He said that this project shows that we are one city, one system, one family.

Dr. Malone told of how choked up he got at the City-wide Spelling Bee, when a wheelchair bound student won his grade level for the second year in a row and raised his fist in the air like a champion. Mrs. Beyer interjected that the winning student was surrounded and congratulated by his peers. Dr. Malone applauded the efforts of Kathy Smith and all of the judges and monitors.

Dr. Malone spoke about the “most amazing” musical production of *No, No, Nanette* that the High School staged on the weekend. Dr. Malone praised the School Committee on the support that they, and the City, provide the programs and students of Brockton.

Dr. Malone commented that the MCAS testing for the school year was coming to conclusion. He is encouraged by the commitment of the teachers in the instruction and support of the students during the testing period and feels Brockton’s students will score well.

Finally, Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that the highlight of his week was a high-level intellectual discussion that he had with the BEA president and researchers from academia about the work that is done around human capital and how they might tap into the resources in *Race to the Top* to provide increased services and professional development.

Mr. Minichiello asked to speak to a couple of the items that Dr. Malone had addressed. He thanked his fellow members on the School Committee who have, for years, been talking at PTAs with parents about the conditions of the schools and trying to find ways of getting the financing needed to make necessary improvements. He applauded the City Council for listening, the Administration for the hours spent in preparation, Jay Condon, and, most especially, Mayor Balzotti for their work in finding financing for the much needed improvements.

Mr. Minichiello then remarked on what a great job Mrs. Beyer did on the Spelling Bee at the Little Red School House. Mrs. Beyer listed the prizes winning students received and thanked the community for their support of the Spelling Bee.

School Choice

Dr. Malone read the background, rationale and associated cost of the resolution to act on School Choice. Mr. Carpenter said that it was his recollection that the application process was closed last year on July 1st. He suggested that the enrollment period be open until August 1st. Mr. Carpenter then made a motion to approve continued participation in School Choice for the 2011-2012 school year and leave the enrollment period open until August 1st.

Mrs. Joyce asked Sharon Wolder if she foresaw any problems with scheduling as a result of the extended enrollment period. Ms. Wolder saw no problem with the extension.

Mr. Minichiello expressed support of participation in the School Choice program, as it enhances the reputation of Brockton.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Dr. Malone reported that there is a running list of items and that the Subcommittees are in the process of setting up meetings.

Supt's Recommended FY '12 Budget

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that the School Budget will be presented to the City Council on the June 6th, that the Public Hearing on the School Budget is scheduled for May 25th and that the Finance Subcommittee will meet also on May 25th.

Mrs. Joyce asked that the School Committee be apprised of the dates and times of the presentations. Mayor Balzotti said that the information will be provided. Mayor Balzotti then commented on the importance of hiring an additional police officer.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello reported to the Committee that 13 students involved in the Regional Middle School Science Fair have moved on to the State competition in Worcester. He congratulated Mr. Grein, who coordinates the program for Brockton, for getting the most from the students.

Mayor Balzotti commented on the fun she had dancing the "Hokey Pokey" with the students before the performance of *No, No, Nanette* and that she plans to make the experience an annual event.

Mr. Bath thanked members of the School Committee who attended the JROTC Cadet Dining Out event which featured Mr. Bob Hicks, Executive Director of the Boy's State/Girls State, as the keynote speaker. Mr. Hicks highlighted Brockton High School in his speech as one of the best leadership institutions he has ever dealt with.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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