

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

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

Absent: Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair

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

At Dr. Malone's request, the agenda was taken out of order to *Enclosure #8, Recognition of Brockton High School guidance counselor George Louis*. The Superintendent announced that, on July 21, 2010, Mr. Louis saved the life of a three-month old infant through CPR. The infant, named Riley, is well and at home with her family. Dr. Malone praised Mr. Louis for his efforts, and said that he was proud to have the opportunity to commend one of Brockton Public Schools' own. Mr. Louis was congratulated by the School Committee and presented a Certificate of Recognition by the Superintendent and Mayor Balzotti.

Dr. Malone introduced Mr. Louis' family who were seated in the audience.

## Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti asked if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that School Committee wished to remove, and Mr. Sullivan made the motion approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the SC on July 20, 2010
- Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee Reports on July 20, and August 3, 2010, as presented
- To go to bid with Option #3 (Snow Park/Plouffe Playground) as a preference, and to receive bids on alternative plans in case Option #3 proves to be cost prohibitive
- The request of the Old Colony Y to lease the Lincoln School with documentation prepared and reviewed by the attorneys representing both the School Department and Old Colony Y
- To table further discussion of the cell towers (Baker and Kennedy locations) until September 2010
- To remove the 25 ft long by 3 ft wide strip of pavement of the Mary E. Baker School walkway and replace the exposed area with turf
- Use of the Mary E. Baker School field by Pop Warner Football and any other subsequent or comparable use, based on availability and adherence to practices and procedures established by the Brockton School Department
- Minutes of the Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee Report of August 3, 2010, as presented
- Notification of Personnel Appointments re: certified personnel

- Notification of Personnel Action re: leaves of absences, resignations, retirements and early retirement

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

## **Learning & Teaching**

Dr. Malone discussed the following ongoing activities in Learning and Teaching this evening:

### **Race to the Top/RTTT**

The Superintendent announced that the unofficial sum of \$2.7 million dollars over four years would come to the School Department, the money being earmarked for 1) Turnaround Schools; 2) Alternative Education; 3) Wraparound Services; and, 4) Accountability. The Superintendent also discussed alternative schools/programs that are being considered for Brockton Public Schools. This money will not cover personnel.

### **Education Jobs Fund Program**

Dr. Malone said that the House recently passed the Education Jobs Fund Program. He said that he does not know how much of the award will go to higher education and K-12 or how it will come, but the money will span over two years. Unlike the RTTT funds, this money can be used for bringing back positions, but, using caution, he said, he is not confident that it can make a big difference in buying back positions. Dr. Malone suggests using half the money now and half next year. His number one priority will be to get elementary class sizes down.

Mrs. Joyce, inquired about the state filing its approval applications, and expressed her concern regarding the timeline for getting things in place. Dr. Malone said that this is a good worry, saying that he wants to get positions back for the start of the new year. Mr. Jerome said that the School Department does not have to wait for the monies to come along. The School Department can begin spending the money once the state has identified how to spend it, he said. Dr. Malone said that the Governor is making all the decisions on this, and he may know of the outcome this Thursday. Mr. Bath agreed that higher education is to hear on Thursday, as well.

### **Updated Priority Buyback List**

Mr. Carpenter expressed gratitude for the staff recall list, which was sent to School Committee in a recent Informational Bulletin, and said that he is getting calls and questions regarding people who were once here and will not be here in September. Dr. Malone said that 258 positions were cut by the end of June, and 30 were brought back. He said we still have 210 people who are out of a job. People, he said, are forgetting how bad this is, and a lot more will have to be done with a lot less, and without the people who were doing it. It is his goal, he said, to get back paraprofessionals and MTA's.

Mr. Carpenter inquired about substitute teachers, saying that the item did not appear on the priority list. He said that the issue of unattended students was a concern when working on the budget. Dr. Malone said that he is looking into the matter and the true cost of substitute teachers. He is working on a formula for using substitutes across the system during times of critical need.

### **School Opening Status**

Dr. Malone introduced Lynn Winkler, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center, to discuss student enrollment in the Brockton Public Schools. He first acknowledged that Ms. Winkler would be retiring soon and stated that the School Department owes her a debt of gratitude for her work.

Ms. Winkler announced that the new home of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center is the Central Office, and thanked the craftsmen, custodians and the IT Department for getting the center set up so quickly. She informed the School Committee that it is hard to give enrollment figures at this time, doing well ...but said that some of the numbers are running a bit higher than that of last year, and she does not yet have the figure of those who have left the system. She did provide the following information: all elementary grades are well over 1,200 students; Kindergarten is at 1,240; and Grade 1 is over 1,300. Ms. Winkler said that there are a few pockets of high class size, and she is working on balancing it out.

School Committee members inquired about the following topics: a timeline for registration; the transition to the Central Office; information being offer regarding high class size in certain schools; and the Haitian student enrollments and the need for continuing concern. Ms. Winkler responded to all concerns. Dr. Malone added that moving the Center to Central was a cost savings of \$75,000 by using internal workers. He said that he is happy to have the Center located at the Central Office; it is a reminder of what we all do.

The Superintendent then introduced Michael Thomas, Interim Executive Director of Operations, to give the report on the condition of schools.

Mr. Thomas thanked the Mayor and City Councilors for their approval of the School Department's transportation budget, allowing the same plan to remain in place for this school year. He also discussed the following:

- Gilmore and Howard School moves
- Major outside and inside clean up of East Middle School
- Huntington roof rafter replacement
- New play area at the Mary E. Baker, with the right walkway being replaced with asphalt
- The replacement of carpets with floor tiles in school buildings
- Painting
- Stripped and waxed floors

Mr. Thomas said that he will prioritize maintenance issues and create a schedule for the regular upkeep of the outside grounds.

School Committee members inquired about the roof at North Middle School; boiler issues; the Snow Park Playground (Plouffe School) and an update on the Baker School. Mr. Thomas gave a detailed response to each inquiry.

Mr. Carpenter asked that the subject of school building masonry needs be sent to the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee agenda for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and Mr. Thomas said that the item already appears on the agenda. Dr. Malone said that he would have the meeting and agenda posted.

Mrs. Joyce asked about how the school fared this summer with respect to broken windows, and Mr. Thomas said that the number of broken windows have decreased this year. Dark areas can be improved with lighting and the installation of cameras, he said.

Mr. Sullivan congratulated Mr. Thomas on a job well done, and Dr. Malone thanked Ms. Winkler and Mr. Thomas for their reports.

At this time, the Superintendent recognized Dr. Timothy Sullivan, former BEA president, announcing that this evening's meeting would be the last that Dr. Sullivan would be attending. Dr. Malone thanked Dr. Sullivan for *breaking him in this year*.

Dr. Malone introduced Ms. Kim Gibson, and welcomed her to her new position of BEA president.

### **Ratification of MOA Between SC-IBAA & TEA**

Mr. Bath, Chair of the Non-Certified Negotiations Subcommittee, stated that it has come to his and other School Committee members' attention that there are some glitches with the Retirement Board. He said that the School Committee never thought that people's retirements were going to be affected when they entered into negotiations.

Mr. Bath moved to table the ratification of the MOA between the School Committee and the Independent Brockton Administrative Assistants and Technical Employees Association.

Mr. Bath continued, saying this is due to receiving information from the Retirement Board, and to do research on the retirement issues. He said that is in the best interest of the employees to temporarily table this so that School Committee, the Subcommittee and Unions can work together to look into issues.

On the motion, Mrs. Joyce inquired about the impact on the recall of positions. Ms. Sirois, Executive Director for Human Resources, said that she believes she will be able to get an answer on the retirement question quickly. We have been able to *not* RIF any administrative assistants on the strength of this MOA and the current retirements. Everything is status quo, she said. She verified for Mrs. Joyce that it would not have a direct impact. The questions we have now from the Retirement Board, she said – once we get clarity— there will be inquiries on the same issues from the other unions, as well.

We have already begun getting inquiries from the other unions.

Mayor Balzotti said that Pension Reform regulations are being promulgated. It's all trickling down now because the City had to await PERAC and PERAC'S assessment of it, she said. Once completed, the City will all have a better understanding. This could affect every employee in the system who is retiring, she said.

Ms. Sirois said that she has been keeping the union completely informed, and stated that the School Department wants be sure to do everything in the best interest of its employees. All of this, she said, will become negotiations issues with all of the non-certified unions.

Mr. Daley stated that all other unions made concessions and asked how they will be affected. Ms. Sirois said that she was at a disadvantage to answer any of these questions, specifically. She said that she just received a letter from the Retirement Board who received a letter from PERAC. There are some inaccuracies in the letter, she said, and she is working with the Retirement Board to get clarification on some issues. PERAC wants to start counting for retirement purposes on base salary, only.

Ms. Sirois said that a 3% increase has already gone into effect, and there is breathing room because the deferred 2% would not go into effect until half way through the year.

Mr. Bath said that this is late-breaking news for everyone, and thanked Ms. Sirois for her input. The vote was then taken.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**MGL Chapter 71,  
Sec. 59/ Appointment  
of Deputy  
Superintendent**

Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the appointment of Mr. John Jerome as Deputy Superintendent, effective immediately, with the intent and with the understanding that the language that appears in M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 59, regarding the appointment of Assistant and/or Associate Superintendents will apply to this position.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Following the vote, Mr. Daley inquired about the advertising of the Deputy Superintendent position, and Dr. Malone responded.

**FY 2011 Budget  
Update**

Dr. Malone called upon Mr. Petronio, Executive Director of Finance Services, to give an update on the FY 2011.

Mr. Petronio said that he is still in process of closing the budget out and will prepare the end-of-year report which must be submitted to the DESE at the end of September. He said that there was no ability to prebuy because the budget was so tight this year. In FY 2011 we will have a lean budget and all spending will be monitored, closely, he said, specifically, Personal Services. In FY20 12 and 2013 the AARA monies will start to drop off.

Mr. Carpenter asked Mr. Petronio if there was a mechanism in place to monitor and generate periodical reports regarding overtime. Mr. Petronio said that he, Mr. Jerome and Dr. Malone are looking at overtime and substitute teachers, very closely. These are the areas in the budget that are unfixed. Mr. Carpenter asked Dr. Malone if he would report back to the School Committee on this matter, and Dr. Malone agreed to do so.

Mayor Balzotti said that the overtime issue is valid concern. On the municipal side, she said, overtime is how she is keeping everything together.

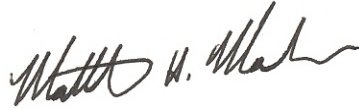
**New Business**

Dr. Malone asked School Committee if they would consider scheduling future meetings at 7 p.m., and School Committee agreed to include the item on the SC Retreat agenda on Thursday evening.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.

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