

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 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; Mrs. Joyce, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath (late); Mrs. Beyer; Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Mr. Foley; Mr. Minichiello; Mr. Nembirkow, Secretary

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at seven-thirty o'clock 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 April 8, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Public Hearing on the FY2009 School Department Budget Minutes of May 5, 2008, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **Hearing of Visitors**

Mr. Timothy Sullivan, BEA President, addressed the School Committee on the impact of the budget process. Last Thursday, May 15, eighty-four BEA members received a Reduction in Force Notice, a pink slip. This RIF has had a devastating impact on the morale of not only BEA members but also on all school employees. The School Committee submitted a level services budget to the Mayor; however, the Mayor slashed the budget by \$4.9 million resulting in a budget significantly below the level services budget causing layoffs, reduction of Professional Development funds, the potential elimination of programs, etc. It is now up to the City Council. He hopes they do the right thing and maintain the Mayor's budget and not make any further cuts. A significant part of these cuts is an accounting maneuver whereby \$5.9 million in Retirees Health Insurance Benefits were transferred from the City side to the School Department budget. He stated that the real losers in this budget process are the children of the city, and they deserve better.

### **Report of Chief Supervisor of Attendance**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for the Month of April as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Recognition of  
Laura Yellen**

Superintendent Nembirkow read a letter submitted by Franklin School Principal Haymes on Ms. Laura Yellen. He stated that she and her Helping Hands Club have exemplified the spirit of community involvement and volunteerism at the Franklin School over the past two years. Working with Ward Six School Committeeman James Daley, Ms. Yellen and her members collected over 500 books for the Franklin School community. The books will become part of the school library, while others will find a home in classroom libraries. Ms. Yellen was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow. Mr. Daley stated that Ms. Yellen has been working at the Franklin School for the past several years and before that she was at the Gilmore School. She collected and distributed books to many disadvantaged children who were allowed to take the books home. Students in the Helping Hands Club (Disability Club at Massasoit Community College) all have disabilities ranging from learning to physical and they all want to give back. Mr. Daley stated that he was very appreciative of their help.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program Proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Education, and if successful, authorization to spend the funds. The proposal is in support of Community Learning Centers that operate during out-of-school hours. The purpose is to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities designed to complement students' regular school day academic programs. The proposal is in the amount of \$300,000. After several questions of Laurie Silva, Coordinator of 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the vote was taken.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**School Choice  
Program**

The School Choice Law contained in the Education Reform Act of 1993 presumes that each School Committee will admit non-resident students under the Choice Program unless there is a vote to the contrary by June 1 of each year, following a Public Hearing on the issue of whether or not to participate. A Public Hearing was held this evening, May 20, 2008. Mr. Daley moved to approve acceptance of the School Choice Program as a continuation of the program we have in place for the 2007-2008 school year. (The current program is: up to fifty (50) seats available for interdistrict students at Brockton High School with no more than ten (10) non-resident students accepted in Grade 9 and the remaining forty (40) students distributed across Grades 10-12.)

Yeas: Daley, Dobrowski, Foley, Joyce

Nays: Bath, Beyer, Minichiello

Voted: to accept motion, 4-3

**Summer SC  
Meeting Dates**

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to establish the following Summer School Committee Meeting Dates with Special Meetings called as needed: Tuesday, July 8, and Tuesday, August 19, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Out-of-State Trips**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following Out-of-State Trips:

1. Franklin School, grade 6, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 16, 2008
2. West JHS, grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, June 12, 2008
3. BHS JROTC Cadet Leadership Camp in Ayer, MA, June 23-27, 2008
4. BHS Students to Grace Grossman Youth collaborative at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, MA, July 6-12, 2008

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Notification of Personnel Appointments**

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

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Notification of Personal Action**

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #9:

1. Leaves of Absence

Jean D'Ambrose – Kennedy (1 yr. Personal – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Bethany Johnson – Arnone (unpaid extension to Maternity – for remainder of 2007-2008 school year – Eff. 5/27/08)

Jennifer Vargas – Davis (8 wk. Maternity, unpaid 12 wk. FMLA, Eff. 6/13/08 for 2008-2009 school year)

John Barry – BHS (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Anala Guertin – Brookfield (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Elizabeth Gunnison – Plouffe (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Kathleen O'Brien – Angelo (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Tara Oliveto – Brookfield (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Alisa Scott – BHS (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

Elizabeth Zack – Gilmore (1 yr. Alternative Career – Eff. 2008-2009 school year)

2. Resignations

Jody Beaulieu – Downey (Eff. 6/30/08)

Meredith Hagner – BHS (Eff. 6/30/08)

Francis Howley – BHS (Eff. 6/30/08)

Eric Reynolds – Hancock (Eff. 6/23/08)

Derek Smith – BHS (Eff. 6/23/08)

Sharon McAllister – Keith Paraprofessional (Eff. 6/23/08)

3. Change of Retirement Dates

Linda Bryant – Russell Department Head (from 6/30/09 to 7/19/09)

Frances Johnson – BHS Nurse (from 11/1/08 to 10/30/09)

Ellen McCarthy – Brookfield (from 11/24/08 to 6/30/08)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Finance**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Finance Subcommittee met on

**Subcommittee**

Monday, May 5, 2008, to discuss the FY2009 School Department Budget. Mr. Dobrowski moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Curriculum Subcommittee**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Curriculum Subcommittee met on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, to discuss the International Baccalaureate Program, overage students attending BHS, etc. Mr. Daley moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Accounts Review Subcommittee**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Accounts Review Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, to review the accounts from March 19 through April 23, 2008. Mr. Dobrowski moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Bid Review Subcommittee**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Bid Review Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, to discuss FY2009 School Bids. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report as presented. Discussion took place on the Portion Control Cleaning Product Concentrate that was tabled.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Dobrowski moved to award the bids to the vendors listed with the exception of the FY2009 Portion Control Cleaning Product Concentrate which was tabled.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Facilities Subcommittee**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Facilities Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, to review a proposed playground upgrade for the Howard School. Mr. Dobrowski moved to accept the report with the following corrections: He is the chair of the Subcommittee, and the funds were appropriated by the Mayor, City Council and Howard PTA. After discussion, the vote was taken.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Dobrowski moved to allow the Howard School Playground Upgrade Project to proceed as planned using funds appropriated by the Mayor, City Council and Howard PTA.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer complimented the Facilities Subcommittee for the report that was sent to the School Committee. Superintendent Nembirkow stated that he asked for the report to show how much work was done by our in-house people and how much money was saved by doing this.

**Transportation**

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that the Transportation Subcommittee met on Thursday, May 8, 2008, to review the regular education transportation options for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the report as presented. After a lengthy discussion, the vote was taken.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**New Business**

Mrs. Beyer mentioned that she recently attended the BHS JROTC Awards Banquet, and it was outstanding. One of the students received a full scholarship to West Point.

Mrs. Beyer also mentioned that the Dream Organization had a program where they honored the Fireman, Policeman and Educator of the Year. Mr. Kevin Karo, South Middle School Principal, received the Educator of the Year Award.

Mr. Minichiello mentioned the outstanding BHS musical entitled **Anything Goes** which was held this weekend. He commended the students and staff for a spectacular performance.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Daley moved to go into Executive Session for contract negotiations. Mayor Harrington called the Roll Call vote:

Bath	- Yes	Foley	- Yes
Beyer	- Yes	Joyce	- Yes
Daley	- Yes	Minichiello	- Yes
Dobrowski	- Yes	Chair	- Yes

Voted: to go into Executive Session, unanimously

Mayor Harrington stated that the School Committee will not return to public session.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

jh