

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. Sullivan; Dr. Malone

Absent: Mr. Daley

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

**Recognition of
James Blake,
President/HarborOne**

At this time, Dr. Malone recognized the efforts and generosity of Mr. Jim Blake, president of HarborOne Credit Union and guest at this evening's meeting. Mr. Blake has been a loyal supporter of the Brockton Public Schools, his most recent endeavor a generous contribution to the purchase of BHS band uniforms and his effort to bring awareness of the School Department's need to the community. Mayor Balzotti, the Superintendent and Brockton School Committee thanked Mr. Blake and gave him a standing ovation.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on November 16, 2010
- Acceptance of Community School Advisory Board Minutes of 10/13/10
- Submission of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Alignment Project RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leaves of Absences; Resignations; Retirements

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

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

- The 246 recipients of the 2010 BHS John and Abigail Adams Scholarship who were all recognized, individually (Dr. Malone provided each School Committee member a group picture of the recipients)
- School visitations and the math initiative
- The ABC World News w/Diane Sawyer taping of BHS regarding the theme, *Schools Defying the Odds*. Dr. Szachowicz said the segment might air as soon as tomorrow night, Channel 5.

BHS Graduation

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that the scheduling of the time of graduation is an operational decision. “*The School Committee*, he said, *votes on the date.*” He said that the time of 5 p.m. works best for the School System, and mentioned that he worked with the School Department’s legal counsel on the matter.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Carpenter said that, if the School Committee has jurisdiction over the date of graduation, he wanted to go back to the original date. He then made the motion to amend the graduation date from Friday, June 3, 2011 to Saturday, June 4, 2010, at 5 p.m. Mr. Carpenter requested a Roll Call vote, and Mayor Balzotti then called the Roll Call vote:

Yeas: Carpenter; Sullivan

Nays: Minichiello; Bath; Beyer; Joyce

Voted: 2-4, the motion failed

**FY’12 Budget
Forecast**

Dr. Malone stated that Mr. Petronio will give the budget forecast— a level service forecast. Dr. Malone said that, at the end of the presentation, the School Department will have a figure for what it knows will be a level service budget.

Mr. Petronio began the presentation explaining all the variables that now exist since the planning of the current budget by the School Committee. He informed the School Committee that it is very early, but the following areas have experienced increases: Personal Services: about \$5.5 million; Ordinary Maintenance: about \$1 million, both totaling approximately \$6.5 million, and \$300,000-\$350,000 in busing, transportation and crossing guard budget increases. Over all, the School Department is looking at about a \$7 million increase in level funding for next year. Mr. Petronio added that the student population has increased by approximately 350 students since the budget planning.

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that budget forecasting will now be a part of each School Committee agenda, under Unfinished Business, so that the dialogue as to where the School Department is can be continued. He said that he will keep the School Committee up to date on what he hears from the state and federal levels.

After a brief discussion regarding per pupil costs, Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the report.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Items to Refer
Subcommittees**

At this time, both Dr. Malone and Committee members did not forward any agenda items for future Subcommittee meetings.

SC Organizational Meeting

Dr. Malone stated that, in discussing the changing of the date of the School Committee's Organization meeting with legal counsel, it has been advised not to change the date due to the City Charter which states that the School Committee will hold its first meeting of the year on the first day of the new year.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Balzotti assessed that there seemed to be no interest this evening from Committee members to change the date, and announced that the Organizational Meeting of the Brockton School Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, as previously scheduled.

Superintendent Priority Schools

Dr. Malone referred to the color-coded document he previously distributed to the School Committee this evening, titled, *Superintendent Priority Schools*, which frames for the School Committee the construct of intent. The document, he said, highlights two goals: the first, the School Committee goal, *developing progress monitoring metric for underperforming schools to ensure School Committee accountability*; and the R³ *Performance Management Strategic Initiative*, looking at how we support schools that are performing at high levels and looking at those that need assistance around student achievement support.

Dr. Malone explained that he will not be using the term under-performing schools in Brockton. He will use *Superintendent Priority Schools*, and those schools will be identified using a metric around student achievement results coupled with the data that is attained through the walkthroughs/school reviews. He said that he has identified a small cohort of schools that will be managed on a tiered model of support. He then reviewed the three-tiered model, which differentiates support, based on the level of school performance.

Mr. Minichiello said the bottom line is that the students at these schools are a special population who need intervention and special resources and on-site assistance. *That is what needs to happen in order to improve those schools*, he said. Mr. Minichiello said that now is the time to figure out a strategy to move forward.

Dr. Malone said that his commitment is as strong, and he will do his best over the next several weeks to find a way to bring about interventions.

Mr. Bath said that he would like to see Ms. Saba and her staff come back in December or January to give the School Committee an update – then move to the next step.

Dr. Malone said that the caveat here is that the Huntington School is one of a couple of schools that have to be offered additional support, and Mr. Bath said that the Huntington is the only school that the School Committee voted on for a redesign plan. Dr. Malone said that he will come back with the Huntington report and districtwide indicators to be used for the Superintendent Priority Schools.

A discussion took place that included topics, i.e., staffing changes, elementary class sizes and a request for data. Mayor Balzotti said that she wanted to see Ms. Saba return on December 21st. Dr. Malone complimented the School Committee on their commitment.

**Finance
Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Minichiello, Chair, read the report of the Finance Subcommittee of December 7, 2010.

Mrs. Joyce made the motion to accept the above report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce made the motion to move forward with the next part of the BPS Emergency Capital Plan involving repairs to West and East Middle, and the Hancock and Downey Schools, and request of the Mayor to appear before the City Council at their next meeting.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Policy
Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Minichiello, Chair, read the report of the Policy Subcommittee of December 7, 2010.

Mr. Bath made the motion to accept the above report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Bath made the motion to approve the BPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Model Plan and send it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

New Business

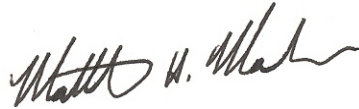
Mr. Bath stated that he would like to see the School Department host a Student Government Day, which teaches students about politics. Dr. Szachowicz agreed to discuss this at a future School Committee meeting.

Mr. Bath and SAC representative Luke Flanagan spoke about Rachel's Challenge and said that it would be a great presentation to offer at BHS. Dr. Malone said that the funding for this presentation will be discussed at a future School Committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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