

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; 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 7:01 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. Mr. Minichiello requested the **Enclosure #5, Acceptance of Donation to the Champion High School by School on Wheels** be removed.

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

- Regular Meeting Minutes of the SC on September 7, 2011
- Special Meeting Minutes of the SC on August 3, 2011
- Policy Subcommittee Minutes on September 21, 2011
- Out-of-State Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team trip on October 15, 2011
- Out-of-State Girls' Cross Country Team trip on October 15, 2011
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: LOA's; Resignation

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello read the information regarding the donation to the Champion High School from *School on Wheels*, and moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the donation and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone said that school is now in its second month and learning and teaching is strong for teachers and students. He said that he has visited all schools, and continues to address operational needs.

RTN Presentation

Mr. Darian Henricks, CEO of the Robert R. Taylor Network, Inc., and student interns Romi Francois Alexandre, Jane G. Canals, Deborah Salami and Loic Assobmo attended the meeting this evening. The student speakers gave a PowerPoint presentation on the RTN City of Brockton Proposal, seeking endorsements and "next steps" from the School Committee. The purpose of the presentation was to explain the RTN Network and to define

what the Network would like to do in Brockton.

Following the presentation School Committee members asked questions and made comments, i.e.,

- Is the program open to students of all races?
- Is the program open to students with disabilities?
- What does a Taylor Lab consist of?
- A good program, but it seems more of an extracurricular activity or club.
- Have you reached out to the Metro South Chamber of Commerce?
- This fits the perfect description for extended day.
- There is no lab space at BHS.
- Caution must be used regarding any kind of political nature.
- BPS is limited this year with available funding.
- Would like to see a better list of stakeholders and what they would bring into this.
- The SC needs to see research.
- BHS would not be the receptacle, but another place, perhaps, downtown.

Dr. Malone said that he thought the presentation was excellent, but agreed that BHS is not the right location. He said that he appreciated the students' tone and professionalism. It was decided that the School Committee would give consideration to providing a letter of endorsement given that their concerns/questions regarding the proposal were answered by the Network, and, also, if the School System vetted the program. A Curriculum Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled upon receipt of this information.

**Enrollment Report/
Kindergarten
Class Size**

Dr. Malone introduced Soraya DeBarros, Director of the Student Registration-Parent Information Center, and Mr. Jerome to give the report on enrollment. Ms. DeBarros presented the School Committee with the October enrollment, which lists a total of 16,293 students – an increase of 360 from last year.

Mr. Jerome said that the report was “official.” The final report will be given to School Committee at the end of October and will include the almost 200 outside placement students.

Some of the concerns that were raised by School Committee members were regarding:

- No-shows, and how they impact the enrollment report
- The over populated south zone and concern for overcapacity schools
- Use of other schools to offset classroom sizes
- Incentives for under-chosen schools
- The impact of RIF on class size

Mr. Jerome responded to all inquiries, and said that the Downey kindergarten class will not only offset regular education students coming into the south zone, but will also alleviate the SEI rush at the Huntington, Davis, and Brookfield Schools. It was opened as a combination SEI and regular kindergarten classroom.

Mr. Minichiello said, *“At some point, we have to plan for the future of this area.”* Mr. Jerome said that he agreed.

Mr. Jerome said that new students are coming in from foreign countries, and there is no access to that data. He questioned, while planning, that the Downey School be considered a city-wide zone. Mr. Jerome said that that whole backbone of reconfiguration at the elementary level was to allow full-day kindergarten in the elementary schools. He said, *“If you look at the numbers, class size this year is better than last.”*

Finance Report

Aldo Petronio, Executive Director for Finance Services, distributed a first quarter comparison report for the years 2010 and 2011, as well as an overtime report for the periods 7/1/2010-9/30/2010 and 7/1/2011-9/30/2011. The overtime report was provided to School Committee at this time, but will not be discussed until the October 18th meeting.

Mrs. Joyce inquired about energy costs and the look ahead. Mr. Petronio discussed the monies that will be used to pay electric light bills for the schools, and said that Mr. Thomas had men fill the warehouse from money that was spent up front.

Capital Improvement

Michael Thomas, Executive Director of Operations and School Administration, gave an update on capital improvement in the System. Mr. Thomas said that roof work began last week, and the Hancock School is 25% completed. He said that rain stops the work, but the make up days are on Saturdays and Sundays. Work on BHS will begin next week, and the OPM is working well with the principals. No equipment will be brought in during arrival nor dismissal times. Boilers for North and East Middle Schools will begin in November, 2011, and will be replaced with temporary units, with the permanent units to be installed during February 2012 school vacation.

Mr. Thomas said that Stadium field is fully completed, and Mayor Balzotti and Dr. Malone have signed off on the Stadium completion so that the warranty can now kick in. The official grand-reopening of the Stadium will be held on Friday, October 21, 2011.

Katherine Craven

At this time, Mayor Balzotti recognized Katherine Craven, who recently accepted the position of running the University of Massachusetts' school building authority, implementing the college system's recently announced \$3.1 billion capital plan. While the Mayor wishes Ms. Craven much success, she also recognized that the news is a tremendous loss to the City. *“She will be missed,”* Mayor Balzotti said.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello discussed what some parents qualified as inequitable regarding a BPS notice dated September 2011, highlighting additional assistance for No Child Left Behind for improvement of MCAS scores which is offered to students in free and reduced lunch status. Dr. Malone acknowledged this, and said he would respond at a later time.

Mrs. Beyer commented on the dedication ceremony for Sgt. Douglas A. Weddleton, who was killed in the line of duty, which was held at the Shaw's Center at 11 a.m. today. Mrs. Beyer said the ceremony was very touching.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Secretary

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