

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building at Brockton High School.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair (arrived 7:34 p.m.); Mr. Daley, Vice-Chair; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mr. Hancock; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Vice-Chair Daley called the meeting to order at seven-thirty o'clock, due to the late arrival of Mayor Harrington, followed by a salute to the flag.

Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 16 as well as the School Committee Retreat Minutes of February 6, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Reading Initiatives

Ms. Jean Chani, Director of Reading/Language Arts/Social Science, PreK-8, highlighted a powerpoint presentation on Reading Initiatives in the Brockton Public Schools. She mentioned Universal Design, Grants Management, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Professional Development, Literacy Initiatives & Community Involvement. She mentioned that the next steps would be to continue to update Scott Foresman core text in grades 1-6 with newer edition; provide professional development for grades 4-6 focusing on comprehension strategies; identify literature titles and develop curriculum units of study; develop writing samples for writing requirements at each grade level; continue ELA articulation with Middle School and High School (Dr. Dukess); and continue ELA articulation with Elementary RRS and Middle School Reading teachers. Ms. Chani distributed a copy of a book entitled Bringing Words To Life by Isabel L. Beck to School Committee members; this book deals with vocabulary instruction. After several questions, Mr. Hancock moved to accept the report.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

District Award for Excellence in International Education

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the mission of the Massachusetts Initiative for International Studies (MIIS) is to expand our nation's investments in international studies by stimulating teaching and learning in schools across Massachusetts, and to ensure that students have the knowledge and skills they need for the interconnected world of the 21st century. The MIIS is offering a \$1,000 prize to the district that has shown the most progress and sustained effort in developing an international focus in its schools since September, 2004. He then highlighted the foreign language offerings in the Brockton Public Schools. Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the notification of the submission of an application for the MIIS AIG World Source District Award for Excellence in International Education.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Universal PreK Pilot Assessment Proposal

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to submit a proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care in response to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Pilot Assessment Planning RFP, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The grant proposal will be approximately \$40,000 each for the Keith and Howard Schools Pre-Kindergarten programs, for a total of \$80,000. The purpose of the funds is to promote the program's implementation/use of one of the four EEC approved child assessment systems/tools to effectively measure children's progress across all developmental domains and improve program quality.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the following donations:

1. Target Company would like to donate monies in the amount of \$146.69 from their "Take Charge of Education Program" to the Ashfield School.
2. The Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation would like to donate fifty (50) laptop computers (with docking stations and bags) to the Brockton Public Schools. The computers will be utilized in a research project for seventh grade Science teachers and students at the South Middle School.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Acceptance of CSAB Minutes

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Community School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Downey School Trip

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following out-of-state trip:

Downey School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 13, 2007.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following Personnel Action:

1. Leaves of Absence
Dana Cohen – Plouffe (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 4/23/07)
Paul Kerwin – Downey (Unpaid Medical – Eff. 1/23/07)
Francesca McDevitt – Raymond (8 wk. Maternity – Eff. 6/6/07)
Jill Pasquini-Torchia – Gilmore Academy (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 3/30/07)
Marie Amado – Davis Paraprofessional (12 wk. unpaid Maternity – Eff. 2/26/07)
Sarah Bassett – Downey Paraprofessional (12 wk. unpaid Maternity – Eff. 2/26/07)
2. Resignations
Catherine Erlandson – Downey Paraprofessional (Eff. 2/23/07)
Tina Saba – Keith Paraprofessional (Eff. 2/15/07)
3. Retirement
Barbara Spidle – Huntington (Eff. 4/9/07)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Bid Review Subcommittee

Mr. Hancock, chair, read the Report of the Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting of February 26, 2007, which dealt with contract extensions. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the contract extensions to the vendors listed on Enclosure #9.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce, chair, proceeded to read the Report of the Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee Meeting of February 27, 2007, which dealt with FY2008 transportation funding and alternatives. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented. Mr. Foley stated that the subcommittee also discussed exploring revisions to the zones as well as looking at where we place the middle schools as far as reducing transportation costs and expanding walk zones in the neighborhood schools in the future.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

New Business

Mr. Hancock stated that he attended a meeting this past Saturday at the Kennedy Library in Boston sponsored by **Senator Kennedy on legislation regarding the No Child Left Behind Act**. Superintendent Nembirkow was in attendance along with Mayors and Superintendents throughout the Commonwealth as well as members of MASC, MASS, Mass Partners, etc. Senator Kennedy is the chairman of the Senate Committee of Education. He presented a draft of a report from a commission that was established to review the Act. It is being reviewed for reauthorization this year. He will be conducting hearings around the country and started in Massachusetts with local leaders. Mr. Hancock stated that the Senator was very receptive to what everyone said.

Mrs. Beyer stated that the **Plymouth County Education Association** is having their legislative dinner this week and our state senator and all of our state representatives have been invited. She will mention the transportation issue to them. She also stated that she received a few calls from parents questioning what happens in the schools during extreme weather conditions.

Mr. Belcher questioned the policy on the **plowing of school parking lots**. Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the city takes care of the larger areas and the other areas are contracted out.

Mr. Daley stated that the **East Side Library will be closed in mid-March** due to renovations. The last day it will be opened will be March 17, and the West Side Library will be picking up some of the hours. He reminded parents of K-8 students that textbooks are available at the Main Branch Library if kids leave their books in school and have to do homework. Mayor Harrington stated that the Library Foundation, at no cost to the city, is doing the renovations. After the East Side Library is completed, the West Side Library will be renovated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary

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