

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

Present: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Henningson, Superintendent 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 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

The Mayor announced that an eighth grade student from West Middle School, Armen Merian, was recently awarded the JFK Make A Difference Award at a ceremony at the JFK Library, being nominated for his volunteer work to support the BHS football program, and also with the annual *Santa Hat Challenge*. Mayor Carpenter, Superintendent Smith, Mr. Minichiello and Dr. Murray, Executive Director and Principal of West Middle School, presented Armen with a certificate of recognition.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were any items School Committee members wished to remove for discussion. Mr. Minichiello asked to remove Item D, Enclosure 4, the Patrick Brennan Scholarship, and Mrs. Sullivan removed Item B, Enclosure 2, minutes of the CSAB.

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

- *Minutes of March 25, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Out-of-State, Overnight BHS Girls Cross Country Team Field Trip*
- *Authorization to Submit a Grant Proposal to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Refugees and Immigrants*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and/or Non-Certified*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

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

With respect to Enclosure 4, Mr. Minichiello wanted to publicly recognize the generous donation from the family of Patrick J. Brennan in the form of a scholarship to be offered to student athletes.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to approve the Patrick J. Brennan Memorial Scholarship.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Enclosure 2, Mrs. Sullivan said that as the School Committee representative to the Community Schools Advisory Board, she wanted the public to

know about some of the program the Community Schools department offers, more specifically the Driver's Ed program and the possibility of an extended-day site being made available when schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Mrs. Sullivan then moved to accept the minutes of the CSAB January 8, 2014 meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Report – Jessica Freeborn

Ms. Freeborn announced the following:

- The Wind Ensemble and Senior Jazz Band attended the Music Festival in Virginia and brought home many awards,
- The Junior Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir attended the MICA Festival and also brought home awards,
- A group of students attended the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) conference in Worcester, MA, also bringing home awards,
- BHS is currently interviewing for peer mediators,
- Dress for Success Day – Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Merian's Tuxedo for assisting students with their outfits.

Footsteps to Brilliance

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Ilene Rosenthal, CEO of the Footsteps2Brilliance, a program that joins mobile technology with early learning applications. Ms. Rosenthal used a power point presentation to highlight how the educational program increases young children's exposure to words (vocabulary), using any type of device that is available to a parent. If Brockton were to purchase the program, there would be unlimited access to the entire Brockton community for families of preK through grade 3 children, at their homes and on their mobile devices. A question and answer period followed.

One major concern voiced by committee members was the cost, followed by concerns about whether those children that are the most at-risk would use the program. Questions about the program included how Footsteps2Brilliance measures use (when the program is being used during the day, is there demographical data reflecting groups that may not be using the program, how the word count is determined), how the preK population is reached, whether languages other than English and Spanish are available (Ms. Rosenthal responded that it would cost the system to have additional languages), what types of devices are being used to access the program, who in addition to the Brockton Public Schools would have access to the professional development offered, and is there data showing that using the program results in parents becoming more active in their child's educational development, and several other questions. Ms. Rosenthal responded.

Ms. Rosenthal offered each school committee member a certificate so that they could download the program themselves. The Superintendent said that she would like to follow up with her curriculum staff, and have them look at the program as well.

Adult Learning Center Update

Ms. Suzanne Martin, Coordinator of the Adult Learning Center, and Kathleen Quinn, gave an overview of the programs that serve the adult population in Brockton (a copy is attached).

Ms. Quinn talked more in detail about the Family Connections Program, a partnership with select schools that offers classes to parents to help them helping them better navigate the school system and become more involved in their child's education.

Ms. Martin updated the Committee on the following:

- The new HiSET (High School Equivalency test) that replaces the GED in Massachusetts, which will be offered at Massasoit on-line only; hopefully by the end of the school year
- The wait list for ESOL classes is currently 1,200 adults, with another 400 waiting to get in to the adult basic education program
- She is currently working with the Mayor's office to get ESL classes available on cable to assist those who are on the wait list

Mrs. Joyce asked whether the high numbers on the wait list were due to funding or lack of space; Ms. Martin responded that it is funding.

Superintendent's Transition Team, Strategic Plan Update – the Superintendent reported that the transition team has moved from the transition phase to developing a strategic plan, she will be ready to share that with the School Committee in June. She then said that her Entry Plan will be announced at the May 6 School Committee meeting.

She added that one of the projects that this year's Administrative Interns will be given is a special project for the Superintendent that focuses on cultural proficiency. They will be looking at ways to support the bilingual community, including the parent advocacy center that will be staffed by parents, for parents.

PARCC Field Test – The Superintendent said that although participating in the field testing has taken a lot of time and resources, it has given Brockton an *eye into the window* to see what is happening with PARCC. She believes there will be another year of field testing before the state decides whether to replace the MCAS test with PARCC. Mrs. Joyce referenced a Boston Globe article about PARCC testing which stated that the test has received negative feedback; Mrs. Smith said that she is not hearing negative feedback, however, there are concerns, she plans to advocate these concerns to the State.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent asked the School Committee to schedule *Finance, Bid Review, Accounts Review, and Superintendent's Contract* Subcommittee meetings on April 15th. The Superintendent also asked the Committee to schedule a Policy Subcommittee for the purpose of working out a policy on over-age, under-credited students, April 29, 2014 was given as a date.

Mr. Thomas reported that a Task Force assigned to study this issue has met weekly to develop a proposal to bring to the School Committee for review, Dr. Terrasi is working with a liaison at the DESE to ensure that we are well versed in the State's expectations,

and to ensure that our policy will meet legal requirements. Mayor Carpenter expressed his appreciation to the Superintendent for addressing this issue in a timely manner. Mr. Thomas said that the Task Force has been working diligently and he will bring a solid document to the April 29th meeting for School Committee vetting.

Curriculum Subcommittee - The Superintendent would like to schedule a curriculum subcommittee meeting at which she will provide a PARCC debrief for School Committee, and a Health/Wellness curriculum presentation in response to a previous request from School Committee. Mr. Minichiello suggested this meeting be held on April 29th.

New Business

Report on the Public Hearing of the Building Naming Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce reported that the Public Hearing was held earlier this evening, at 6:00 p.m. to allow the public to voice their support for two requests – to name the Davis School Library after Mary Ann Burke, and to name the Press Box at Rocky Marciano Stadium after Mr. Peter Farley. Residents came out and spoke in favor of both requests.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the Report from the Building Naming Subcommittee Public Hearing.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to approve the naming of the Davis School Library after Mary Ann Burke.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the naming of the Press Box at the Rocky Marciano Stadium after Peter Farley.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Joint Meeting of School Committee and City Council for Ward 6 Seat

Mr. Minichiello announced the details of the Joint Meeting to fill the Ward 6 seat: the meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 7:00 p.m. in the GAR Room at City Hall, interested applicants are instructed to send a letter of interest by April 30, 2014, to the attention of Mr. Robert Sullivan, President of the City Council, and Mr. Thomas Minichiello, Vice-Chair of the School Committee, at 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA 02301. The format of the meeting will allow each applicant three minutes to address the Council, and the Council will have the opportunity to ask questions of the applicants. A roll call vote will be taken that evening to fill the vacancy. Notification of the meeting will be posted in The Enterprise, on the city and school department websites.

Other New Business

Mr. Henningson publicly thanked the staff of the George School for their conduct during an incident in the community that required holding the release of the students at the end of the day. The Superintendent also applauded the George School staff and said it was a well-coordinated effort between the police, the school department, and the school. Mr. Minichiello said he was impressed that updates were sent during the course of the event,

keeping everyone informed. He encouraged parents to be sure to provide current contact information to their children's schools.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged the Middle School Science Fair and thanked the coordinators, judges, and teachers; he said he was astounded at the quality of the projects.

Mayor Carpenter thanked Mr. Robinson for joining him as part of a delegation that was able to go before Judge Julie Bernard and Chief Judge Bailey to petition for a drug court in Brockton.

Mayor Carpenter announced that there is still time for young people to sign up to attend the Youth Summit on Thursday, April 10, from 2:30 – 7 p.m. He encouraged youth across the city to come and share their perspectives about the issues the city is facing, and clarified that you do not need to attend Brockton High School in order to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary/Superintendent

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