

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Green Cafeteria 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, no items were requested.

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

- Minutes of Regular School Committee Meeting on January 15, 2013
- Acceptance of Minutes of Finance Subcommittee meeting on January 22, 2013
- Acceptance of the Accounts Review Subcommittee Minutes from January 10, 2013
- Acceptance of CSAB Minutes of December 12, 2012
- Acceptance of Minutes of Safety/Security/Transportation Meeting – Feb. 5, 2013
- Acceptance of January, 2013 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence, Resignations
- BHS Student Council Overnight Field Trip to Hyannis, MA
- BHS Science Department Deep Sea Fishing Trip

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

Communication

Request to Use Schools as Polling Locations

Mr. Thomas informed the School Committee that at the previous Safety/Security/Transportation subcommittee meeting, election procedures were discussed. He stated that he has worked with Mr. McGarry to minimize voter access within the buildings, while keeping the polls easily accessible to the public.

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allow the Elections Commission to use the following schools as polling locations for the 2013 election cycle: Kennedy, Huntington, Hancock, Gilmore, Davis, Downey, Brookfield and Raymond Schools, South, West, East, Ashfield and North Middle Schools.

Voted, to approve the motion, unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

RETELL

Mr. Jerome acknowledged the hard work and good collaboration between our bilingual, learning and teaching, and communications departments in the effort to provide RETELL training to staff. This training is now required for all teachers who work with

English Language Learners in Massachusetts, and the school department has worked closely with the BEA and the DESE to make these trainings accessible to staff; he was pleased to report a positive response from the teachers, as well.

Classroom Usage/Projected Enrollment

Mr. Jerome summarized the 2013 Classroom Space data chart; growth seems to be slowing down a bit at the elementary level; the Parent Registration Center has already started pre-registering kindergarten students; by the middle of April we will have a better idea of what the numbers will look like, compared to past years. Brockton now has over 17,000 students enrolled and he is pleased with the way the school department accommodates all of the students.

School Start Delay

Mr. Jerome gave a brief update on the one-hour delay Brockton will have tomorrow, after three days of no school due to the storm. The late start will push back the elementary arrival until after traffic rush hour, as well as allow the high school and middle school students who walk to school to be walking during the daylight. He has asked for more police presence, including using the flashing blue lights to alert drivers. The Community Schools Extended Day program will *not delay* their opening; they will open at 7 a.m. as usual and be available for any students arriving early. These students will be brought inside the buildings to keep them safe and Chartwells can provide breakfast. He has also asked staff from Central Administration to be at the schools during arrival and dismissal times.

Mr. Sullivan asked for clarification of whether the one-hour delay and the 7:00 a.m. opening of extended day will be in place for the rest of the week, Mr. Jerome responded yes. Mrs. Joyce asked that daily notification for parents continue, via the same methods (connect ed, television), to avoid any confusion about the school schedule.

2013-14 School Calendar

Mr. Jerome stated that this is a “first read” of the draft 2013-14 school calendar; a brief discussion ensued.

ITEMS TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Carpenter stated that he would like to discuss handicap access at school buildings at the next Facilities Usage Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Jerome said he would provide that information before the March 6th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent Search Process

Mr. Minichiello gave a brief recap of the January 15, 2013 presentation by Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), in regard to the direction the Committee will take to begin the search for a new superintendent. He then stated that the last three superintendents that Brockton has hired, spanning over 15 years, have all been hired from outside of the school district. He then gave his recommendation that the School Committee first do an internal search, looking at candidates from within the system. He said that the Committee would still have the option to do an external search if that is not successful.

Mrs. Joyce said that the Committee should decide what skill sets and qualifications they will look for in the new superintendent, and consider reassessing the residency

requirement. Mr. Carpenter stated that for him, residency in Brockton is a non-negotiable item. He also felt that the focus of the Committee tonight would be to decide what direction they will take to begin the search. Mr. Robinson questioned whether the internal search would make public the names of those who apply; he stated that if applicants were to be made public then it should be so stated on the job posting.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he is in full agreement with starting the search internally, and he would like to see this search process started right away.

As a result of the discussion, **Mr. Minichiello moved that the School Committee post an internal job posting with respect to the position of Superintendent, whereby said opening is posted for the two-week timeframe recommended by MASC, and the Committee does so with the guidance of MASC, as well as our own legal counsel, in order to comply with all applicable laws and requisites, and do so within the next week.** The motion was seconded.

More discussion was held about the internal posting of the position: that expectations should be listed so applicants will not be “going in blind”, if the process will not be confidential it should be made clear on the ad, and how the initial applications will be reviewed before School Committee interviews are held. Mayor Balzotti suggested that there might be an existing ad for the position of Superintendent which would be helpful to the Committee; Mr. Jerome said that he would look into this and send the Committee any information that is available.

After discussion, Mr. Minichiello amended the motion to include **“that the Committee considers posting the ad the week following February vacation (week beginning February 25, 2013).”** The motion was amended, and seconded. The vote on the motion was then taken.

Voted, to approve the motion, unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Healy stated that, with respect to Mr. Jerome’s report about enrollment and classroom space, the Boulders apartment complex which is in his ward (6), is planning to add 156 more units.

Mayor Balzotti thanked all city residents for their assistance and cooperation during the storm and cleanup process—adhering to the parking ban, assistance at the shelter, and continued patience during the extensive cleanup efforts from this storm that brought two feet of snow in a 24-hour period.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John R. Jerome
Interim Superintendent

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