

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

February 12, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre of Brockton High School at seven-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mrs. Joyce, Vice-Chair; Mr. Minichiello; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Foley; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

Mrs. Beyer moved to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee on January 8, 2008.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for January 2008.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

***Brockton Working  
for All Youths/  
Brockton's Way***

Mr. Nembirkow announced that the Brockton Public Schools has received \$492,666 from the U. S. Department of Labor to lead a strategic planning initiative to respond to the dropout challenge in this community. This initiative has been funded for two years through June 2009. It is intended to facilitate a comprehensive, communitywide strategic planning process to respond to the needs of youth who have dropped out, as well as those who are at risk of dropping out. The funding source emphasizes the need for a community solution to this challenge and seeks the development of alternative education pathways for such youth, as well as dropout prevention measures.

The Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board is a key partner in this effort, and the local Blueprints Coalition, in which the Brockton Public Schools is an active participant, serves as the Advisory Board to the grant. The Coalition has convened a Task Force, led by the BPS Partnership Coordinator, to perform the work of the project, which is underway.

Superintendent Nembirkow then introduced Ms. Shailah Stewart, Brockton Public Schools Partnership Coordinator. He said that Shailah would give a presentation *on Brockton Working for all Youth and/or Brockton's Way*, a wonderful community resource.

Shailah said that there are lots of reasons why students drop out of school. It is a pervasive problem throughout the country. There is no one solution for it, and it is a

community challenge, not a challenge that the school systems can address, alone. It is now commonly known, she said, that dropping out of school begins *before* high school.

Shailah then read a PowerPoint presentation that she had previously distributed to the School Committee.

A discussion took place following the detailed presentation. Questions asked by School Committee members were answered by Mr. Nembirkow, Dr. Terrasi and Ms. Stewart, respectively.

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

Vote: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **MY TURN Program**

The Superintendent announced that, last spring, when MY TURN gave a presentation on their programs and the School Committee voted to approve \$100,000 funding for their 2008 program, they requested a follow-up report on the number of students who graduate from two-year and four-year colleges.

At this time, Mr. Nembirkow introduced Ms. Lorraine M. Albert, Regional Director, to give the report on programs and statistics. Ms. Albert was accompanied by Ms. Barbara Duffy.

Ms. Albert began her presentation by proudly saying that five members of the MY TURN staff graduated from Brockton High School. She then reviewed a handout that she had distributed to the School Committee members regarding the events, services and curriculum of the MY TURN program. Ms. Albert also invited members of the Brockton Public Schools to come for a staff visit to see the programs in action.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **TERI Pathway to College Program**

The Education Resources Institute (TERI) is looking to expand its early college awareness programs to include students in Grades 4 and 5 in their new *Pathway to College Program*.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the expansion of the *Pathway to College Program* to Grade 4 and 5 students of the Angelo and Arnone Schools.

On the motion, questions were raised about cost and whether or not the program would be expanded to other elementary schools. Messrs. Nembirkow and Jerome responded, respectively.

**2008-2009 School Calendar**

The 2008-2009 School Calendar indicates information on the opening day of school for teachers, the school holidays and vacation periods, BHS graduation date and the last day of school for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2008-2009 School Calendar, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Following the vote, Mrs. Beyer asked for the date of the high school graduation, which is June 7, 2008.

**Essential School Health Services Grant**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the MDPH Essential School Health Services Grant in the amount of \$190,000 and, if successful, the spending of the funds.

Grant funding is used to increase nursing staff in BPS, support the computerization of health office medical data and to promote health services in Brockton's non-public schools.

Mrs. Joyce inquired about the grant funding, and Mrs. Kuplast, Supervisor of Nurses, responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Upward Bound Trio Day Field Trip**

Upward Bound (TERI College Access) has requested permission for two chaperones and 14, Grade 10 students to attend the Trio Day field trip at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Worcester, MA, on February 21 – 22, 2008. Travel will be provided by the First Student Bus Company.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above overnight trip.

Mr. Foley inquired about the cost of the trip, which is being paid for by TERI.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Personnel Appts**

Mrs. Joyce 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 (Teachers):**

Almeida, Betti, BHS	8 Wk. Maternity leave, Eff. 2/21/08
DiGesse Bille, Danna, Angelo	12 Wk. Maternity leave, Eff. 5/9/08
Ferrari, Mary, Franklin	8 Wk. Maternity leave, Eff. 4/17/08
Horsman, Jacquelyn, BHS	12 Wk. Maternity leave, Eff. 5/14/08
Johnson, Bethany, Arnone	8 Wk. Maternity Leave, Eff. 3/31/08
Klaver, Ann Marie (Nurse), PRCtr.	12 Wk. Unpd. FMLA, Eff. 1/30/08
Simon, Amy, Hancock	12 Wk. Maternity, Eff. 2/15/08

**Paraprofessionals:**

Gerry, Martha, Keith	Up to 4 Wks. Unpd. FMLA, Eff. 1/22/08
Hrenko, Joanna, BHS	12 Wk. Maternity leave, Eff. 1/25/08
McLean, Ancherre, BHS	Unpd. Extension of Maternity for remainder of school year, Eff. 1/2/08

**Resignations:**

Robbins, Shayna, Kennedy	Eff. 2/8/08
Leite, Junia, Angelo	Eff. 1/7/08
Sanchez, Migdalia, Arnone	Eff. 6/23/08

**Early Retirement:**

Gosian, Mark, Whitman	Eff. 6/30/11
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Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Accounts Review Report**

Mrs. Beyer read the report of the Accounts Review Subcommittee meeting on February 12, 2008.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Bid Review Report**

The Bid Review Subcommittee met on February 12, 2008, to discuss Contract Extensions and to make recommendations in the best interest of the Brockton Public Schools. The Bid Review report will be given at the next regular meeting of the School Committee on March 4, 2008.

**New Business**

Mrs. Joyce discussed the purpose of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force and announced its members. She said that the Task Force's first meeting was held on November 7, 2007, and is presently in its fourth month. She said that recommendations will be presented to the Superintendent and will eventually be

brought to the public. The final plan for reconfiguration will be voted on by the School Committee.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on February 26, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Crosby Administration Building conference room. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. All inquiries regarding the reconfiguration may be directed to the Co-Chairs, Prudence Buckley and James Daley.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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