

A Public Hearing on the proposed FY2009 School Department Budget was held on Monday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School.

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

Absent: Mayor Harrington

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

Vice-Chair Joyce called the meeting to order at six thirty o'clock followed by a salute to the flag. She indicated that the Hearing was held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Laws. The purpose of the hearing was to provide the residents of Brockton and/or representatives of employee groups with an opportunity to express their views on and concerns about the proposed FY2009 Budget. The role of the School Committee members during this hearing was to listen to public testimony and weigh its significance before it formally adopts the proposed budget. Individuals were asked to keep their remarks to three minutes. Vice-Chair Joyce stated that Superintendent Nembirkow would highlight a powerpoint presentation on the FY2009 School Department Budget before the hearing of visitors.

FY2009  
Budget

Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that the FY2009 School Department Budget, in the amount of \$146 million, will maintain the current levels of service in most part, while realizing increased efficiencies districtwide. In this difficult financial climate he stated that some sacrifices will have to be made. Transportation remains a major question. He stated that the budget is derived from two sources: Chapter 70 state aid (80%) and city contributions (20%). The State Department of Education determines how much communities must spend on education each year. Last year, the DOE required the Brockton Public Schools and the City of Brockton to expend \$154.7 million on schools; this year, the Foundation Budget set by the DOE for Brockton is \$162.7 million. Due to fiscal constraints, some of the priorities may have to be delayed.

Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that the following will happen in 2008-2009:

- two (2) new state-of-the-art schools will open
- a districtwide reconfiguration will be put into effect, enhancing the academic delivery system and allowing the Brockton Public Schools to increase efficiencies
- the level services budget will provide quality education for Brockton students

**Hearing of  
Visitors**

**Mrs. Patricia O'Connor**, parent, stated that she heard the educational priorities the Superintendent mentioned and all of them were critical to the success of students in Brockton. As the School Committee prepares to identify the sacrifices that need to be made because of fiscal constraints, she asked them to: be mindful of the charge of the Reconfiguration Task Force and the care with which they made their recommendations and to do no less; look very closely at each sacrifice; avoid dismantling programs that they spent financial and human resources developing; look beyond the most obvious; scrutinize every single cut carefully; and make the best decision for the children.

There being no further speakers, Vice-Chair Joyce closed the Hearing of Visitors at 6:48 p.m.

**Executive  
Session**

Vice-Chair Joyce stated that there was a need for an Executive Session. Mr. Foley moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual issues. Vice-Chair Joyce called the following Roll Call vote:

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

Voted: to go into Executive Session, unanimously

Vice-Chair Joyce stated that the Committee will go into Executive Session and will return to the Finance Subcommittee Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The hearing adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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