

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.

Hearing of Visitors

Ms. Patricia Pagani, BHS clerical paraprofessional, addressed the School Committee this evening on the volume of her and Maureen Lane's, (also BHS clerical paraprofessional), responsibilities due to the recent paraprofessional cuts in the guidance department at BHS. Ms. Pagani discussed in detail the negative impact the cuts have had/will have in meeting college, scholarship, and mid-year report deadlines, etc. She distributed a written report to School Committee members highlighting points in her discussion, as well as listing the many duties of the position.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked School Committee members if s/he wished to remove any items from same. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove *Enclosure #10, Approval of Curriculum Subcommittee Report of 09/28/10*.

Mr. Daley then moved to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on September 15, 2010
- Authorization to Submit a Response for FY11 Strategic Planning Incentive Grants to Local Communities RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Acceptance of donation to Champion High School from School on Wheels
- Acceptance of donation to Mary E. Baker School from Citizens Bank
- Acceptance of Community School Advisory Board Minutes of June 9, 2010
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leaves of Absence
- Approval of Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee Report of 09/28/10 and all actions contained within
- Approval of Policy Subcommittee Report of 09/28/10 and all actions contained within

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

Curriculum Subcommittee Report

Mr. Minichiello, referring to the *College Jump Start Initiative* offered to Brockton students by Jon L. Jenmarc, said that Brockton Public Schools is on the cutting edge, and that the program will benefit Brockton students without cost. He said he whole-heartedly endorsed the program. Mrs. Beyer then moved to approve the Curriculum Subcommittee report of 09/28/10 and all actions contained within.

Vote: to adopt motion, unanimously

Communication Dr. Malone announced that the Jon L. Jenmarc, Inc., is offering a program to Brockton educated individuals and will be renting the Brockton Public Schools facilities per the Facility Rentals guidelines. (program attached)

Learning & Teaching Dr. Malone discussed the following items under Learning and Teaching this evening:

- **A recap of the FY'11 budget cuts** and the current number by which those cuts were reduced (269/160). Dr. Malone said that everyone is doing more with less, and he appreciates the work.
- **Alternative Education:** Dr. Salvatore Terrasi has been invited to speak on a panel at the U. S. Attorney's 2010 Gang Prevention Summit at UMass, Boston on 11/3/10.
- **Elementary Education:** Pre-K and Kindergarten students throughout the district will participate in *Jumpstart's Reading for the Record*, a national initiative that raises public awareness for the importance of early childhood programs, early literacy and community involvement for all children.

The Mary E. Baker School has been awarded 30 free admissions for students by the New England Aquarium, as part of the *Free to Learn* program.

- **BPS Walkthroughs:** The Superintendent said that the walkthroughs/school reviews will begin for the 2010-11 school year following the review of the School Improvement Plans.

Early (High School) Graduation At this time, Dr. Malone requested to take the agenda out of order to accommodate Dr. Szachowicz's evening schedule and moved to *Enclosure #19, Proposal for (High School) Early Graduation*. Dr. Szachowicz reviewed the proposal and spoke about the good work of the task force. A discussion ensued, and School Committee members spoke on the following items: exceptions to the eligibility criteria; the high standards of the proposal and the fact that the students can advance faster; credit requirement; MCAS requirement; having no grade lower than a C; and, having earned an A in department every year.

Dr. Szachowicz and Ms. Wolder responded to all concerns, and Dr. Szachowicz, highlighted the fact that there is an *exceptions* clause, saying that she is open to anything.

Mr. Bath made the motion to have BHS submit a mid-term report on Early (High School) Graduation to address all concerns, number of students (and all other pertinent information) to the School Committee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

BHS Graduation Date Dr. Szachowicz and the BHS leadership team have proposed to change the 2011 BHS Graduation date from Saturday, June 4, to Friday, June 3, 2011 at 5 p.m. Dr. Szachowicz discussed the rationale and advantages for making the change.

After a brief discussion which included looking into the Rox game schedule, Mrs. Beyer moved to approve changing the 2011 and future graduation dates to Friday evenings.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Recovery HS Dr. Malone read the Recovery High School *Statement of Intent* regarding the Southeastern Massachusetts Recovery High School (SMRHS). He said that the Brockton Schools and North River Collaborative are collaborating to explore the development of the SMRHS for adolescents with substance abuse and dependence problems. Funding will be pursued from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health through the *Request for Bids* process. A proposal is expected for winter submission with a

spring of 2011 award.

Dr. Malone said that Mr. Carpenter has done a commendable job in establishing the goal of a Recovery High School.

Mr. Carpenter discussed the overwhelming show of support on the project, mentioning Brockton's partners and the towns that have come together on a common goal. The School Committee inquired about a facility for the school; staffing; and whether or not the school will have its own board.

Items to Refer to Subcommittees

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to refer the following items to the appropriate subcommittees:

- Examination of possible non-cross streets and snow removal to the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee
- Naming of the Mary E. Baker fields to the Building Naming Subcommittee

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

BPS Enrollment Report

Dr. Malone introduced Soraya DeBarros, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center, to give the report on Brockton Public School enrollment.

Ms. DeBarros spoke favorably on the new Central Office location of the Student-Registration-Parent Information Center, mentioning some of the recent changes that she has made to the facility. She invited School Committee members to visit the Center.

Ms. DeBarros gave a PowerPoint presentation on student registrations and enrollment information and took questions from School Committee members regarding: adult literacy; Kindergarten registrations (current and 2009); schools at or above enrollment capacities; class sizes across the district; and the various programs, i.e., SEI that exist in certain schools.

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

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Safety/Security Update

Mr. Thomas updated the School Committee on Safety and Security as follows:

- The move of the School Police Office to the Red Building
- The completion of the numbering of all BHS doors by the end of October (Lt. Mills)
- Working with the Traffic Commission on extending the period for flashing lights in both the a.m. and p.m. times, encouraging drivers to slow down
- The interview of the REMS Project Director

Mr. Minichiello asked if the issue of flashing lights could be expedited, saying that he has been asked by several families about the matter. Mr. Thomas said that Lt. Mills is looking into it, and whether or not the lights can work a three to four hour period.

Bullying Prevention/Intervention

At this time, Mary Ellen Kirrane, K-8 Wellness coordinator and subcommittee chair, gave a report on Bullying Prevention & Intervention and explained the focus of the Subcommittee. She discussed policy, procedure, prevention, special education requirements, and professional development.

Dr. Malone said that Mary Ellen is the czar of Bullying Prevention and Intervention, and a tremendous amount of work has been done. “You will see in the coming months,” he said, “that Brockton is the leader in this on the state level.”

Mr. Daley inquired about accountability and said that accountability for both students and parents needs to be placed into the plan, specifically, mentioning repeat offenses. Mr. Thomas and Ms. Kirrane responded.

Mr. Thomas also updated the School Committee on the rollout of the TipSoft plan and how it will work. TipSoft information will be posted both in and out of the school, as well as on the Brockton Public Schools Website. Parents can also use the program.

Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Carpenter for suggesting the program.

Mr. Daley suggested placing the TipSoft number on the emergency numbers signage suggested at an earlier School Committee meeting. Mr. Thomas said that this is a good suggestion, and he will add the number to the draft.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

MSBA Update

Dr. Malone announced that Mayor Balzotti has been notified by the MSBA that Brockton has been moved to the next level for the Green Repair Program: roofs, boilers and windows for Brockton High, North, Davis and the Raymond Schools. Dr. Malone cautioned that this does not indicate approval for funding.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Minichiello moved to amend the motion adopted on April 13, 2010, regarding the Brockton Public Schools MSBA Statement of Interest applications which reads:

Amendment of Motion
Adopted April 13,2010
RE: MSBA SOI’s

“... to accept the report, and send the Status of Request for Roof Repairs and MSBA School Repair Program to the City Council for their consideration at the Standing Committee on Finance meeting on April 20, 2010”

to the required MSBA language as follows:

The Brockton School Committee authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Green Repair Program the Statements of Interest dated September 20, 2010, for school building projects on the following schools: Brockton High School; Gilmore School; Ashfield School; North Middle School; East Middle School; West Middle School; Brookfield School; Davis School; Downey School; Hancock School; Kennedy School; and Raymond School, provided, however, that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application, the awarding of a grant, or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or mandates the filing of an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Voted: to accept motion, as amended, unanimously

New Business

Huntington School

Mr. Minichiello said that he visited the Huntington School and was very impressed with the students wearing their new uniforms. He said that the students looked phenomenal. He suggested that the School Department work with the teachers’ union to preserve the good work of the school’s redesign plan.

BHS Celebration

Mr. Bath spoke about the upcoming 40th Anniversary celebration of Brockton High School and the Brockton Community Schools.

Mr. Carpenter said that he would like the Superintendent to come back to the School Committee with the recommendation to find money to replace one BHS guidance paraprofessional. Dr. Malone said that the School Department is still short 150 positions, and asked the Committee to trust that he is doing his best.

Mr. Carpenter said that Dr. Malone listed the paraprofessionals as priority, and asked for an updated report on personnel. Dr. Malone said that he would address the personnel matter at the October 19th School Committee meeting.

Mr. Carpenter said that, back on August 24, 2010, he requested of Dr. Malone a report on overtime, and asked if Dr. Malone would have this information available for the October 19th meeting, as well. Dr. Malone referred the matter to Mr. Petronio.

Mayor Balzotti announced that she will be reading *The Snowy Day* at the Hancock School. She also stated that she is the first Mayor to have graduated from Brockton High School, and encouraged the members of her class, the Class of 1979, to come out to celebrate at the October 8th event at BHS.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Superintendent/Secretary of School Committee

Linda M. Balzotti
Mayor/Chair of School Committee

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