

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Theatre at Brockton High School.

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

Absent: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Sullivan

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

In Mayor Balzotti's absence, Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Presentation of Plaque to Bernardi Motors

Mr. Jerome invited Mrs. Kathleen Smith, Director of Community Schools, to come forward to make the presentation. Mrs. Smith explained the partnership between the Brockton Community Schools and Bernardi Motor Group, resulting in the generous donation of a car with a three-year lease for the Driver Education Program. Mrs. Smith then presented a plaque to the representatives from Bernardi, including Ms. Amy Rossi, Vice President, in appreciation of the donation and their partnership with the schools.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it.

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

- *Approval of Minutes of May 7, 2013 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Approval of Minutes of March 26 and March 28, 2013 Special Meetings*
- *Approval of Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting Report of May 8, 2013*
- *Approval of Policy Subcommittee Minutes of May 8, 2013*
- *Approval of Finance Subcommittee Minutes of May 14, 2013*
- *Approval of Report of Chief Supervisor of Attendance for April, 2013*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: non-certified*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: LOA, Resignation*
- *Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

New BPS Diploma Pathways

Dr. Terrasi, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel, gave a power point presentation on two new Brockton diploma "pathways", one at the Edison Academy and one at the Pathways Center at the Keith School. These new diploma pathways have been designed taking into account the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) suggestions for alternative education; they are competency-based rather than based on Carnegie units or time measurement. Dr. Terrasi acknowledged the

many staff members from the Edison Academy and the Pathways Center who worked to develop these diploma programs. He said that they have worked with the DESE and Massasoit Community College, and are now bringing this to the School Committee for approval. Dr. Terrasi highlighted that in these new programs the students will be able to complete the curriculum requirements for college readiness or career readiness in more flexible and non-traditional learning environments.

A brief question and answer period followed and members expressed their enthusiasm about these new pathway offerings. Questions were asked about whether students at Brockton High would be able to access some of the components, particularly the ability to complete the developmental “college readiness” courses. Mr. Carpenter asked whether community service was a requirement; Dr. Terrasi responded that these pathways are still in a state of development and, at this point it is not, but it is a consideration for the future. In response to questions, Dr. Terrasi clarified that, if approved, the new diplomas would be awarded to this year’s graduates who have fulfilled the requirements; these students will be a part of the regular BHS graduation ceremony and wear the same caps and gowns as all other graduates.

Mr. Robinson moved to accept the report from Dr. Terrasi and approve the two diploma programs as presented.

The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

PBIS Update

Mr. Jerome invited Mrs. Elizabeth Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching PreK – 8, to address the School Committee with respect to the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports) initiative currently in use in the Brockton Public Schools.

Mrs. Barry invited Mr. Vincent Cerce, Department Head of Therapeutic Support, Mr. Ryan Powers, Principal of the Baker School, Ms. Colleen Proudler, Principal of the Arnone School, and Dr. Adam Feinberg from the May Center, to assist with the presentation. Listed below are a few of the highlights addressed during the power point presentation:

- *All elementary and K-8 schools are now implementing PBIS (Mrs. Barry)*
- *Because PBIS is staff-driven, 80% of staff must be in agreement in order to implement in schools (Mr. Cerce)*
- *Positive reinforcement is a major tool in guiding the school (Ms. Proudler)*
- *Expectations for students are clearly stated; students, staff and parents know what is expected of them (Mr. Powers)*
- *Parents are provided with concise behavioral guidelines (Mr. Powers)*
- *Additional supports and provided for “Tier 2” at-risk students (Ms. Proudler)*
- *The “SWIS” data reports, which compare previous and current year office referrals, clearly show that behavior referrals to the office in PBIS schools are trending down, translating to an increase in time on learning because students are remaining in the classroom.*

A question and answer period followed, during which Committee members expressed their appreciation for this type of comprehensive, positive behavior plan. Mr. Minichiello thanked Mrs. Barry for the informative presentation.

School Choice

Mr. Minichiello announced that Chapter 76, Section 12B of the General Law, as amended by the Education Reform Act of 1993 and subsequent legislation, provides for a statewide School Choice Program. The law requires each School Committee in the state to admit students from other districts under the School Choice Program *unless* there is a vote to withdraw from the program by June 1st of each year. A vote will be taken on whether or not to participate in the School Choice Program at this meeting. A vote to withdraw will be effective for the following year, *only*. In addition, the resolution to withdraw must contain the reasons for withdrawal and must be filed with the Commissioner of Education.

The public hearing on School Choice was held on May 21, 2013, at 6:15 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theater at Brockton High School.

Mr. Minichiello reported that during the hearing the Committee discussed expanding the current policy to incorporate the Edison Academy into the language of the policy. With regard to the vote, Mr. Minichiello clarified that *taking no action* at this point would mean that Brockton will automatically continue to participate in the School Choice program for the following year and would allow the Committee to thoroughly discuss and vet the current policy to properly make any changes to it.

Mr. Robinson moved to table the vote on School Choice to the next Regular School Committee meeting, to enable the School Committee to discuss expanding the policy to include language with regard to Edison Academy.

Voted, to approve the motion; unanimous.

Superintendent's FY 2013-2014 School Department Budget

Mr. Jerome provided an update on the status of the FY2014 budget; he will send a prioritized list of additional positions to School Committee members prior to the Finance meeting on May 29th and he asked the Committee to please look at the budget again in preparation for Wednesday's meeting. He stated that he has not received final numbers from the Mayor's office, but expects this by the end of this week. Prioritizing needs will help us set the course and hopefully wrap the budget up at the June 5th scheduled meeting.

BHS Principal Search

Mr. Jerome brought the School Committee up-to-date:

- There are roughly 33 candidates, of which four are internal
- The decision was made to have a panel of 10 – 15 people, including two school committee members, a parent, representatives from Central offices, BHS; members have not yet been identified
- Once they have the panel in place, protocols will be established for conducting the interviews, including how many members of the panel need to be present during interviews, etc.

Mr. Jerome said that his goal is to select the principal by the 2nd week in July, if not sooner, beginning the interviews in the middle of June. The panel will recommend three candidates; at that point he and Mrs. Smith, the Superintendent elect, will interview and make the selection.

New Business

Approval of Building Naming Policy Draft

Mr. Minichiello began the discussion by saying that there is some language regarding ad hoc committees in the draft that he felt needed more discussion. Mr. Carpenter agreed and stated his intention was that the draft was to be discussed at a policy subcommittee meeting for further review and action *before* being brought forward for final approval.

Mr. Carpenter then moved that the Draft Building Naming Policy, BPS Policy FF, be referred back to a Policy Subcommittee meeting for further review and action with the understanding that it be done expeditiously.

Voted: to accept the recommendation, unanimous.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Mr. Carpenter referred the issue of a past practice which allows teachers, who do not reside in Brockton to enroll their children in the Brockton schools, to a Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Minichiello referred the issue of the Superintendent Elect’s contract to the Superintendent’s Contract Subcommittee.

Mr. Robinson referred the recently updated *Wellness Policy* to Policy Subcommittee for discussion and a recommendation.

The Draft Building Naming Policy was referred back to a Policy Subcommittee meeting for further review.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello said that the Legislative Luncheon held last year between BPS and our legislative delegation was very successful, and that after discussion with Mr. Jerome he recommends that the Committee schedule another luncheon this year, for the second week in June. He said that he will be in touch with each member.

Mr. Minichiello asked the Committee to consider the following dates for the summer School Committee meetings: July 16 and August 13th.

Mr. Donegan moved to accept the recommendation of July 16, 2013, and August 13, 2013, as the dates for the summer Regular School Committee meetings, at 7:00 p.m.

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged the ROTC dinner he attended, which he said showcased the maturity of the students who participate in the program. He also congratulated Colonel Tripp, who will retire in September, 2013 and said that it will be a tough task to fill his shoes.

Lastly, Mr. Minichiello announced that the Student Representative to the School Committee, Janet Lopes, has attended her last meeting; he thanked her for her service and said she has done a fine job.

Following this announcement, Mr. Minichiello raised the issue of a request he received from a BHS senior to expand the number of tickets graduates are allowed. Ms. Lopes shared the concerns that have been brought to her by the student body.

A discussion ensued, Committee members were in agreement that they did not want to increase the number of tickets issued. Mr. Thomas, Interim Principal of Brockton High School, stated that there are a number of graduates who have indicated they will not need to purchase the additional two tickets allotted them, and he suggested that these tickets could be pooled and made available for purchase by students who need additional tickets.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to amend the graduation policy to include that the unused tickets be placed in a pool so that students who need additional tickets can purchase them on a first come, first served basis.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Jerome
Secretary/Interim Superintendent