

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

September 2, 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 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 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the following items in this evening's Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the SC on August 24, 2010, as presented
- Minutes of the SC Retreat on August 26, 2010, as presented
- Submission of FY 2011 Academic Support Services RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Submission of FY 2011 NCLB and ARRA Federal Entitlement RFP'S, and expenditure of funds
- Notification of Personnel Appointments (Certified)
- Notification of Personnel Action (Leaves of Absence; Resignations; Retirements)

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Superintendent Malone thanked the facilities and maintenance staff for their hard work in preparing the buildings for the opening of school. Dr. Malone said that he visited nine schools today and found ongoing Learning and Teaching on day one. He said that the Brockton Public Schools staff was spirited, system wide.

Dr. Malone then gave the *September 2, 2010 Opening of School Report*, discussing details regarding enrollment; PreK-8 schools; Brockton High School; staffing; readiness of buildings; school transportation; crisis management; the food service program; and PreK and Kindergarten. He thanked Lynn Winkler, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center and Catherine Leger, BHS Guidance Department Head/Registrar for their work on enrolling students.

Dr. Malone thanked all personnel for an outstanding opening and gave special recognition to School Police and the management staff for their involvement in dealing with crisis management.

School Committee members expressed concerns regarding high class sizes and requested enrollment projections to be included in the September 10th Informational Bulletin. Mr. Minichiello expressed his wish to have an enrollment report *sooner than later*.

Other topics of discussion were BHS enrollment numbers, transportation issues, readiness of the school buildings and needed roof repairs. The Superintendent responded, and said that he would address current needs at the next Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee meeting. He added that he is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding funds that would address the issues of the Davis, Raymond, North and West Middle Schools.

Mr. Carpenter inquired about creating craftsmen jobs to slow down repair costs, and Mr. Bath reminded everyone that the next Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee was scheduled in order to discuss the system agenda, at which time the makings of a plan will come into place.

REMS Grant

Dr. Malone then introduced Interim Executive Director for Operations Michael Thomas to give the details of the Readiness Emergency Management in Schools (REMS) Grant.

Mr. Thomas said that the grant has been awarded in the amount of \$299,310 over two years, and will address all phases of readiness management in the Brockton Public Schools. He thanked the following group for securing the funds: James Hayden, former Executive Director for Operations; Mayor Balzotti and her Blue Ribbon Panel for Safety and Security; Karen Watkins-Watts, Grants Administrator; MaryEllen Kirrane, K-8 Wellness Coordinator; John Snelgrove, Guidance Director, K-8; and Lorraine Kuplast, School Nurse Supervisor.

Mr. Thomas said the School Department will advertise for a Brockton resident project director who will put together an emergency team, build subcommittees and work with local agencies. He discussed ways in which the money can be utilized and said that the School Department can begin drawing down the monies this year. Mr. Thomas said that he will always look for grants that are intended to keep the school buildings safe.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to accept the Superintendent's September 2, 2010 Opening of School Report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Items to Refer to Subcommittees

At this time, Mr. Carpenter expressed some of his concerns regarding the Campanelli Stadium Lease, including the \$15. fee charged by the Rox for parking in the high school lot during game season. He then moved to refer to the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee a review of the Campanelli Stadium Lease.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter also discussed the need for strengthening/expanding the partnership between the Brockton Public Schools and Brockton Cable Access, and moved to refer the following items to the Curriculum Subcommittee for discussion:

- Live broadcast of School Committee meetings

- Pilot program for BCA broadcast of Community Schools *Expressway to English* classes
- BCA assuming responsibility for the production of *City View*
- Special BPS events, i.e., musicals, band, etc.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Messrs. Daley and Minichiello called attention to awareness/respect of privacy and copyright laws.

Mr. Carpenter then moved to have the following items discussed at the next meeting of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee:

- Security monitor positions at BHS
- Safety and security of the BHS campus
- More visibility of the (School Police) cruisers
- Temporary, daily closings of the East Middle School basketball court to discourage loitering of older teens

On the motion, Mrs. Joyce, Chair of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee, indicated that she would schedule a Subcommittee meeting around the third week in September and would add the above items to the agenda.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Ratification of 2010-11 BPS-SC Goals

Dr. Malone announced that the School Committee held a retreat on August 26, 2010, at the Manthala George, Jr. School from 6 – 9 p.m. At that time, the School Committee established its 2010-2011 goals. Dr. Malone read each of the 15 goals, and recommended, after having spoken with Vice-Chair Minichiello, to add a 16th goal regarding safety and security in the Brockton Public Schools.

Mr. Sullivan moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the 2010-2011 BPS-School Committee goals, including the additional safety and security goal.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Dr. Malone said that the School Committee retreat was very productive. He was pleased with the engagement and depth of ideas on the table.

Education Jobs Fund Program/ Stimulus

The Superintendent discussed the \$786,000 stimulus to Brockton Schools over two years, which is intended to regain positions that have been eliminated. Dr. Malone announced the position buyback consisting of the following: 14 paraprofessionals; 12 M.T.A.'s, Grades 6 – 12; three (3) health aides; one (1) elementary teacher (for class size reduction). The buyback totals \$526,000. Dr. Malone said that he would like to use this amount in the current year, and carry over the remaining \$260,000 into next year.

Mr. Minichiello concurred with the Superintendent's opinion on the timeline of expending the funds and moved to have the Superintendent come back to the School Committee to outline the use of the money.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Following the vote, Mrs. Joyce inquired about paraprofessionals and shared her concern for the primary grades. Dr. Malone said that RTTT funds will off-set some costs. He discussed the original number of eliminated positions (269) and the number by which those eliminations were narrowed down to, 170, saying that the School Department will have to do more with less. School Committee members inquired about other grant opportunities, as well as the number of retirements and resignations. Dr. Malone and Ms. Sirois responded.

Mr. Minichiello asked about enrollment and Chapter 70 funds. Dr. Malone said that the School Department needs the students who are registered to start school so that an accurate count can be obtained. Mr. Minichiello stated that the public needs to understand and know that the children who are here today receive their education now.

New Business

BHS 40th Anniversary

Mr. Bath announced that a committee has been meeting for the last two months on the 40th anniversary of Brockton High School. The kick-off event will be a home-coming on October 8th. Mr. Bath discussed other events that are being planned to celebrate the anniversary, as well.

SC Meeting
Time Change

Mr. Daley made the motion to move the starting time of the regular meetings of the School Committee to 7 p.m., and to have the change in time reflected in the Rules and Orders of the School Committee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

bas