

A Public Hearing on School Choice was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 7 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School. Mayor Harrington called the hearing to order at 7 p.m.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mr. Daley, Vice-Chair; Mr. Belcher; Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mr. Hancock; Mrs. Joyce; Superintendent Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Superintendent
Nembirkow

Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that Chapter 76, Section 12B of the General Laws, as amended by the Education Reform Act of 1993 and subsequent legislation, require each school committee in the State to admit students from other districts under the School Choice Program unless there is a vote to withdraw from the program by June 1st of each year. Prior to such a vote, there must be a Public Hearing on the issue of whether or not to participate in School Choice. At the regularly-scheduled School Committee Meeting on May 15, 2007, a vote will be taken whether or not to participate in the program. A vote to withdraw from the program will be effective for the following year only. In addition, the resolution to withdraw must contain the reasons for the withdrawal and must be filed with the Commissioner of Education.

**Hearing of
Visitors**

Jeanne Holmes

Mrs. Jeanne Holmes, speaking as a taxpayer, voter and one involved in the school system, would like to see the School Committee withdraw from School Choice this year, recognizing that next year is a new year. She stated that there are still goals to meet, e.g. full-day kindergartens, etc., and we should focus on them one more year. When the new schools are built, we might be in a position to offer seats to others.

Timothy Sullivan

Mr. Timothy Sullivan, BEA President, was present this evening to ask the School Committee to vote against Interdistrict School Choice. He indicated that the FY2008 School Department Budget is on the regular meeting agenda tonight for a vote, and the implications of that vote will have a lot of uncertainties for students, teachers and communities. He stated that we have wonderful academic programs, music, physical education, theatre, advanced placement, community schools, foreign languages, TAG Program, BHS Vocational Program, Gilmore Academy, etc. All of these programs are paid for by the taxpayers of the city of Brockton, and they clearly should be reserved for the children of those taxpayers. He asked the School Committee to please vote against Interdistrict Choice.

All School Committee members gave their views on School Choice. Dr. Susan Szachowicz, BHS Principal, was present to answer questions.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Harrington closed the Public Hearing.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow
Secretary