

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

June 15, 2010

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-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; 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 7:36 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Arelis Gomes, speaking on behalf of special education parents, addressed the School Committee this evening regarding Amy Larkin, a Brookfield RIF/MTA, and the topic of evaluating MTA's in the Brockton Public Schools. Ms. Gomes spoke very favorably about Ms. Larkin's many positive contributions to her son in the classroom.

Natalie Pohl, representing *supporters Celeste Hoeg, Joanne Morlani, Nancy Hedrick Devine, Joanne Kelleher; Jennifer Mills, Nancy Matos, Sheila Hume-Sacco, Ruth Agolia, Julianne Andrade and Claire Sheehan*, addressed the School Committee this evening on the elimination of the BPS Reading Resource Specialists. In closing, the periodical, *TEACHING ALL CHILDREN TO READ: THE ROLES OF THE READING SPECIALIST*, was distributed to Committee members.

Adrienne Pulley and Euridice Varela spoke on the Huntington School Redesign and expanded learning time.

Dr. Timothy Sullivan, BEA president, announced with great pleasure that the BEA overwhelmingly ratified the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the BEA for the period September 1, 2010-August 31, 2013. He thanked Mr. Minichiello, Ms. Sirois, Mr. Petronio, Mr. Jerome, and Superintendent Malone for their support and the School Committee's anticipated support in their vote this evening.

Dr. Sullivan also announced the upcoming new leadership of the BEA, the result of his newly elected position as Vice President of the MTA. They are as follows:

Kim Gibson, President
Derek Canavan, 1st Vice President
James Doherty, 2nd Vice President
Ellen Culley, Secretary
Treasurer (TBD)

The above positions are effective September 1, 2010.

The Hearing of Visitors closed at 7:47 p.m.

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone announced that Brockton Public Schools' students cheered on the Brockton Rox today at the school day game, which began with Dr. Malone throwing the first pitch "outside the rubber mound." He thanked Harbor One Credit Union and the Rox for a great day and for their generosity in sponsoring the school day game tradition, as well as the BPS Operations team for arranging the transportation of students.

The Superintendent also spoke about the second scheduling of the **R³** Cross Functional Team meeting at the Keith Center. He said that that the team consists of over 100 educators in the system, and the work of articulating action steps is going very well. He also mentioned that Harvard Graduate School may use the work being done in the Brockton Public Schools as one of their case studies.

Dr. Malone said that this year has been a very challenging one for him in the Brockton Public Schools, and he thanked the system for allowing him to be its Superintendent. He said that the year has been very rewarding, and accomplishments have been made in all levels of the system.

Dr. Malone proudly reminded those present and the listening audience that he did not cancel school on any snow days this year, saying that, "*The decision not to cancel school is the reason why school is getting out so early!*"

After a brief overview of the purpose of a consent agenda, Mayor Balzotti called for a motion, and Mrs. Beyer made the motion to approve the following items in this evening's Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Public Hearing on Budget on June 1, 2010
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the SC on June 1, 2010
- May 2010 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report
- 2010-2011 BPS Student-Parent Handbooks and printing of same
- Notification of 2010-2011 BPS Sexual Harassment Officers
- Submission of Coordinated Family & Community Engagement RFP and expenditure of funds
- Submission of Nellie Mae Ed Foundation/District Level System Change Initiative RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Submission of Mt. Pleasant Fund, Amherst RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Finance Subcommittee Reports on May 18; May 20; May 25; and May 27, 2010
- Accounts Review Subcommittee Report on June 2, 2010
- Bid Review Subcommittee Report on June 3, 2010, and awarding of bid to vendor re: Gilmore School flooring

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

TIP SOFT TEXT-A-TIP REPORT

Dr. Malone then introduced BHS Azure Housemaster Michael Thomas to give the report on the text messaging early warning system.

Mr. Thomas gave the report on the *Anderson Software TipSoft v5 Online Program*, saying that the program ties in with the work of the Brockton School Committee Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee, and, as stated by Mr. Carpenter, the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Safety and Security.

Mr. Thomas distributed a handout to School Committee which described the program and included its costs: **1)** for the first year, the total cost is \$1,599, which includes setup and training, and **2)** \$1,200 for the annual recurring subscription fee.

Mr. Thomas spoke highly of the program saying that students and parents can text any bullying going on in the community or school system. He said that Brockton will be ahead of all school systems – *"It has to come from the students; they have to sell it"*, he said.

Mr. Carpenter said that the program gives the opportunity for students to reach out and ask for help. He suggested that the School Committee have the program implemented immediately, and thanked his colleagues, as well as Mr. Jerome for his leadership.

Mayor Balzotti thanked the members of the task force and Mr. Jerome for their hard work.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

After a brief discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to implement and proceed with the TipSoft v5 Online Text Messaging/Alert/Warning System for BHS.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Student Recognitions

Eagle Scout Award

Dr. Malone congratulated Shaheen Merhej, recent BHS graduate, and described Shaheen's community service project which resulted in the presentation of the Eagle Scout Award. Shaheen and his parents were invited by Dr. Malone to attend this evening's meeting and the Superintendent and Mayor Balzotti presented Shaheen with a Certificate of Recognition. Dr. Malone also thanked Shaheen for the help he offered the Superintendent in his first year.

SIFMA/Stock Market Game

Dr. Malone congratulated Justin Brown-Madison, 8th grade student of the B. B. Russell School for achieving 2nd place status in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Ass'n. (SIFMA) Stock Market Game, besting nearly 700 other students, statewide. Justin improved both his math and financial literacy skills in this project.

Dr. Malone and Mayor Balzotti presented Justin with a Certificate of Recognition.

**2010 BPS
Administrative Interns**

Dr. Malone stated that the BPS Administrative Internship Program, which was designed to improve the BPS and its programs through the professional development of potential administrators, was founded more than 30 years ago. During the eight week experience, the 2010 Interns attended seminars on current educational topics, systemwide administrative issues and the roles and responsibilities of district administrators. Dr. Malone introduced the Interns in the following order: Natalie Pohl, Nicole McLaren, Robert Howard, Ines Enos, Soraya DeBarros and Peter Colombo. Each Intern was presented with a Certificate of Recognition.

**Item to Refer to
Subcommittee**

Dr. Malone referred to the Finance Subcommittee of the Brockton School Committee the item *Budget Policy* to be developed over the next year.

**BEA-BSC MOA/
Ratification**

At this time, Mayor Balzotti announced that she would remove herself from the Chair during the discussion and potential School Committee action involving *Enclosure #17, Ratification of MOA between the School Committee and Brockton Education Association*, per state law, as her sister is a teacher in the School System. Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair, took over the Chair.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the MOA between the School Committee and the Brockton Education Association for the period September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2013.

At this time, Mr. Bath thanked Mr. Minichiello and members of the School Committee for the good work between management and the union.

Mr. Carpenter also thanked Dr. Sullivan of the BEA and Mr. Minichiello for their leadership. He said that the result will bring more teachers back, and congratulated them on the open process—*"People saw all the information that the School Committee had,"* he said.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Kathleen Sirois, Aldo Petronio, Dr. Malone and Jay Condon, who were all members working with him. Mr. Minichiello said that, without the Mayor's help finding three million dollars, the System would have been dismantled.

Voted: to ratify the MOA between the School Committee and the
Brockton Education Association for the period September 1,
2010 to August 31, 2013, unanimously

Dr. Malone then discussed the actual number of eliminated teacher positions, and gave the breakdown on the Teacher Buyback. He said that his number one priority is class size, and also a priority is the buyback of people. Letters will be sent out to people on Thursday and Friday, with emails announcing the delivery of the letters. It is an absolute priority to let people know as soon as possible. Dr. Malone thanked Kathleen Sirois for an exceptional job in getting all the work done.

At this time, Mayor Balzotti returned to the Chair.

Transfer of Funds

Dr. Malone called upon Aldo Petronio, Executive Director of Financial Services, to discuss the transfer of funds to balance off Personal Services and Ordinary Maintenance, and Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to transfer \$250,000 from Ordinary Maintenance to Personal Services.

A discussion took place on the motion involving the mention of financial uncertainties by Mr. Petronio, i.e., overtime expenses; snow removal, and the emergency flooding at East Middle School.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Huntington School

An updated report was given this evening by Dr. Malone, Mr. Petronio and Ms. Saba regarding the Huntington School Redesign. Ms. Saba said that a parent informational meeting was held at South Middle School that was successful; the concept of school uniforms has been well-received, and plans are underway for professional development.

A total of \$225,000 is needed in order to put the Expanded Learning Time in place at the Huntington School. \$180,000 is available, leaving a \$45,000 gap. Mr. Petronio informed the School Committee that he found \$45,000 in *unemployment* savings to make up the difference.

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to support and fund the Huntington School Redesign/Expanded Learning Time for \$225,000.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce said that she applauds the Huntington School staff, and is expecting wonderful things to come from the school in the next two years.

Ms. Saba thanked the School Committee for their support and recognition, as well as her staff, the Executive Team and the BEA.

Dr. Malone and Mayor Balzotti also recognized the Huntington School staff, some of whom were present at this evening's meeting.

New Business

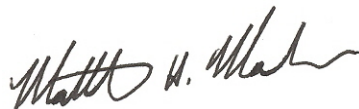
Mayor Balzotti took the opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping her and Jay Condon, Chief Financial Officer, for working so cooperatively on the School Department budget. She asked that all recognize, as Mayor, she is responsible for insuring that the children of Brockton receive an education. The Mayor stated that the infrastructure of the City is important, as well.

Mayor Balzotti said that health insurance will have to be addressed at the beginning of the next contract negotiations. Again, she thanked everyone for their dedication, effort and cooperative spirit. She said that it is her responsibility to turn the City around.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.

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