

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. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Jerome, Secretary

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 asked to remove the following items:

- Item F - Approval of the Creeden Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Item J - Acceptance of School on Wheels Donation to Champion High School
- Item K - Acceptance of Walmart Foundation Grant for Champion High School

Mr. Robinson moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items from the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of Organizational Meeting of SC on January 2, 2013
- B. Approval of Minutes of Special SC Meeting on December 18, 2012
- C. Acceptance of CSAB Minutes of November 19, 2012
- D. Approval of December, 2012 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report
- E. Approval of BHS Field Trip to Nashua, NH for Upward Bound Students
- G. Authorization to Submit and Expenditure of Funds –DESE FY'13
Competitive Summer Work and Learn Program
- H. Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified, Non-Certified
- I. Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence, Resignations

Voted: to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, unanimously.

Mr. Minichiello recognized the new scholarship established in memory of Bob Creeden, and thanked the family for their generosity. **Mr. Minichiello then moved to approve the scholarship.**

Voted: to approve the Creeden Memorial Scholarship Fund for inclusion in the 2013 BHS Scholarship book, unanimously.

Mr. Minichiello recognized the *School on Wheels donation of \$500.00* to the Champion High School in order to purchase bus passes for students, and thanked the organization for the generous donation. **Mr. Minichiello then moved to accept the donation from School on Wheels to Champion High School.**

Voted: to accept the donation from School on Wheels, unanimously.

Mr. Minichiello recognized teacher Kathleen Kibbey for applying for, and subsequently being awarded, a Walmart Foundation Grant in the amount of \$600.00 to be used to purchase an iPad for the special education class. He also thanked the Walmart Foundation for their generosity. **Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the grant from the Walmart Foundation.**

Voted: to accept the Walmart Foundation Grant, unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jerome asked Mrs. Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching preK-8, to update the Committee on activities in the Learning and Teaching Department. Mrs. Barry said that she would like to give regular updates to the Committee to keep them informed.

Citywide Professional Development - Mrs. Barry explained that citywide professional development workshops have been brought back due to the declining student achievement scores, and have been very well received by the teachers. Discussion followed, and Mrs. Barry responded to questions from the Committee regarding instructors at these trainings, how it is determined which grade level teachers will receive training; Mrs. Joyce said that she hears regularly from teachers who say that they appreciate these training and would like to have more of them.

Assessment Schedule - Mrs. Barry included, for the School Committee's information, the calendar of upcoming testing dates. WIDA Access (the new, state-mandated assessment for English Language Learners in grades K-12 that replaces the former MELA-O and MEPA), Iowa Test of Basic Skills, and the MCAS testing dates have been scheduled. A brief questions and answer period ensued. Mrs. Barry explained that this is the first year of using the WIDA Access assessment, and she said she would like to revisit this after the assessment has been completed with more complete information for the Committee.

Mr. Minichiello asked Mrs. Barry her thoughts on iPads for students in school; at what grade level did she think that iPads would be useful in the classroom; Mr. Jerome responded that there are some middle and high schools that are using them; he would like to get more information and forward it to the Committee.

Items to Refer to To Subcommittee

On this topic, Mr. Jerome began by saying that after the first of the year, items that have not been resolved need to be brought back up for discussion.

Items from Finance Subcommittee meetings that still need to be discussed are: *non-certified employee raises, non-union administrator salary ranges, and recycling*. He asked the Committee to consider a finance subcommittee meeting soon; January 22nd was suggested. Mr. Jerome said that his office will confirm with the Committee. He suggested that the recycling issue could be held off for a subsequent subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Jerome stated that there are still items from the Safety-Security-Transportation subcommittee that need to be discussed - primarily *finalization of changes to the BHS graduation and discussion about election day procedures, especially since there will be four elections held this year*.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Jerome addressed the issue of chain of command, he now serves as Interim Superintendent while continuing to maintain his Deputy Superintendent responsibilities. He said that he will still rely on Mr. Thomas, who is reachable at the high school when he is not in the Central office, and he added that the *Executive Team* that is in place at Central works very well together, they will be utilized where and when it is necessary.

On the matter of the organizational plan, Mr. Jerome said that he is not yet ready to discuss this, he would like to have another 30 – 45 days in the interim position to better assess the needs of the system. He said that at this point he will focus mainly on his responsibilities as Deputy Superintendent. Mr. Minichiello agreed that this was a reasonable statement and asked Mr. Jerome to stay in communication with the Committee.

Mr. Carpenter called the Committee's attention to the matter of the hiring of three additional school police officers, which was in process but was placed on hold due to budget restraints last year. He said that the timing has now changed; because of an upcoming vacancy in the department it would be a good time to fill all three of the positions. For budget purposes, only two positions would require additional funding, the third would fill a vacancy. He felt that the hiring of these officers should be done so that they are present when school is in session. Mr. Minichiello suggested that this be discussed more in-depth at the upcoming Finance Subcommittee meeting.

New Business

Superintendent Search Process

Mr. Glenn Koocher from MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees), addressed the Committee about the Superintendent Search Process. He distributed two handouts, "Key Questions and Decisions for Brockton School Committee", and "Looking for a Leader". During his presentation he addressed decisions that the Committee will need to make before beginning the search, different ways of conducting a search, factors that can determine the number of candidates that will apply, and a suggested timeline beginning in February with the possibility of having a Superintendent selected by June, as well as other pertinent information.

Mr. Koocher stated that Brockton will face some difficulties because there are already over 50 superintendent vacancies in the state this year. A question and answer period ensued.

The Committee thanked Mr. Koocher for his thorough presentation, and agreed that they would need some time to digest all of the information they received.

Mr. Carpenter moved that the superintendent search be placed on the February 12, 2013 School Committee Meeting Agenda for deliberation and a decision on the direction for this search.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

40th Anniversary Bilingual Department Gala – Mr. Minichiello expressed his appreciation for the planning and preparation that made this a wonderful, well-attended event; he said it was encouraging to hear students testifying about their positive

experience with respect to the bilingual program, as well as the many other speakers. It is noteworthy to report that the proceeds from this event go to the Lou Capporiccio Foundation and are used to help students in the bilingual program at Brockton High School. Mr. Capporiccio was an educator in the bilingual program who passed away.

BHS Accreditation Survey - Mr. Donegan appealed to parents of BHS students to complete the surveys that are now available, stressing that this is an important component of the accreditation process that Brockton High School is undergoing.

Mr. Donegan then asked Mr. Michael Thomas, Executive Director of Operations, to update the Committee on school safety measures that Brockton has taken in light of recent events; Mr. Thomas responded.

Lastly, Mr. Donegan felt it was important to raise the issue of replacing the Director of Special Education. Mr. Jerome responded that the position will become vacant on January 18th, and discussion has begun on the matter; Mr. Minichiello clarified that discussion is still in the brainstorming stage.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John R. Jerome
Interim Superintendent

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