

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting November 7, 2012
The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Theatre at Brockton High School, at seven o'clock.

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

Absent: Mayor Balzotti

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

In Mayor Balzotti's absence, Mr. Minichiello, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items for discussion. Mrs. Joyce asked to remove Enclosure 11A, *Approval of Plouffe Academy Trip to Washington, DC, June 13-17, 2013*. Mr. Carpenter asked to remove Enclosure #6, *Approval of Minutes of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee Meeting on October 11, 2012*.

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

- Minutes of Regular Meeting of School Committee on October 16, 2012
- CSAB Minutes of September 12, 2012
- New and Continuing Home Education Requests SY 2012-2013
- Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting Report of October 18, 2012
- Accounts Review Subcommittee Meeting Report of October 18, 2012
- Minutes of Policy Subcommittee Meeting on October 11, 2012
- Minutes of Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on October 4, 2012
- Minutes of Finance Subcommittee Meeting on October 23, 2012
- Notification of Personnel Appoints: Certified and Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence, Resignations

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

In reference to **Enclosure 11A**, Mrs. Joyce asked the following questions:

- What is the responsibility of the chaperones provided by the tour company?
- What level of contact will these chaperones have with our students,
- What type of background checks are done for these chaperones; will some sort of verification be provided?
- Will the students be required to attend school on the day they return?
- Have parents been made fully aware that there will be chaperones provided by the tour company that will be working on this trip?

Ms. Nessralla, Principal of the Plouffe Academy, responded. Mr. Carpenter asked how students were selected, he felt that the cost would exclude some students from

participating. Ms. Nessralla agreed to come back to the School Committee with more information about the agency-provided chaperones, including verification of proper background checks, the name of the bus company they intend to use, and information/clarification about the ability of students to raise funds for the trip.

Mr. Carpenter moved to take the matter under advisement, and bring it back to a future meeting for further discussion.

Further discussion ensued. Dr. Malone stated that in his experience in other school systems, there are school-sponsored and non-school-sponsored trips. Mr. Jerome clarified the difference between the two. Mr. Carpenter said he would be more comfortable with this trip if it was not school-sanctioned. Mr. Minichiello expressed to the Committee that there has already been much positive feedback from parents and students in the planning of this trip.

Voted: to take the matter under advisement for discussion at a future Meeting, 6 – 1 (Mr. Minichiello opposed)

Mr. Carpenter removed **Enclosure #6**, because one of the topics discussed was the Brockton High School graduation and he felt the public should know that the School Committee is looking at all of the issues surrounding graduation, in the planning for June's event. There were a few problems that occurred last year, including traffic congestion and public safety issues; these were addressed at the subcommittee meeting and some changes have been proposed.

Mr. Carpenter then moved to approve the minutes of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee meeting of October 11, 2012.

Mrs. Joyce stated that as Chair of the Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee, she also wanted the public to know that they are working very hard to make changes to improve the process; suggestions from the Brockton Police Department have also been taken into consideration.

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

Dr. Malone called on Dr. Ethan Cancell, Associate Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation, to give the *Data Presentation*. Dr. Cancell gave a power point presentation and addressed the new accountability system, PPI--Progress Performance Initiative. He also noted the following changes from the state:

- Science is now part of accountability system
- The state will transition to the new PAARC assessment in 2014
- The state is now ranking schools according to percentiles

Dr. Cancell highlighted the consistent growth in grade 10 scores, improvements at the middle school level, the gains at East Middle and Huntington Elementary schools due to the investment Brockton has made in these designated underperforming schools, and also areas that need to be addressed, particularly student achievement at the elementary level. He said that the decision by the

Superintendent's Report

School Committee two years ago to invest in those two underperforming schools has paid off with measurable growth at these schools.

Dr. Szachowicz, Principal of Brockton High School, answered questions about the grade 10 scores that were presented, and Mrs. Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching K-8, responded to questions about improving elementary student achievement and growth.

Dr. Cancell said that although he had prepared the report requested by the Committee comparing male/female achievement data, he felt it would be better presented at a future meeting. Dr. Malone suggested that a second presentation is warranted and they would be able to do this sometime during the December-January timeframe. Mr. Healy asked for more data to be extrapolated, as well. The Committee thanked Dr. Cancell for his presentation.

Facilities Update

Mr. Thomas reported on the status of the upgrade at the Raymond and Davis Schools; the new boilers at North and East middle schools are up and running and he hopes they will show substantial energy savings; all roofing projects are complete (eight schools); the window installation project at BHS is still a major concern. He feels it will be difficult for the contractor to meet the December 31st deadline as stated in the contract, but that daily fines will begin each day after that until the work is completed. A Facilities Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for September 15th to discuss the reopening of the B.B. Russell School—cost, use, etc.

Mrs. Joyce said that this was the first year schools were closed for voting; she asked Mr. Thomas what the response was. Mr. Thomas said all reports were that it was a good decision. Mrs. Joyce and Mr. Robinson both noticed that polling stations in some schools were put in rooms that were too small, and some were located in the lobbies which, with the weather as it was, might have been better located elsewhere in the building (people were lined up outside and the poll workers were exposed to the cold from the constant opening and closing of the doors). Mr. Thomas said he will look into this for the next time.

New Business

Mr. Sullivan wanted to acknowledge the generous donation of between \$300 and \$400 worth of school supplies, plus 300 bottles of antibacterial hand sanitizer, to the Raymond School. He said that Mr. Jim Mahoney is the district manager for Walgreens in Brockton, and this is the second donation from Mr. Mahoney this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Matthew H. Malone, Secretary

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