

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

September 2, 2009

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 Harrington, Chair; Mr. Bath, Vice-Chair; Mr. Minichiello; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Foley; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Malone, Secretary

NOTE: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list 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**

Mrs. Rochelle Hyre, community member, welcomed Dr. Matthew Malone to the Brockton Public Schools and made many positive comments regarding other Brockton Public Schools staff members.

Chandra Davis, Co-Chair of the Norfolk-Plymouth County Area Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, addressed the School Committee on the Sorority's ongoing work at the Baker School, offering mentoring, role modeling and enrichment activities for fifth grade girls.

**Approval of  
Records**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee on July 21, 2009, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee on August 11, 2009, and the School Committee Retreat on August 20, 2009, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Unfinished  
Business**

Dr. Malone announced that a Retreat of the School Committee was held on August 20, 2009. On the Retreat agenda for discussion were the Protocols for *Board-Superintendent Communications* and *Model Standards of Practice by the School Committee* (Governance Team).

Mr. Minichiello moved to refer the abovementioned Protocols to the Policy Subcommittee for further discussion.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

## Teaching and Learning

Dr. Malone told the School Committee that he plans to give a report on Teaching and Learning at each School Committee meeting. He said that he was impressed with the teaching and learning in the Brockton Public Schools today, the first day of classes.

The Superintendent informed the Committee that he visited the three Commonwealth Priority Schools: West Middle, Huntington and Russell. He also visited the Downey, Champion High and Brockton High and compared running the high school to that of an air craft carrier. He said that the preparation and transition of the Alternative Schools to the Keith Center was on schedule, and learning at the Keith Center was ongoing.

## Report on Opening Day

At this time, Dr. Malone introduced Virginia Lynch, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, PreK-5, to give the report on the opening day for the elementary level. Mrs. Lynch visited four schools today and spoke with all principals. She said that all elementary schools will have their full complement of kindergarten classes when the kindergarteners report on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Joyce asked about Kindergarten screening for this year, and Mrs. Lynch responded.

On Teaching and Learning, 6-8, Mr. Jerome, Interim Deputy Superintendent, gave his report on his observations on opening day. He visited five schools and found Infinite Campus working; he saw great school lunches and student learners. He mentioned a traffic jam on W. Elm St., saying that there is a need for a different pattern for back-ups. Mr. Jerome said he saw nothing out of the ordinary, and wishes for 179 more days like today.

Mr. Daley asked about the difference between a junior high and middle school schedule, and Mr. Jerome responded, also saying that Middle School is how you go about working with kids, not about adding a sixth grade.

Lastly, Dr. Szachowicz was called upon by Dr. Malone to give the high school opening day report. Dr. Szachowicz said that she appreciated seeing both the Mayor and Superintendent, both of whom were taken to the “*promenade deck*,” a.k.a., the second floor of the Core Building, by Dr. Szachowicz, herself. Both the Superintendent and Mayor were quite impressed by the movement of students in this area.

Dr. Szachowicz said that classes were in session and there was no nonsense. The busses, she said, were on time, including at dismissal. She gave the lunch program a huge thumbs-up, saying that, this year, the line configuration was greatly improved and more meal choices were added. Dr. Szachowicz added that Infinite Campus worked well, and the building, itself, looked great for the opening day.

Dr. Szachowicz proudly announced that the high school has been named a Model School for the last six years. She then distributed the book, “*It’s Not Us Against Them*,” the title, an actual quote taken from a Brockton High School student, and written by Raymond McNulty, Senior Vice President of the International Center for Leadership in

Education. Dr. Szachowicz explained Mr. McNulty's work on the book, and read, at Dr. Malone's request, a passage mentioning Brockton and Brockton High School.

Dr. Szachowicz's report ended with a discussion on enrollment, which will be revisited at the next regular meeting of the School Committee per Dr. Malone.

Superintendent Malone continued the opening day discussion regarding staff, including meeting the 49 newly-hired professional staff and their assignments, and the readiness of buildings, involving the massive relocation of 158 classrooms. Dr. Malone said that the move was masterful, and people that carried it out deserve a lot of credit.

The Superintendent also spoke on transportation, kindergarten and the food services program, stressing the importance of students returning their lunch forms. Dr. Malone said that, by and large, the revamped school transportation for all levels went smoothly. He mentioned waiting with a young family at an intersection, and he thanked the crossing guard for doing his job well.

Following Dr. Malone's report, Mr. Minichiello cited specific problems with bussed children being dropped off at home very late today, but said that this will improve.

## **2009-2010 Strategic Goals**

Dr. Malone presented the Brockton Public Schools 2009-2010 Strategic Goals, consisting of the following four (4) goals, each followed by a number of sub goals: **Teaching and Learning; School Climate; District Operations; School Committee and Superintendent Relations.**

Mr. Foley made the motion to refer the 2009-2010 Strategic Goals to the Policy Subcommittee for further discussion.

A brief discussion took place on the motion, regarding short-term goals, a summarization of priorities and the future identification of the Superintendent's long-term goals at the January School Committee meeting. Mayor Harrington stressed that a meeting of the Policy Subcommittee must occur *quickly*.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

## **Out-of-State Trip**

Superintendent Malone said that Dr. Szachowicz is requesting permission for 100 students to visit the 2009 U. S. Army Spirit of America Show, on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 2 p.m., at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, RI. Students will be transported by school bus, and chaperones will include on or both JROTC instructors and parents with approved CORI checks.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above trip.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Bath said that this event is magnificent, and the children gain a lot of experience.

**Personnel  
Appointments**

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #7.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Personnel Action**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #8:

**Leaves of Absence:**

Danielle Winn, 12 Week Maternity, Eff. 10/21/09

**Resignations:**

Kristen Mance, North Middle, Eff. 8/20/09  
Erin McGuire, Plouffe School, Eff. 7/31/98  
Neetu Neetu, West Middle, Eff. 8/19/09  
Ana Barbosa, MTA, Angelo School, Eff 8/19/09  
Stacey Mann, MTA, Brookfield School, Eff. 8/19/09  
Jennifer Skowronek, MTA, BHS, Eff. 8/12/09  
Rebecca Conlon, Paraprofessional, Keith School, Eff. 8/5/09  
Kristine Goche, Paraprofessional, Hancock School, Eff. 7/31/09  
Elba Roman, Paraprofessional, George School, Eff. 8/20/09

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.  
Secretary

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