

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; 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.

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at seven thirty-o'clock followed by a salute to the flag. Mayor Harrington recognized Mr. Richard Bath who was elected as the School Committee Representative from Ward 2 as being in the audience.

### **Hearing of Visitors**

Ms. Ellen Willett addressed the School Committee on the Expulsion Policy of the Brockton Public Schools. She would like to see it changed to make it safer for children who behave. Mayor Harrington referred the issue to the Policy Subcommittee.

### **Approval of Records**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2007, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### **Unfinished Business**

Mayor Harrington stated that he appointed School Committee members Mr. Daley and Mrs. Joyce to serve on the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force. Now there is a need for another co-chair to serve with Ms. Prudence Buckley; he appointed Mr. James Daley, who serves as Vice-Chair of the School Committee, to serve as co-chair of that task force.

### **Recognition of Recipients of Supt's Award**

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has designed an award for students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers. This Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence was presented to five Brockton High School seniors at a reception held in their honor at Brockton High School on October 24, 2007. The criteria for the award is a combination of their three-year cumulative average and rank in class. Ms. Maria Lefort, BHS Associate Principal, was present to introduce the following Brockton High School seniors who were presented with Certificates of Achievement by Mayor Harrington and Superintendent Nembirkow:

Michael Gomes	- Class Rank #1
Steven Chan	- Class Rank #2
Jason Li	- Class Rank #3
Richard Hayes	- Class Rank #4
Jasmine Khubchandani	- Class Rank #5

### **Report on Expanded Learning Time**

Dr. Susan Dukess, Deputy Superintendent, stated that the Massachusetts Department of Education awarded a grant to the Brockton Public Schools to plan for an expanded school day at the Huntington School and Gilmore Academy. The schools developed a preliminary plan to add at least 25% more time to the school days for the purpose of increasing student achievement. An implementation plan must be submitted by December 3, 2007. The state legislature must appropriate funding in the FY09 state budget. If Brockton's implementation plan is approved, the program would be

implemented in September 2008. Mrs. Terry Starr-Klein, principal of the Gilmore Academy, and Mr. David Brewster, teacher, were present to highlight the Gilmore Academy's program. Mrs. June Saba, associate principal of the Huntington School, and Ms. Mary Ann Breen, teacher, were present to highlight the Huntington School's program. Dr. Dukess stated that they will come back to the November 20 School Committee meeting with an update. After a lengthy discussion and many questions, Mr. Foley moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

**Collaborative Partnerships Proposal**

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Education for the FY2008 Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success (CPSS) Program. The goal of the state-funded competitive grant program is to serve as a comprehensive intervention process involving districts and community partners with student/family involvement. The proposal would be in the amount of \$50,000 (for the combined school year and summer programs) per the funding guidelines for districts with less than 80% of their students who earned a Competency Determination on the 2006 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS and at least 400 students in grades 9-12.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Autism Proposal**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of a proposal to the Autism Speaks – Family Services Community Grants Program to promote services that will enhance the lives of those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The amount of the proposal would be \$25,000 for professional development training and practicum supervision (before and after school) for teachers, monitor teacher assistants and therapists, as well as for staff to train/model research-based teaching methods and recreational activities to parents/families.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Donation to Keith School**

Mr. Hancock moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the \$500 donation of a grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation to the Keith School to be used for the Keith School Playground, and to send a letter of appreciation. Mrs. Monica Carmona, an employee of Harvard Pilgrim Health, has a child attending the Keith School and was instrumental in seeing that the Keith School was a recipient of this grant. Mr. Foley stated that many companies have matching gift programs, and, as times get tighter, this is an avenue that we can explore.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Trip**

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following out-of-state trip: South Middle School, Cluster 8B, approximately 88 students, to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, on June 10, 2008.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Personnel Appointments**

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the personnel appointments listed on Enclosure #8.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Personnel  
Action**

Mr. Foley moved to accept the Superintendent's notification of the following personnel action:

1. Leaves of Absence
  - Gina Estabrooks – Kennedy (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 2/11/08)
  - Sheila Hume – Angelo (up to 12 wk. unpaid FMLA – Eff. 10/16/07)
  - Andrea Peixoto – Raymond (12 wk. Maternity – Eff. 1/2/08)
  - Michelle Sweeney – South Middle (8 wk. Maternity – Ef. 1/14/08)
2. Resignations
  - Ian Gollub – East JHS (Eff. 10/19/07)
  - Laura Hohengasser – Franklin (Eff. 11/16/07)
  - Melissa Ahern – Keith Monitor/Teacher Assistant (Eff. 10/23/07)
  - Denise LaJoie – Downey Paraprofessional (Eff. 10/15/07)
  - Kathleen Seery-Lee – Angelo Paraprofessional (Eff. 10/26/07)
3. Early Retirements – to participate in the 4% Early Retirement
  - Sue Creedon – Whitman (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Susan Daniels – BHS (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Janice Danner – Downey (to retire 11/20/2011)
  - Sandra Fredberg – Kennedy (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Deborah Hurley – Raymond (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Sharyn Jerome – BHS (to retire 8/15/2011)
  - Virginia Lynch – Kennedy (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Marcia Murphy – Brookfield (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Michael Orthman – BHS (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Marjeta Qirko – BHS (to retire 9/1/2009)
  - Lela Spekin – Keith (to retire 9/1/2011)
  - Mary Sundstrom – Central (to retire 6/30/2011)
4. Early Retirements – to participate in the 7% Supplemental and 4% Early Retirement
  - Kathleen Draper- Garner – BHS (to retire 7/5/2011)
  - Henry Lopez – BHS (to retire 11/28/2011)
  - Robert Uto – BHS (to retire 6/30/2011)
  - Peter Vuono – BHS (to retire 6/30/2011)
5. Early Retirement – to participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan
  - Joseph Slye – Warehouse Custodian (to retire 10/20/2010)
6. Change in Early Retirement Date
  - Nancy Buckley – BHS Assistant Housemaster (from 6/30/2010 to 6/30/2008)

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basan Nembirkow  
Secretary

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