

The Organizational 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 Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Healy, Mr. Henningson, Mrs. Smith, Secretary

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He welcomed the new school committee members to their first meeting, and then announced the first order of business.

### **Election of Secretary**

The Superintendent of Schools serves as Secretary of the School Committee. **Mr. Minichiello recommended that Superintendent Kathleen Smith serve as Secretary of the Brockton School Committee in 2014.**

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

### **Recognition of Out-Going Vice Chair**

Mr. Minichiello was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service as the outgoing 2013 Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mayor Carpenter and Superintendent Smith expressed their appreciation for the four years that Mr. Minichiello has served as the Vice Chair.

### **Election of 2014 Vice Chair**

**Mrs. Joyce nominated Mr. Minichiello for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2014 calendar year.**

Mrs. Joyce said that her nomination was based on Mr. Minichiello's past performance as vice-chair, stating that he has been a committed, exemplary vice-chair and it is important to continue the momentum going forward. Mayor Carpenter asked for any other nominations and, seeing that there were none, he called the nominations closed.

Voted: to elect Mr. Minichiello as Vice-Chair of the School Committee for the 2014 calendar year, unanimous.

The Mayor said that from his standpoint, he has tremendous confidence in Mr. Minichiello, it will be a great help to him to have Mr. Minichiello's expertise as the Vice-Chair.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged all of the senior members on the Committee and stated that his position as vice chair did not give him more authority than other committee members, stating that he is "one of eight." He said there are important issues coming up such as facilities, negotiations, and one of the most important roles the school committee has is to develop the budget, and said that he was confident that the new members would do their homework and go forward in the best interest of the students.

Mayor Carpenter stated that as a former School Committee member and now Chair of the School Committee, he is invested in school department work and that he has made the decision that he will exercise his right to vote when he feels it necessary. He added that education is important to parents, and in his role as Chair of the School Committee he will be very hands-on, one of the things he plans to do is to visit the schools.

### **Election of CSAB SC Members**

The Bylaws of the Community School Advisory Board provide for the election of two (2) School Committee members to serve on the Board for a one-year term.

**Mr. Minichiello nominated Mr. Healy, the nomination was seconded. Mrs. Joyce nominated Judy Sullivan, the nomination was seconded. On the nominations, the vote was taken.**

Voted: to elect Mr. Healy and Mrs. Sullivan to serve on the Community School Advisory Board, unanimous.

**Approval of Rules and Orders of SC**

**The Rules and Orders of the School Committee are subject to annual ratification. Mrs. Joyce moved to adopt the Rules and Orders for 2014.**

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

**Appointment of 2014 Subcommittees**

Mayor Carpenter included, in this evening's agenda booklet, a copy of the 2014 School Committee Subcommittee Assignments. He voiced the importance of the subcommittees, stating that the vast majority of the work done by the School Committee is done at the subcommittee level prior to the formal votes taken at school committee meetings.

**Mrs. Joyce moved to accept notification of the 2014 Subcommittee Assignments.**

Voted: to accept notification, unanimous.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Carpenter reviewed the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were items School Committee members wished to remove from the agenda. Mr. Minichiello removed Item D, the Meduse-Zurawsky Scholarship, and Mr. Carpenter removed Item F, Notification of Personnel Action.

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

- *Approval of the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of Dec. 17, 2013*
- *Acceptance of Minutes of Curriculum Subcommittee Mtg., Dec. 10, 2013*
- *Acceptance of CSAB Minutes of November 13, 2013*
- *Acceptance of Personnel Appointments: Certified; Non-Certified*

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter asked Mr. Minichiello to address *Enclosure D, the Meduse-Zurawsky Scholarship*. Mr. Minichiello said it is always important to acknowledge the generosity of families with ties to Brockton, and he thanked the trustees of the Zurawsky Trust Fund and the Meduse Scholarship fund for the donation to the students of Brockton.

**Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the scholarship for inclusion in the BHS Scholarship Book.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter stated that he asked to have the *Notification of Personnel Action, Enclosure F*, held out because there is notice of the retirement of Mr. John Jerome. The Superintendent had many kind words to say about Mr. Jerome and his history with the Brockton Public Schools, all of the assistance he has provided to her since she became Superintendent, and his willingness to continue to help transition new leaders in his replacement. Mr. Minichiello said that Mr. Jerome was an "old school gentleman", generous with his time, who provided stability, institutional knowledge and that he will miss him. Mr. Healy spoke of Mr. Jerome as a mentor and a great source of guidance;

Mayor Carpenter said that even before he came to the School Committee, Mr. Jerome had been a great leader in the Brockton Public Schools, and that no one knows the Brockton Public Schools better than Mr. Jerome, he was always available and willing to help. Mrs. Joyce remembered when Mr. Jerome became involved in the middle schools and how his involvement turned the program around and was critical to the success that we now have in the middle schools. All agreed that Mr. Jerome will be missed.

**Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the Notification of Personnel Action.**

Voted: to accept the notification, unanimous.

**Learning & Teaching**

**BHS Student Report**

The Superintendent introduced Derrick Monteiro, alternate Student Rep to the School Committee, a member of the senior class and President of the Student Council.

Mr. Monteiro's update included the following:

- Most seniors have finished their college applications and are now working on their FAFSA forms
- Winter sports are officially in session
- BHS will hold its National History Day Competition on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8 – 11 a.m. in the Green and Azure cafeterias

**JROTC Award Recognition and Introduction of New Instructor**

The Superintendent asked Principal Wolder to update the Committee on the status of the JROTC program. Principal Wolder first acknowledged Sergeant Major Dana Clark who, upon the resignation of the recently hired instructor, stepped up and did the job of two people while awaiting the appointment of Lt. Colonel Richard Clark. She expressed her gratitude for Sergeant Clark's exemplary handling during the time the program was without a leader; bringing the students to competitions and winning the Governor's Cup State Championship. She read a line from a cadet's letter where she called Sergeant Clark the "ultimate leader". Principal Wolder then introduced Lt. Colonel Richard Clark, adding that before the hiring process was completed he was already taking the initiative to be a part of the program.

Lt. Clark told the Committee that he considered the position an honor and a privilege, a very welcome assignment. At the request of the Committee, Lt. Colonel Clark spoke briefly about his background.

Mr. Healy commented that he is working with Lt. Colonel Clark and Sergeant Clark on a project that will honor veterans of World War II.

**SC Representative to BHS Accreditation Steering Committee**

The Superintendent brought up the vacancy on the BHS Accreditation Steering Committee, and stated that she will send information out to the School Committee in preparation for discussion and a possible appointment at the next meeting.

**Footsteps to Brilliance**

The Superintendent invited Laurie Silva, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Coordinator, to discuss the Footsteps to Brilliance initiative. She said Mr. Jerome had brought this to her attention last year, she has also spoken with a Revere principal who is using the program, and that she and Mayor Carpenter together have planned the Brockton Early Learning Innovation Summit scheduled for February 25, 2104, which will showcase the program.

Ms. Silva stated that although we have some good efforts in place for early learning, there is a need for more services for our children. Below are some highlights of the program:

- Designed for children ages 3 – 7
- Parents have access through phones, tablets, or computers
- Addresses the essential literacy skills needed to help children become successful in school
- Is an early learning mobile technology platform which unites mobile learning technology with the most current cognitive research on enhancing and expanding student learning abilities
- Can generate reports that will help to assess a child’s strengths and weaknesses
- The district will receive professional development, support is available to the community as well

The cost is \$96,000 per year for six years; at that point Brockton will have a perpetual license indefinitely, enabling the district to service every child in the city. Ms. Silva said that one of the purposes of the summit will be to solicit donations, and stated that she intends to work diligently to secure funding.

Ms. Silva showed a brief You Tube video of a child utilizing the program and responded to questions from the Committee. Mrs. Joyce commented that seeing the video with the child comfortably using technology fit perfectly with the new PARCC online testing. Mr. Robinson agreed and said that it will be very important to determine how we can get to the children who have the highest need but might be the most difficult to reach. He was also concerned that we would be able to know whether the program is actually being used, given that we will be paying for it. Ms. Silva responded that the program has the ability to assess utilization.

The Superintendent she said that she will provide the committee with more information in the Friday packet.

**Items to be Referred to Subcommittee**

Mr. Minichiello said there are some items that need to be discussed at a Facilities Usage Subcommittee meeting; January 14<sup>th</sup> was suggested and agreed upon. The Superintendent will send confirmation of the meeting and location.

**New Business**

Mr. Robinson stated that as a part of the recycling project he is involved in, he was fortunate to be a part of a “skype” call between a science class at BHS and a group of students in Tanzania. He said the two groups spent 45 minutes skyping, and it was an amazing experience seeing technology being used in this way.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary

/wka