

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. Daley; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Carpenter

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 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. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Daley then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items:

- Regular School Committee Minutes of October 18, 2011
- Regular School Committee Minutes of November 1, 2011
- October 2011 Supervisor of Attendance Report
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments., Certified; Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: LOA; Resignations; Early Retirement

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone announced that the Brockton Public Schools was not among the second cohort of six schools named Level IV schools in Massachusetts. The Raymond, Arnone and Downey schools are at the bottom of Level III category. He said that BPS will target the elementary schools, overall, and will share with the School Committee at a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting what has been learned from data at the elementary level.

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that the presentation on Standards-Based Report Cards will be given this evening, followed by any questions School Committee members may have regarding the report on registrations and assignments prepared by Soraya de Barros, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center.

Mr. Minichiello said that the School Committee values the work and commitment of the staff of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center. *"The Committee values the staff thinking outside the box; it doesn't go unnoticed,"* he said.

Mr. Minichiello also wanted to convey to Principals June Saba and Kelly Silva and their staff members the efforts and good work of the leadership and staff ongoing at the Huntington and East Middle Schools. The School Committee expressed their appreciation for the commitment shown by the staff to the students of both schools.

Standards-Based Report Cards

At this time, Dr. Malone introduced Principal Kevin Karo and Associate Principal Christine Olansen-Rilli of South Middle School to give the presentation on Standards-Based Report Cards, K-8.

The presenters gave a PowerPoint Presentation previously provided in hard copy to School Committee members. The report discussed the changing to the Standards-Based Report Card: its advantages to students, parents, teachers and administrators, as well as the bridge created between the elementary and high school level which allows for more accurate placement at the high school. Growth, planning, research and implementation of the Standards-Based Report Card at South Middle School from 2006 to present was also highlighted, all which will result in a review and edit in the spring of 2012.

Ms. Olansen-Rilli also gave mention and thanks to the following school systems:

- Middletown Public Schools, RI
- Madison Metropolitan School District, WI
- Rockdale County Public Schools, GA
- Montgomery County Public Schools, MD
- Aurora Public Schools, CO
- San Mateo-Foster City School District, San Francisco, CA
- Ellis Middle School, Austin, MN

A special thanks went to Principal Kathleen Berglund of the Ellis Middle School, with whom Ms. Olansen-Rilli often speaks.

The report also discussed the criteria for assessments, i.e., course and social responsibility grades. A grade of “F” is not included in the Standards-Based Report Card, because, as stated by Ms. Olansen-Rilli, “*It’s not possible to know nothing.*” A knowledge grade is given based on a variety of assessments, and no extra credit is given to improve the grade.

Mr. Karo said that students are invited to parent-teacher conferences. As indicated in the report: *The students, their academic achievements and their personal responsibility, become the center of the conversation.*

South Middle School teachers Jessica Sweeney and Michael Robinson spoke on the Standards-Based Report Card, stating, for example, that they “... *are receiving more communications from parents and students...*,” and “...*the (report card) has totally transformed the school environment.*”

Dr. Kathleen Moran, Interim Executive Director for Human Resources and former Brookfield Elementary principal, gave the *Elementary Standards-Based Report Card Update* report. She passed along a commendation from Elizabeth Barry, Executive

Director for Learning & Teaching, PreK-8, who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, to the South Middle School administration and staff for their good work.

Following the presentations, questions and comments were made by Committee members regarding the following topics:

- assessment
- improved communication
- better understanding of students' work by parents
- how the process was rolled out for parents
- document provided to parents on specific questions to ask (also on Website)
- format for parent-teacher conference
- parental concerns re moving from the letter grade model

School Committee members thanked Mr. Karo and Ms. Olansen-Rilli for the presentation and Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Robinson for sharing their experiences.

Mr. Daley then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report.

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

2011-12 Registrations & School Assignments

Director of School Registration and Parent Information Center Soraya de Barros was called upon by Dr. Malone to answer any questions School Committee members may have regarding the 2011-2012 K-12 Registrations and School Assignments report previously given to the Committee. Ms. de Barros said that 4,555 registrations and transfers were processed for the new school year. She stated that, on one day during the registration period, there were as many as 226 parents in the School Registration Office. She credited her staff, school administrators, administrative assistants, teachers, Jane Feroli, parent specialist and parent liaisons for all the good work successfully completed for the production of her report, and, specifically: Ana Maria Mendes, Gina Mars, Mercedes Tully, Crystal Ahearn, Maria Veiga, Norma McWilliams, Vannette Bastien, Gale Henrikson-Lutz, Mary Guest and Peggy Killea— some of whom attended this evening's School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Joyce thanked Ms. de Barros and her staff for their good work. Dr. Malone invited School Committee members to visit the Center during the registration process to see what actually goes on.

Mr. Daley then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report.

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

MSBA Update

Dr. Malone called on Michael Thomas, COO, to give the Committee an update report on the MSBA work in the School System.

Mr. Thomas said that the good weather has brought about good work. He discussed the work completed thus far at the North Middle School, saying that a part of the building was condemned by the superintendent of buildings two and a half years ago. "*North is holding their holiday concert,*" he said. Mr. Thomas updated the School Committee on the work performed at: BHS, West Middle and the Hancock Schools, as well as the issues regarding the work at the Downey School.

School Committee members inquired about: the inspection process; East Middle School; the Davis and Raymond Schools (going back out to bid); the replacement of boilers at North Middle School; whether or not Mr. Thomas had been on the repaired roofs; and Mr. Thomas' opinion of the quality of work completed. Mr. Thomas answered all concerns and responded favorably on the work.

Dr. Malone said that has done an outstanding job and is out in the System every day on the projects.

Bldg. Naming Report

Mrs. Joyce read the report of the Building Naming Subcommittee meeting on November 15, 2011, regarding the naming of the BHS pool and track.

Mr. Daley moved to accept the report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mayor Balzotti announced that the naming of the BHS pool and track will be referred to the December 6, 2011 Regular Meeting School Committee agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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