

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

Present: Mayor Carpenter; Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Superintendent Smith, Secretary; Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Henningson

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. He then called for a motion to recess for the purpose of taking part in the Student Recognition Awards ceremony in the Auditorium, after which the Committee would reconvene back in the Little Theatre to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. Joyce moved to recess for the purpose as stated by Mayor Carpenter.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter congratulated the students on their exceptional achievements, and said that Brockton has many things to be proud of, and the chief among those things is its youth. He then introduced Superintendent Smith.

The Superintendent offered her congratulations to the students and parents, she praised them for their hard work, then introduced Ms. Farrington to begin the presentations.

The following student awards were announced by the presenters:

- New England Math League (Ms. Farrington)
- Middle School Regional Science Fair (Ms. Farrington)
- Perfect MCAS Scores (Dr. Ethan Cancell)
- Thomas Edison Essay Contest (Dr. Andrade)
- Spelling Bee (Dr. Andrade, Ms. McQuaid)
- National History Day Competition (Ms. McQuaid, Ms. Connors)
- National Latin and MEDUSA Exam Winners (J. Rizzitano)
- Scholastic Art Awards (Ms. Richards)
- BHS Drama Club New England Drama Festival State Finalists (Ms. Richards)
- JROTC Awards (Lt. Clark)
- Outstanding Athletics (Mr. Devin)

At 8:10 p.m. the meeting was moved to the Little Theatre, and reconvened at 8:18 p.m. after a brief recess.

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter explained the procedure during this portion of the meeting then invited Mr. Robert Gorman to come forward to speak to the Committee. Mr. Gorman is a teacher at the Plouffe Academy.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it; there were no requests this evening.

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

- *May 20, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *May 8, 2014 Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *May 14, 2014 Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *Huntington School Out-of-State Field Trip Request to Salem, NH*
- *Downey School Out-of-State Field Trip Request to Salem, NH*
- *2013-2014 School Closing Date*
- *2014 School Committee Summer Meeting Dates*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and/or Non-Certified*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Student Report

Jessica Freeborn said that today was the last day of Science MCAS testing, student elections for junior class officers will be held tomorrow, and graduation will be held on Saturday, June 7th, at 2:00 p.m.

PARCC Update

The Superintendent reported that PARCC has been field tested in Brockton and many other communities in the Commonwealth this past year; at the direction of the DESE, 166 students at the Edison and BB Russell schools took the test using paper and pencil; 1,000 students at the Raymond and Hancock schools are currently taking the computer-based test. The Superintendent said that Brockton has a decision to make with respect to whether we will adopt PARCC in place of MCAS, and gave the following information:

- There is a timeline to making this decision, the state would like the decision by June 30, 2014 but no later than October 1, 2014
- Some communities will choose to stay with MCAS
- All grade 10 students through the class of 2018 within the Commonwealth will continue to take the MCAS exam, our decision will be for the rest of the students in the district
- With respect to technology, Brockton is not at the point yet where our entire district can take the computer-based test
- Districts that choose to take PARCC will be held harmless with respect to accountability levels; if you are at a certain level you will be guaranteed not to move down a level, but you would be allowed to move up in accountability status

The Superintendent said she will share more information and make a recommendation to the Committee. She said she would like to have the decision made by June 30, 2014, and she will send information from MASS in the Friday packet.

FY 2015 Budget

The Superintendent thanked the School Committee for the many hours they have put in going over the budget line by line. She reviewed the process thus far, and announced that she will go before the City Council on Monday, June 9th, to present the budget. At this point in the budget process, the School Committee and Superintendent have identified preliminary cuts; the Committee has now asked the Superintendent to recommend the number of teachers she feels need to be recalled in order to maintain manageable class sizes. The Superintendent stated that within the identified budgetary amount, she is recommending bringing back 154 teachers, she explained that an additional eight teachers are returning from leave, bringing the total number of teachers added back to 162.

The Superintendent then invited Executive Team members Mrs. Barry, at the elementary level, and Dr. Murray at the middle school level, to address the Committee's request with respect to the impact of layoffs on projected class sizes.

Mrs. Barry prepared a handout which showed projected class size at each grade level, using current enrollment and staffing levels for grades K-6; another handout illustrated the three-year average growth in student enrollment. Currently, elementary class size varies from 25 to 28 students, numbers that are already high, even before factoring in additional registrations and the loss of classrooms due to the budget shortfall. The following points of clarification were given:

- These numbers still include the 199 certified staff who have received RIF notices
- Prior to the budget shortfall, Mrs. Barry requested additional teachers to address class size.
- Mr. Minichiello asked Mrs. Barry if she was saying that all 199 teachers need to be recalled; Mrs. Barry responded that she is only addressing the elementary level.
- Mr. Minichiello asked for clarification as to how many teachers need to be called back to have manageable class sizes at the elementary level, the Superintendent responded 199.
- Mr. Minichiello stated that in order to call back all 199 teachers, all other personnel recommended cuts would remain and an additional \$850,000 in more cuts would be necessary. As the budget stands this evening, a minimum of 45 teachers will need to be laid off to meet the shortfall.
- Mrs. Joyce stated that bringing back all 199 teachers only addresses current class size, and does not address projected gain in student enrollment.
- Mr. Henningson asked where the 45 teaching positions will be lost; the Superintendent responded that these are not classroom teachers, the number includes specialists, guidance counselors, other certified staff
- The Superintendent explained that at the high school they would be calling back 37 classroom teachers, and shared what the expected class sizes will look like going forward.

Dr. Murray addressed class size at the middle schools and how losing specialists will impact class size. He said there are instances where gym classes can have 60 students to one teacher, saying the loss of specialists would require some doubling up of classes, and could result in class sizes of 50 and 60 students in specialist subjects. Currently, specialist classes range from 28 – 34 students.

Discussion about how many teachers need to be recalled continued, the Superintendent asked the School Committee for direction. School Committee responded with the following requests:

- *Identify additional, deeper cuts that will need to be made in order to bring back the necessary teachers to keep class sizes manageable. Mr. Minichiello clarified that that this need for deeper cuts is a result of the Superintendent's response to a request from last night's Finance Subcommittee meeting, at which the Committee asked the Superintendent to identify the number of teachers that would need to be called back to maintain reasonable class size. The Superintendent added that she previously did not recommend additional programmatic cuts because the district was trying to maintain a balanced education for the students.*
- *The Superintendent should present these deeper cuts to City Council on June 9th, when the School Department budget will be presented.*
- *Provide a list of the 45 positions that are not part of the recommended initial call back. To this request, the Superintendent said she will provide a list of those 45 positions, as well as a list of the 154 positions she is recommending be restored.*

With respect to *attrition*, Mrs. Joyce said that retiring classroom teachers need to be replaced. She felt that we can make up some of the difference with the incentive. Mr. Minichiello asked whether attrition had been factored in; Mr. Petronio responded "no".

With respect to high school cuts, Mrs. Joyce asked whether these cuts would impact our students' access to courses they will need to get into a four-year college. The Superintendent responded, and said we are trying not to cut any classes at the high school.

Mrs. Joyce then asked about the *non-net school spending* deficit; the Superintendent said that although the Mayor had restored \$500,000, we are still short and asked Mr. Thomas to respond. Mr. Thomas said that we will be short four buses as a result of growing enrollment, there are currently 135 crossing guards and he is considering reducing that amount and putting the money towards buses. The current shortfall is \$700,000.

Approval of Finance Meeting Reports for May 27 and June 2, 2014 Meetings

Mr. Minichiello said the reports from the May 27 and June 2, 2014 Finance Subcommittee meetings need to be approved, in particular to ratify the motion made at the May 27th meeting to go forward with an early retirement incentive.

Mr. Minichiello gave a verbal report of the May 27th Finance Meeting. He reported that the School Committee reviewed the FY 2015 Budget Shortfall list of preliminary cuts to programs and ordinary maintenance budgets, and identified areas that they would like to revisit. The Committee was presented with an Early Retirement Incentive and moved to allow the Superintendent to go forward with said incentive.

Ms. Clark moved to accept the report of the May 27 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Early Retirement Incentive as recommended at the May 27, 2014 Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello gave a verbal report of the June 2, 2014 Finance Subcommittee meeting, at which time the Subcommittee took another look at the updated 2015 Budget Shortfall list in much more detail, itemized a number of categories and made recommendations to the Superintendent that would still be subject to final review pending the status of the budget. He said the Committee identified areas of concern and instructed the Superintendent to come back with the impact on classrooms across the district, and then made a decision to meet again on June 11th for further review and in preparation of the final numbers, pending possibilities of fluctuation if other sources can be identified to buffer the budget.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the June 2, 2014 Finance Subcommittee report.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to adopt the \$160,635,189 Net-School Spending budget as proposed by the Mayor for submission to the City Council on June 9, 2014 as the FY 2015 School Committee Recommended School Department Budget.

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to adopt the \$7.3 million Non-Net Spending budget as the FY 2015 School Committee Non-Net Spending Budget to present to the City Council on June 9, 2014.

Voted: to adopt the motion, unanimous.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent suggested that the Health Curriculum presentation that has been pushed back be combined with a PARCC presentation at a *Curriculum Subcommittee meeting*. The Superintendent suggested that a Policy Subcommittee meeting be held that evening, as well, for the purpose of adopting a policy regarding PARCC.

Mr. Thomas reported that the MSBA contacted him this morning, they have accepted four of our submissions for school repairs:

- Ashfield – roof and two boilers
- Brookfield – full roof
- Gilmore – roof and a boiler
- Barrett Russell – windows

Mr. Thomas offered a comparison of the 36 million cost for the Green School Repair Project (8 schools), he expects the cost of this project to be between 10 and 12 million; the City would be responsible for 20% of that amount. He advised that the City is not required to accept all four of the projects. Mr. Thomas said that West Middle and Keith

School boiler projects were denied. Mr. Thomas asked that a *Facilities Subcommittee meeting* be scheduled to discuss the outcome.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Carpenter stated that the SY 2014-15 Supplemental School Calendar was included for discussion and approval this evening, and asked Committee members if there was any discussion.

There being no discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the Supplemental School Calendar for the SY 2015.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

New Business

The Mayor announced that the BPS 2014-2015 Student Handbooks are on the agenda for discussion and possible approval. He stated that Committee members had previously received draft copies of the BPS 2015 student handbooks to review in preparation for tonight's discussion. He then opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the BPS 2014-2015 Student Handbooks.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The Superintendent announced that, on a very happy note, Ward 3 School Committee Member Allisha Clark was awarded the Albert Baroncelli award for her "Shining Stars" program that takes place at the Ashfield School. The Superintendent commended all School Committee members for their hard work and the time commitment that it takes to serve on the School Committee, and congratulated Ms. Clark.

Ms. Clark moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith
Secretary/Superintendent

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