

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

May 15, 2012

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; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Healy; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Sullivan

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove **Enclosure #'s 5 and 8**, *Acceptance of Donation to BPS Students from Old Colony YMCA and Approval of BHS Participation in National History Day Contest, June 10-14, 2012*. Mr. Donegan requested to remove **Enclosure #4**, *Acceptance of Chief Supervisor's Attendance Report, April 2012*.

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of Finance Subcommittee meetings on April 24 and May 1, 2012
- Minutes of Regular SC meeting on May 1, 2012
- Submission of MA Tiered System of Support RFP, and expenditure of funds
- Grade 8 Ashfield students' out-of-state trip on June 7, 2012
- Acceptance of CSAB minutes of March 14 and April 11, 2012
- BHS JROTC overnight trip, June 18-22, 2012
- Acceptance of notification of personnel action
- Bid Review Subcommittee report of May 8, 2012

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello, regarding *Enclosure # 5*, acknowledged the donation to BPS students from the Old Colony Y and expressed the School Committee's appreciation. Mrs. Joyce added that the donation is a great opportunity for the children.

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the donation, and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello, regarding *Enclosure #8*, wished BHS student Amanda Purnell success in her competition at the national finals of the National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland, from June 10-14, 2012. Amanda won the MA State Championship in the Senior Individual Exhibit category for her work, *"Take Off with Women's Rights! Sexism in Flight."*

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the student's participation in National History Day Contest, June 10-14,

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Donegan, regarding *Enclosure #4*, stated that he would like the opportunity to speak with the BPS attendance officers, and Dr. Malone said that the officers will attend the June 19, 2012 Regular Meeting of the School Committee.

Mr. Donegan then moved the acceptance of the Chief Supervisor's Attendance Report, April 2012.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

At this time, Mr. Minichiello stated that Mr. Carpenter was absent this evening due to a family obligation, and Mr. Sullivan was not feeling well.

Learning & Teaching At this time, Dr. Malone called upon Brian Rogan, Kennedy School principal, who brought with him Mr. and Mrs. Giannaros, and Mr. Michael DeChristopher, key members of the Kennedy School playground project. Mr. Rogan summarized for the Committee the grand effort that went into the playground project and named those who participated. In addition, Mr. Rogan highlighted the commitment of Mr. DeChristopher who would, at times, need to be reminded to leave the project for home!

Mr. Rogan accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from the Superintendent and Mayor. The School Committee congratulated Mr. Rogan and applauded all participants.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged both Nicole and Ernie Bethoney who were also present this evening, and Mr. Donegan acknowledged Nick Bethoney, their son, who worked very diligently with the members of the playground committee.

Dr. Malone also discussed the Reduction in Force notices that were distributed in the System; two shout-outs for BHS: Gould Award and the U.S. News and World Report bronze medal; and the continued MCAS testing, thanking the City for helping to find resources.

Hearing of Visitors Mayor Balzotti announced that two people in the audience this evening wished to address the School Committee who had not previously signed to speak. She then asked Mses. Ana Barros and Zuleica Antunes to approach the microphone.

Mses. Barros and Antunes both gave positive testimony regarding the Family Connections ESL Program at the Huntington School, and thanked the Brockton School Committee for offering the course.

Mayor Balzotti thanked both Mses. Barros and Antunes, and said, "*Public speaking is not easy, and I congratulate you both.*"

School Choice Mayor Balzotti announced that Chapter 76, Section 12B of the General Law, as amended by the Education Reform Act of 1993 and subsequent legislation, provides for a statewide School Choice Program. The law requires each School Committee in the state to admit students from other districts under the School Choice Program unless there is a vote to withdraw from the program by June 1st of each year. A vote will be taken on whether or not to participate in the School Choice Program at this meeting. A vote to withdraw will be effective for the following year, *only*. In addition, the resolution to withdraw must contain the reasons for withdrawal and must be filed with the Commissioner of Education.

The Public Hearing on School Choice was held on May 15, 2012, at 6:15 p.m., in the George M. Romm Little Theatre, at Brockton High School.

Mr. Minichiello moved to participate in School Choice Program in 2012-2013, with the same criteria that is currently in place.

On the motion, Mrs. Joyce clarified that 50 available seats at Brockton High School will be maintained, with no more than 10 seats in Grade 9. She said the current figure is 16, and there is adequate room for growth with this plan.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Ratification of MOU
Between BSC and
Brockton Education
Paraprofessionals
Assn.**

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Education Paraprofessionals Association describes the terms by which the Kennedy School paraprofessionals will make up time previously lost on October 14, 2011, due to a power outage at the school. The terms were agreed upon by said association president.

Mr. Donegan moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the above MOU.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Items to Refer to
Subcommittees**

Dr. Malone referred discussion of lunch increases to the Finance Subcommittee, and requested to have more Finance Subcommittee meetings scheduled at the May 22nd meeting.

New Business

Mr. Healy announced that the 2012 recipient of the Albert Baroncelli Award has been chosen. This year's award will be granted to Ms. Elizabeth A. Vallee on May 26, 2012.

Mr. Donegan, speaking on the Family Connections ESL Program, said that the program is an example of another generation of people who come to this country and try to assimilate our culture. He said it is important to have these programs available. *"I applaud the two individuals, Mses. Barros and Antunes, and others, along with those on the waiting list,"* he said.

Mr. Donegan, referring to Reduction in Force notices, expressed, on behalf of the School Committee, the emotion attached to the distribution of lay-off notices. *"If we can avoid lay-offs, we will,"* he said.

Mr. Robinson said that the Summer Resource Guides are now available. He encourages people to obtain the booklet and see what great things the Brockton Public Schools is offering.

Mayor Balzotti congratulated the Brockton High School Drama Club for the wonderful production, *GREASE*, this past weekend. She said Friday and Saturday performances were sold out and the auditorium was filled. She said the production was quick and just as entertaining. *"Kudos,"* she said.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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