

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

November 4, 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; Mr. Foley; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Joyce

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

**Recognition of
MASS Supt's
Academic Award**

Superintendent Malone announced that on October 19, 2009, the MASS Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence was presented to four BHS seniors who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers; they are: Oliver-John Bright (not in attendance), Daniel Clifford, Richard Mosesso and Katrina Paul.

The students were congratulated and presented a Certificate of Achievement by Mayor Harrington and Dr. Malone.

Dr. Malone then spoke of the importance of family support, saying that this is what gives the students their success. He said that these youngsters are examples of the great students we have in the Brockton Public Schools, and said that he is greatly impressed. The Superintendent told the students, "...You make us look good; thank you."

At this time, Dr. Malone and the School Committee recognized and congratulated the parents of the award recipients.

Approval of Records

Mr. Foley made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on October 20, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Teaching & Learning

Dr. Malone discussed ongoing activities in Teaching and Learning in the Brockton Public Schools this evening. He first mentioned that information regarding H1N1 is on the Brockton Public School Website, in addition to having sent letters home to parents. He said that he is working on the attendance policy due to the threat of the flu, and will schedule a Policy Subcommittee meeting in the next few weeks.

Dr. Malone then discussed his North Middle School site visit and his observations in Teacher Helen Son's math class. The Superintendent was very impressed with Ms. Son's *No Excuses!* approach to learning and read for the School Committee his feedback letter to

Principal Sean Ahern. The Superintendent said that Ms. Son is another example of the great teachers he is seeing during his weekly site visits in the Brockton Public Schools.

Superintendent Malone informed the School Committee that Jon Saphier, president and founder of Research for Better Teaching visited the School Department. Mr. Saphier and the Superintendent stopped at the North Middle, Manthala George, Jr. and Brockton High Schools, and Mr. Saphier told the Superintendent that he was very impressed with the teaching in the schools.

Lastly, Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that he is sending a team of educators to take the course *Instructional Rounds* which is offered at Harvard School of Education.

At this time, Mayor Harrington asked for a round of applause for the Brockton Public Schools teachers.

Mr. Dobrowski said that he knows Ms. Son, who is a model teacher. Dr. Malone said that we have many good teachers across the system. The Superintendent said that he wants to see the actual work going on in the system and will continue his site visits.

Following Dr. Malone's discussion on Teaching and Learning, Mr. Minichiello inquired about feedback from the Walkthroughs, teachers observing teachers and sharing information, the mentoring of teachers just starting out, and implementing a systemwide method of mentoring. To this, the Superintendent said that more information will be given at the January 19th School Committee meeting in his long-term goals. He said that Brockton Schools has a system/foundation in sharing expertise and practices. He will look at the next level of professional development in the schools.

At this time, Mayor Harrington recognized and welcomed Mr. Bill Carpenter, School Committeeman-Elect for Ward 5, who was seated in the audience this evening. The Mayor congratulated Mr. Carpenter.

Dr. Malone announced that a letter will be sent home to parents tomorrow regarding the H1N1 clinic at the Gilmore School for three and four year olds on November 6th. Parents must accompany their children. This is the first rollout of vaccinations.

Brockton's Way/ Dropout Prevention

Superintendent Malone introduced Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services and Shailah Stewart, Partnership Coordinator, also referred to by the Superintendent as his *Dropout Czar*, to give an update on the Brockton Public Schools' response to the Dropout Challenge.

The Superintendent said that he has been meeting at both the state and local levels regarding dropout prevention, meeting with his Dropout Task Force just this afternoon on ways to engage students, leading them to graduation.

Dr. Malone also informed the School Committee that he was invited by the Brockton Housing Authority to attend a conference at UMass, Boston, titled, *Public Housing-Public*

Schools. The focus of the conference was on getting kids out of poverty and into education. He said the 80% of middle class students by the age of 24 have a Bachelor's degree. Contrarily, only 9% of low income students have a Bachelor's degree at the age of 24. Dr. Malone said that we must engage students to receive a diploma and the possibilities beyond. He said that we are the pipeline to college.

Dr. Terrasi opened the presentation by referencing the recently released DESE report, titled, Making the Connection: Report of the Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission. He then informed the School Committee that several members of Brockton Public Schools participated in a DESE conference at Holy Cross on dropout prevention on Monday. He said that former Mayor of Fall River Ed Lambert, now Director of the Urban Initiative/Dropout Prevention Center at UMass-Dartmouth, spoke with other colleagues about the recent press on student achievement in the Brockton Schools and the accomplishments at Brockton High. Brockton, Lambert said, is being recognized as the statewide leader in dropout prevention and pathway development. This has mostly been spearheaded by Shailah Stewart, according to Dr. Terrasi.

Ms. Stewart then gave a PowerPoint presentation, entitled, *Brockton Public Schools, Responding to the Dropout Challenge, Multiple Pathways, Reengagement and Student Supports*. She highlighted the work at the district level, i.e., the Russell and Champion High Schools, as well as the Pathways Center, being located at the Keith Center, and added that the dropout rate in 2007 was 18% and in 2008, 16%.

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

A brief discussion took place on the motion regarding, primarily, funding and outreach to students through community organizations.

The School Committee thanked Shailah for the presentation.

Vote: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Athletic Gate Ticket Procedures

Dr. Malone called upon Aldo Petronio, Executive Director for Financial Services and Thomas Kenney, Athletic Director, to give an update on the current gate ticket procedures for Brockton Public Schools' sporting events that have an entrance fee. Mr. Petronio detailed the gate ticket procedures involving the responsibilities of the ticket seller, faculty manager, athletic director and the assigned school police officer. A sample copy of the form *Gate Receipts Ticket Reconciliation* was highlighted for School Committee, as well.

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

On the motion, a discussion proceeded regarding the amount of monies taken in and the arrangement of night deposits.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Lincoln School
2009-2010 Student-
Parent Handbook**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Lincoln School Student-Parent Handbook for the 2009-2010 school year.

A brief discussion took place on the motion regarding the timing of this handbook compared to the other levels approved earlier, and Dr. Terrasi responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Dr. Malone said that great work is going on at the Lincoln School, and he thanked Jay Lander, Department Head, for his hard work.

CSAB Minutes

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the minutes of the Community School Advisory Board meeting on September 9, 2009, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Acceptance of
Donations**

Superintendent Malone announced that the Honor Society at the Cardinal Spellman High School would like to hold a children's book drive for the Mary E. Baker School from November 30th – December 11, 2009. The books collected will be donated to the Baker School library, classrooms and individual students.

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above donation and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Overnight/Out-of
State Trip Approval**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Overnight/Out-of-State Trip to Virginia Beach, VA, for 35 members of the BHS Concert Choir and four teacher-chaperones to participate in the Fiesta-Val Competition from April 8-11, 2010.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Home Education
Requests/2009-10**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the continuing and new 2009-2010 Home Education Requests, for which all materials on file conform to all Massachusetts laws.

Mr. Daley asked if the students have to meet MCAS standards, and Dr. Terrasi said that they are not allowed to take the MCAS.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Approval/Submission

LCC Grant

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of the *Local Cultural Council (LCC) application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council* and, if successful, the expenditure of funds. The grant will assist cultural activities.

The Brockton Community Partnerships for Children Program is applying for the grant to provide a community-wide literacy fair and storytelling presentation for young children and their families in celebration of the Week of Young Children in April.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Universal PreK
Classroom Quality
Application

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the Universal Pre-K Classroom Quality grant application, a grant which is intended to maintain and improve the quality of preschool programs, to the MA Department of Early Education and Care and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

These initiatives will build upon our successful Community Partnerships for Children (CPC) public school and community-based programs. We propose to seek \$32,130 in funding.

Mr. Daley inquired about PreK for the entire city, and Dr. Malone and Ms. Block responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Curriculum Instruction,
Assessment and
Alignment

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Alignment Pilot Project grant application to the DESE in the amount of \$18,000, and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The programs will identify strategies and resources to continue improve the district's capacities to improve the quality of education and inclusion of children with disabilities through alignment and coordination of curriculum, instruction and assessment from Pre-K through Grade 3. The strategy for starting this task is to continue the work of Study Teams begun in Year 1 (SY2009) to research, discuss, document and implement their strategies, training and progress within and/or across the age span with a focus on how students with disabilities access the general curriculum.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

AARA Title II-D
Technology
Competitive Grant

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the AARA Title II-D Technology Competitive Grant application for up to \$400,000., to the MA DESE and, if successful, the expenditure of funds.

The purpose of the grant is for districts to create, implement and evaluate online courses/modules for underserved high school students in alternative education, credit recovery and/or credit acceleration programs, and has encouraged the formation of partnerships with other educational institutions to do so.

We propose to partner with the Braintree Public Schools and Massasoit Community College to develop new distance learning opportunities for high school students, with an

initial focus on math classes to be taught online. The targeted beneficiaries of the innovations planned will be students in several of the alternative and credit recovery programs of the two K-12 systems.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Notification/
Personnel Appts.**

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #14.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Notification/
Personnel Action**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #15:

Leaves of Absence:

Teresa Daley, Raymond School (8 Week Maternity, Eff. 3/8/10)
Virginia Rivera, George School (12 Week Unpaid FMLA, Eff. 10/20/09)

Retirement:

Rodney Merrikin, BHS, Eff. 1/29/10

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Accounts Review
Subcommittee**

Mr. Foley made the motion to accept the report of the Accounts Review Subcommittee meeting on October 20, 2009, regarding accounts for the period September 9 – October 21, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Facilities Usage &
Planning
Subcommittee**

Mr. Dobrowski made the motion to approve the report of the Facilities Usage and Planning Subcommittee meeting on October 20, 2009 regarding capital improvement needs in the Brockton Public Schools.

Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Bath made the motion to approve the report of the Policy Subcommittee meeting on October 20, 2009, regarding a discussion on Observations of Special Education Programs, Flyer distribution in the Brockton Schools and Student Residency and Enrollment procedures.

New Business

Once again, Mr. Bath sang the praises of the BHS J.R.O.T.C. regarding the event from last Saturday that was hosted at the BHS gymnasium. Mr. Bath congratulated Col. Robert Tripp and Sergeant Major Herrera.

Mr. Minichiello spoke on the Middle School soccer championship game that he attended, recently, that was played by the South and Plouffe Middle Schools. He said that the game was most exciting, and that the student, teacher, parent, and coach involvement was great. Mr. Minichiello complimented Peter Caruso, Coordinator of Physical Education, K-8.

Mr. Minichiello spoke favorably about the Angelo School Halloween Costume-Vocabulary parade. He said the event was a good combination of fun and learning.

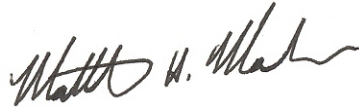
Mr. Minichiello also brought thanks from Mr. John McGarry of the Elections Commission for the use of the school facilities during voting. Mr. McGarry was pleased with the preparation of the voting places.

Mr. Foley congratulated all election winners and all those who submitted their names, as well as thanking Mayor Harrington for his four great years of service.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being the most prominent.

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.
Secretary

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