

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the auditorium of the Dr. William H. Arnone 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 7:30 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

### Hearing of Visitors

Dr. Joao Rosa addressed the School Committee this evening on his concern for the causes of suspensions and the suspension rate at Brockton High School compared to that of the state's average. Dr. Rosa also requested of the School Committee a statistical breakdown of suspensions so he can see the relationship of the Cape Verdean numbers to those of other students in the city. He said that school personnel are advising some students to attend alternative education programs. This, he said, is a family decision. He also expressed a concern over the manner in which infractions are being recorded in the schools, and asked if his concerns this evening could be included as items in future School Committee agendas.

Dr. Aminah Pilgrim addressed the School Committee this evening regarding resources, representation and cultural awareness in the Brockton Public Schools. She said that she serves as a mentor for some students in the School System, and stated that, in some cases, books are not being provided to students; they have no books to take home to do their homework. She also discussed the need for diversity in staffing the schools, and mentioned that the African American and Cape Verdean cultures are very different.

Both Drs. Pilgrim and Rosa offered their assistance to the School Department.

Mr. Ronald Matta addressed the School Committee this evening regarding a matter relating to an earlier Bid Review Subcommittee agenda item. Mayor Harrington explained that Mr. Matta had only partial information, and said that he would provide more information to Mr. Matta in the near future. Mr. Matta also expressed a concern regarding the teachers' contract.

### Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on November 17, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

### Teaching & Learning

Dr. Malone thanked Drs. Pilgrim and Rosa, and referenced his meeting with them at the School Department in the recent past.

The Superintendent then informed the School Committee that he had attended the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship event at Brockton High School on November 23<sup>rd</sup> when 245 members of the Class of 2010 were awarded scholarships for their outstanding performance on the MCAS. Dr. Malone said that he asked the scholarship recipients to *not only attend college, but to finish college* and presented students with special scholarship t-shirts. The event, he said, included an inspirational presentation by Dr. Mohler-Faria of Bridgewater State College.

Dr. Malone said that, later in the day, on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, he attended the BHS National Honor Society Induction of 61 students. He said the ideals of the National Honor Society are the pillars and values that our country is built upon, and he congratulated the inductees, once again.

Dr. Malone also informed the School Committee of the special meeting he scheduled on December 9<sup>th</sup> for systemwide administrators to hear a presentation given by president and founder of the *Research for Better Teaching* Jon Saphier.

**Student Progress  
Assessment Report/  
Plouffe Academy**

Dr. Malone called upon Virginia Lynch, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, K-5, to give the report on the implementation of standards-based report cards at the elementary level. Mrs. Lynch said that staff were in-serviced on the grading and how to input report cards, electronically. Parents were informed at PTA and PAC meetings, as well as in flyers and on the BPS Website, where a link has been made available to contact BPS with concerns and questions. Mrs. Lynch also checked with principals, and concluded that the rollout of the standards-based report cards at the elementary level is successful. She thanked Elizabeth Barry, assistant principal of the Angelo School for heading the committee on this initiative, Maureen Lovett, Director of Student Information Systems, for putting it together, electronically, and the countless staff involved in making the rollout a success.

Dr. Malone stated that the Plouffe Academy is in its first year of implementing the IB Middle Years Program, and introduced Michelle Nessralla, Principal and David Brewster, Middle Years Program (MYP) Coordinator. Ms. Nessralla said that the success of the standards-based report cards program is dependent upon the following three criteria: the alignment of the Massachusetts frameworks and the IB rubrics with the instruction and assessment in the classroom; ongoing, positive communication; and transparency among students, parents and staff.

Mr. Brewster, MYP Coordinator, described for the School Committee assessment and curriculum in an IB middle school. He said that IB offers the curriculum philosophy, but the core is the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Mr. Brewster continued to inform the School Committee in a detailed PowerPoint presentation, speaking extensively on topics, i.e., assessment, curriculum and instruction, collaborative planning, communication, grading/descriptors and goals.

Following a lengthy discussion, the School Committee thanked Ms. Nessralla and Mr. Brewster for their report.

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

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Report/Chief  
Attendance Officer**

Dr. Malone introduced Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services and Daniel Genatossio, Chief Supervisor of Attendance to give the presentation on the daily duties and responsibilities of the Chief Attendance Officer in the Brockton Public Schools. Dr. Terrasi said that Maria Quiros, attendance officer and bilingual liaison, assists Mr. Genatossio in the day-to-day operations of the BPS attendance office. He said that the Fall River school system has a student population of approximately 9,000 students and employs six attendance officers. The New Bedford school system with a student population of over 13,000, employs 10 attendance officers, and Brockton Public Schools with over 15,000 students, employs two attendance officers who work extremely hard. Dr. Terrasi then introduced Mr. Genatossio to give the presentation.

Mr. Genatossio discussed his areas of responsibility, i.e., keeper of records, home and school visits, referrals from schools, identification of attendance issues, residency checks and court involvement. Mr. Genatossio explained each category and offered examples of his experiences.

Following a brief discussion, the School Committee thanked Mr. Genatossio for his report.

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

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

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Out-of-State, Overnight trip to Virginia Beach, VA, for 60 members of the BHS Wind Ensemble and chaperones to participate in the Music Festival competition, from April 8-11, 2010.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Approval for Submission of Proposals**

Mrs. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the application for and expenditure of funds from the Nellie Mae Foundation.

Nellie Mae

Funds will be used to support the initial staffing of a new reengagement pilot in the Pathways Center at the Keith Center. The pilot is designed to offer supports to dropouts, as well as youth enrolled in the Champion and Russell schools. Brockton Schools is seeking funds of up to \$50,000.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Project YES Initiative

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the application for and expenditure of funds from the Office of MA Attorney General Project YES Initiative.

The funding helps combat childhood obesity while simultaneously putting teens to work, due to the dramatic decline in the availability of jobs for teens. Brockton Public Schools would use the funds to offer job opportunities in our own physical fitness programs, as well as community settings for older teens, especially, those enrolled in our Afternoon Academy and Evening Diploma programs.

Funds sought are up to \$80,000.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

WIB for WIA Program

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the application for and expenditure of funds from the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board for a Workforce Investment Act Program.

Funding is for the period January 1 through June 30 for candidates who are eligible under Workforce Investment Act tests. Brockton Schools propose to seek funding of up to \$70,000 to support our efforts to create work experiences for students in our alternative settings.

Dr. Malone said that this is part of the Alternative Pathways.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, 6 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Dobrowski)

**Personnel Appointments**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #9.

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 #10:

**Leaves of Absence:**

Dianne O'Brien, Arnone (8 Wk. Maternity, Eff. 3/5/10)  
Tara Weber, North Middle (12 Wk. Maternity, Eff. 2/3/10)

**Resignations:**

Jane Cowperthwaite, East Middle, Eff. 11/29/09  
Maura Donlan, MTA, West Middle, Eff. 11/20/09  
Kristine Scanlon, School Police, Eff. 11/16/09  
Stefanie Corbin, Parent Liaison, Huntington, Eff. 10/28/09  
Joanna Medina, Food Service Worker, BHS, Eff. 11/9/09

**Change in Retirement:**

Robert Hunt, Custodian, BHS  
from 7/12/2010 to 1/12/2010

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Policy Subcommittee  
Report**

Mr. Daley moved to accept the report of the Policy Subcommittee meeting on November 17, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Foley moved to approve the addition of pandemic language to the BPS Student-Parent Handbook attendance policy at all levels.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Foley moved to approve the new Brockton School Committee-Brockton Public Schools Policy EEAF, "No Idling."

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.  
Secretary

bas