

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre of Brockton High School at seven-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Patricia Joyce, Vice-Chair; Mr. Minichiello; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Foley; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

**Hearing of Visitors**

Councilor at Large Todd Petti addressed the School Committee this evening regarding his advocacy for the implementation of a dress code for the Brockton Public Schools. Mr. Petti said that proper dress would make a better learning environment, and his hope is that the School Committee, parents and students will work together on creating some type of dress code.

**Approval of Records**

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on February 12, 2008.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Communication**

Superintendent Nembirkow announced that he has received correspondence from Mr. Campbell, Treasurer/Trustee of the Daniel F. & Margaret MacAdam Loughry Charitable Foundation, requesting acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$2,000 to the BHS Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Daley moved to accept the abovementioned donation and to send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Attendance Report**

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for February 2008.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

At this time, Mr. Bath suggested taking the agenda out of order and placing Enclosure #4, *Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Presentation*, at the end due to its content. Mayor Harrington allowed the change in the format.

**Submission of Proposal** Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the Creative School Program Proposal for expanded arts at the Gilmore School to the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the amount of \$10,000 and, if successful, expenditure of the funds.

This two-year grant will bring six artists a year into the school, three as artists-in-residence and three to collaborate with classroom teachers in academic subject areas. Each year will culminate with a student exhibition at the Fuller Craft Museum. This program is designed to support the school's pursuit of authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and the possible implementation of an expanded school day through the Expanded Learning Time grant application submitted to the DOE in December 2007.

The Brockton Public Schools will be responsible for the following expenses associated with this project: materials which will be \$900/yr. from the school's instructional supplies budget; professional development funds for teacher/artist planning meetings, \$270/yr., and 2.5% of Gilmore's IB Middle Years Program Manager time (no actual cost).

On the motion, Mrs. Joyce asked if the above information was dependent upon the acceptance to Expanded Learning Time and IBO, and the Superintendent responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Add'l New 2008  
Scholarship**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the distribution of the Matthew J. Walsh Memorial Scholarship to seniors and the inclusion in subsequent scholarship booklets for Brockton High School.

A brief discussion took place on the motion regarding criteria, and Mr. Nembirkow responded.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Approval of Trips**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the BHS ROTC trip to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Brigade's Northeast Area Drill Competition at Francis Lewis High School in Fresh Meadows, NY on April 12, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Following the vote, Messrs. Daley and Dobrowski wished the ROTC good luck in the competition. Mr. Bath congratulated Col. Tripp and Sgt. Major Heera on the Governor's Cup Presentation, where the BHS JROTC walked away in the three-competition phase with approximately 38 trophies and won the Governor's Cup. They will be representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the abovementioned trip, and Mr. Bath said that he is a chaperone.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the East JHS Grades 7 and 8 trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH, on June 9, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Downey School Grade 6 trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH, on June 16, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Personnel Appts.**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #8.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Personnel Action**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #9.

**Leaves of Absence (Teachers):**

Candido, Dannielle, Hancock	Granted extension of MAT LOA for School Year 2008-09
Costello, Melissa, Plouffe	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 3/27/08
Pica-Thomas, Patricia	12 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 4/9/08
O'Sullivan Paula, Data Analyst	8 Wk. MAT LOA, Eff. 6/24/08

**Resignations:**

D'Alotto, Leonard, Teacher, BHS	Eff. 6/9/08
Murphy, Jessica, Teacher, East JHS	Eff. 3/4/08
Celestin, Myrta, MTA, Plouffe	Eff. 2/15/08
Burnice Cajigas, Para, BHS	Eff. 2/29/08
McLean, Ancherre, Para, BHS	Eff. 2/28/08
Peterson, Christine, Secretary, Hancock	Eff. 3/3/08

**Retirements:**

Bartlett, Madeline, Teacher, BHS	Eff. 6/23/08
Springer, Alice, Teacher, South Middle	Eff. 6/30/08

**Change of Retirement:**

Boutin, John, Athletic Director, BHS	Eff. 6/30/08
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Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Finance Subcommittee Report** Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Finance Subcommittee meeting on March 4, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Bid Review Subcommittee Report** Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Bid Review Subcommittee meeting on March 5, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

No action was taken on the recommendation to award contract extensions to the vendors at this time. Mr. Petronio needs to obtain more information on the contract extensions, and the Subcommittee will meet again on April 8<sup>th</sup> and report on all contracts, at that time.

**Report on School Reconfiguration** Superintendent Nembirkow announced that Prudence Buckley and James Daley, Co-Chairs of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force would be making a presentation this evening on the recommendations for reconfiguration sent to him for his consideration regarding feasibility and cost analysis. Mr. Nembirkow said that many hours were spent on volumes of information by the Task Force which is comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, School Committee members and special interest representatives.

Ms. Buckley and Mr. Daley, along with Task Force members Maribel Soto and David Brewster, gave the report on Draft Proposals #3 and #4. Ms. Buckley said that the complete report would be followed by a period of questions and answers.

Ms. Soto began the presentation by explaining her personal feelings on why she joined the Task Force and introduced the individual Task Force members, who were seated in the audience. She then discussed the group's timeline, saying that a total of 17 hours were spent in actual meetings, but many personal hours of involvement were given, as well.

Mr. Brewster discussed Task Force recommendations and gave a review of the proposals, and Ms. Buckley spoke about the reconfiguration of zones, proposed zone changes, the new schools and the systemwide changes under both proposals.

The draft proposals were both reviewed by Ms. Soto and Mr. Brewster, followed by the pros and cons of each plan. Ms. Buckley said that the Task Force is pleased with the work that has been done which was conducted in a transparent, open manner.

Mr. Daley said that many more ideas were discussed in the earlier proposals, including possible K-8 schools and campus schools, and he thanked the Task Force for their participation.

A very lengthy discussion then took place that included topics, i.e., utilization of the new schools, moving of students, how the zones were determined, what the rationale was for decisions made, the safety of children walking to school and where the information is on costs. Concerns were responded to by Messrs. Nembirkow, Jerome and Ms. Buckley. Mr. Nembirkow said that finances would be discussed on March 26, 2008, and encouraged the School Committee to send their questions to him so that voting could take place on April 8, 2008. He said, if the School Committee votes to delay, then so be it.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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