

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

February 8, 2011

The Regular 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 Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, 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 7:08 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

### Recognitions

Colleen Crehan

Mayor Balzotti announced that the agenda would be taken out of order, and deferred to the Superintendent to discuss the recognition of Ms. Colleen Crehan, teacher of the Mary E. Baker School. Dr. Malone informed the School Committee of Ms. Crehan's quick response in administering the Heimlich Maneuver on student Dustin Rose. Mayor Balzotti and Superintendent Malone presented Ms. Crehan with a Certificate of Recognition for her exemplary efforts.

Mrs. Rose, Dustin and other members of the Rose Family were also in attendance at the meeting, and joined the Mayor and Superintendent in recognizing Ms. Crehan. A group photo was taken.

Nathan Yassen

Dr. Malone spoke about BHS Student Nathan Yassen and his heroic efforts in recently rescuing his neighbor from a dangerous house fire. Mayor Balzotti and Dr. Malone presented Nathan with a Certificate of Recognition for his selfless actions.

Mayor Balzotti personally thanked Nathan, informing him that Fire Chief Richard Francis recognizes Nathan's efforts and will be contacting Nathan regarding a recognition event by the Fire Department. The Mayor said that she was most appreciative of Nathan's conduct, saying that she would want the same attention and care shown to her own mother.

### Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair, called attention to the revised Finance Subcommittee minutes, *Enclosure #7, Acceptance of Finance Subcommittee Reports of January 18 and February 2, 2011*, and Mr. Daley requested to remove *Enclosure #9, Acceptance of School Bldg./Green Repair Schools Committee Report of January 19, 2011*.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to accept the Finance Subcommittee Reports of January 18 and February 2, 2011, as amended.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the following items listed in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on 1/18/11
- January 2011 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report

- In-State/Overnight BHS Key Club Trip to Springfield, MA, from April 1-3, 2011
- Notification of Personnel Action re Leaves of Absence, Change of Retirement Date, and Resignation
- Authorization to Submit DESE Adult Basic Ed Integrated Distance Learning RFP, and expenditure of funds
- December 8, 2010 Community School Advisory Board Minutes
- February 2, 2011 Bid Review Subcommittee Report

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Daley then asked if the School Building/Green Repair Schools Committee accepted the January 19, 2011 report, and Mr. Petronio responded.

Mr. Daley made the motion to postpone the acceptance of the above report to the next School Committee meeting.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Announcement/  
Executive Director  
Operations &  
Communications**

At this time, Dr. Malone said that he was pleased to officially announced the permanent appointment of Mr. Michael Thomas to the position of Executive Director of Operations and Communications. Dr. Malone told Mr. Thomas, who was present, that he is happy to have him on the administrative team. The School Committee congratulated Mr. Thomas.

**Learning & Teaching**

Dr. Malone discussed the present school year calendar with respect to the number of cancellation days that have been called due to inclement weather conditions. Five days for cancellation are allowed when planning the school calendar, and five days have been used, to date; therefore, the last day of school for Brockton students will be June 23, 2011, provided there are no other cancellations. There are five potential school/session days from June 24 to June 30 that Dr. Malone qualified as “*wiggle room*” on the calendar, if needed. School cannot be held after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Joyce said that she is concerned about hours of learning time, and Dr. Malone said that BPS still has about 15 hours. “*We have wiggle room there, as well,*” he said.

**CSAB Report**

Dr. Malone stated that the Community Schools’ *Winterfest* was very successful, and he enjoyed seeing the picture of himself in his mother’s Peugeot which was displayed at the Shaw’s Center the evening of the *Winterfest Flashback Dance*. He thanked everyone involved, saying that the events were nicely carried out and well-attended.

Dr. Malone then introduced Messrs. Scott Holmes, Chair, and Anthony Donegan, Board Member, of the Community School Advisory Board.

Mr. Holmes began the presentation by discussing the history of the Program, dating back to its first administrator Harry C. Allen, who wanted full use of schools into the evening hours. “*The program, Mr. Holmes said, was a national model.*”

Messrs. Holmes and Donegan highlighted the programs that are encompassed in the Community Schools Program, i.e., band, drama, chorus, athletics, and all the parental and community support involved in each.

They also discussed *Alumni Weekend*, part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Brockton High School and the Community Schools Program, which will become a tradition. “*All of these events*, Mr. Holmes said, *bring people together who are committed.*”

Upcoming programs include *Springfest* and *Summerfest*, which may be held at the Rox Stadium at former Mayor Jack Yunits’ suggestion. In celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the fee of \$40 will be charged for Community Schools courses, and registration is available on-line. The *Schedule2Drive* driver education program was offered this year, and students may schedule their lessons on-line. Other programs mentioned were SmartStart and the Adult Learning Center, which services participants from 20 to 60 years of age, from 37 countries, who want to learn English – a commitment of Mayor Balzotti’s Task Force on Education. Mr. Donegan mentioned that the Community Schools Program is involved in the Special Olympics, as well.

Dr. Malone said that the Community Schools Program is working with the School Department on a Day/Evening Academy through RTTT funding; a program, which, if successful, will bring Chapter 70 aid.

The School Committee thanked Messrs. Holmes and Donegan for their report.

#### **2011-12 School Year Calendar**

At this time, Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that he would present a draft of the 2011-2012 school year calendar for their consideration and vote at the March 1<sup>st</sup> School Committee meeting.

#### **Items to Refer to Subcommittees**

Mrs. Joyce referred the naming of the science labs located at the South Middle and Ashfield Schools to the Building Naming Subcommittee.

#### **MSBA Update/ Winter Roof Issues**

Michael Thomas, Executive Director of Operations and Communications, gave an update on MSBA and winter roof issues. He first thanked Mr. James Casieri, Superintendent of Buildings, and the custodians for their efforts in clearing snow from school roofs for the past two weeks. He said that, in structures built from 1970+, any amount of snow over 3’ was removed, and in older structures, all snow was totally cleared. Mr. Thomas also said that he spent a day looking over every flat roof in the System, saying that the Angelo, Arnone and Plouffe Schools were designed to handle larger amounts. Mr. Thomas said that none of the work is being done while the students are in the building.

School Committee members expressed concerns about drains being properly cleared; the potential collapsing of closed buildings, i.e., Howard and Lincoln, etc.; and further damage to the eight schools which are scheduled for repair. Mr. Thomas responded to each concern.

#### **Mid-Year Finance Report**

Aldo Petronio, Executive Director of Finance Services, discussed the Mid-Year Finance Report. He provided the School Committee with a report, titled, *Expense Summary January Comparison FY2010-FY2011*, which detailed expenditures in Personal Services and Ordinary Maintenance. He said that the BEA severance packages were pushed off 2010, and he hopes that the *Unemployment* figure will go down. He said that substitute expenses are out of range, but this is one item that cannot be controlled.

Following a brief discussion, Superintendent Malone stated that the rollout of technology was more aggressive this year than last.

**New Business**

Mr. Minichiello, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, briefly discussed the report of the Policy Subcommittee of February 8, 2011. He then moved to accept the report.

**Policy Subcommittee**

On the motion, Mr. Daley inquired about the brevity and acceptance of the report.

Voted: to accept the report, 6-1-0 (Mr. Daley opposed)

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following:

- the revised *Admissions Policy and Procedures Manual* for admission to the vocational programs at BHS, and have the information included in the Policy Manual and BPS Web site
- to allow the *a.m. pre-school to be held on one-hour school delay days* and reflect the information in the Student-Parent Handbooks
- to table further discussion of *Policy KEB-R, Complaints About School Personnel*, pending the addition of information from the School Department attorney, and return to a future Policy Subcommittee meeting
- to refer back to Dr. Malone and a future Policy Subcommittee meeting, *Report Card Grade Changes*
- to table further discussion of *BHS Scholarships* to a future Policy Subcommittee meeting

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello made the motion to refer all remaining Policy Subcommittee agenda items, i.e., BPS Development Officer and Kindergarten Age Requirement, to a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter handed out a "*notMYkid national*" flyer to School Committee members, announcing that the program would be held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Plouffe School. Mayor Balzotti stated that the program was very worthwhile – well-done and containing a lot of information.

Mr. Carpenter also announced the Black History Month exhibition at the Champion High School where great students' projects will be on display on February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Carpenter will host a radio talk show from the school site to celebrate the occasion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.  
Secretary

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