

**Brunswick School Board**  
**MINUTES**  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
\*\*Executive Session 6:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Room  
Hawthorne Building

**Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.**

6. Consideration of Executive Session to Conduct Superintendent's Performance Review Pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A):

Without objection of the Board members present voted to enter executive session in order to conduct the Superintendent's Performance Review Pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A).

The Board entered executive session at 6:30 p.m.

The Board entered public session at 7:00 p.m.

**Regular Board Meeting**

Board Members Present: Michele Joyce, Chair; William Thompson, Vice Chair; Brenda Clough; Janet Connors; Rich Ellis; Christopher McCarthy; Corinne Perreault; Joy Prescott; and Isabella Jorgensen, Student Liaison

Board Members Absent: James Grant

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Gregory Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; James Oikle, Business Manager; Sue Woodhams, Director of Technology Integration; Paul Caron, Building, Grounds, & Transportation Director; John Paige, Curriculum Coordinator; Walter Wallace, Principal, BJHS; Lisa Cushman, Asst. Principal, BJHS; Jean Skorapa, Principal, Harriet Beecher Stowe School; Josh Levy, Asst. Principal, Harriet Beecher Stowe School; Steve Ciembroniewicz, Principal, Coffin School; Susan Weddle, BJHS Math Teacher; Lou Sullivan, Grade 5 Teacher; Marie Palopoli, Grade 5 Teacher; Carrie Sullivan, Grade 6 Teacher; Eric Funderburk, Grade 1 Teacher; Sue Alexander, Administrative Secretary

Guests: Robert Morrison; Dana Bateman; Rick Hogan; Steve Perkinson; Kate Kalajainen; Detective Aaron Bailey, Brunswick Police Department; Dylan Martin, The Forecaster; John Swinconeck, Times Record; members of TV3; and others

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked the Superintendent for a roll call.

**Adjustment to the Agenda**

Ms. Joyce asked to remove the Student Government Report.

Ms. Clough asked to remove the Student Services Committee Report.

Ms. Joyce asked to add the State House event as item e. under the Board Chair's Report.

### **Consent Agenda Action**

\*Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection by the Board members present.

\*7. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of January 8, 2014

Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of January 29, 2014 Special Meeting on Facilities

\*8. Consideration of Extension of Administrator Contracts

Vote to extend the contracts of the following administrators through June 30, 2016:

Paul Austin, Director of Student Services

Steve Ciembroniewicz, Principal, Coffin Elementary School

Joshua Levy, Assistant Principal, Harriet Beecher Stowe School

Cheryl White, K-5 Administrative Consultant/Curriculum Coordinator

\*9. Consideration of School Board Goals for 2014

### **Old Business**

Ms. Perreault stated she thought the evaluation process went more smoothly this year and wanted to commend Mr. Perzanoski and Mr. Bartlett.

Ms. Joyce read the newly adopted 2014 School Board Goals.

### **Communications/Correspondence**

Ms. Prescott report that she had received questions from four community members regarding Smarter Balanced testing.

Ms. Joyce, Ms. Prescott, and Mr. McCarthy reported they have received many emails and positive comments from community members regarding the January 29<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting on the Facilities.

### **Public Participation**

Robert Morrison urged the School Board to stop participation of state trial testing on Common Core Learning Approach; to hold a public forum and discuss pros and cons of Common Core Standards; and to help save public education.

Dana Bateman expressed concerns with Smarter Balanced testing and would like more details; she is concerned with pressure this puts on students, teachers, and school districts.

Rick Hogan expressed concerns with losing quality education with reconfiguration of schools.

Steve Perkinson thanked the Board for the opportunity for community members to discuss the building project at the January 29<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting on the Facilities. He would like to see more data available to the community and the continuation of community involvement.

Mr. Perzanoski asked if we could move to New Business at this time. Without objection, the Board unanimously agreed.

## New Business

### 10. Consideration of Approval of the Big Ideas Mathematics Program at BJHS

Susan Weddle, BJHS Math Department Chair, supplied handouts to the School Board Members and reported on the comparison of three math textbook series: Holt Common Core series, Math in Focus,

and Big Idea; and the process which lead the selection committee to the recommendation of the Big Ideas Mathematics Program. Much discussion followed.

Motion: Thompson

Second: Connors

Vote: 8-1 (Clough opposed)

Approved the Big Ideas Mathematics Program to be used at Brunswick Junior High School.

## Superintendent's Report

### a. Budget Update

Mr. Oikle reported that next year's budget presentation will begin on March 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a report by the auditors on last year's budget at the March 12<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting. The current budget should end with a surplus, although one area of concern is the Special Education Out-of-District Placement. We have already spent \$59,000 more than what was budgeted but there is no way to forecast this expense. The amount budgeted for the 2014-2015 budget will be increased.

### b. Recognitions

- The Superintendent announced that Brunswick High School students, Walter Martin and Hannah Vilas, have been named as Presidential Scholar Candidates. He expressed pride and wished them the best.
- Donations – The Superintendent wanted to thank the following for their contributions to the Brunswick School Department:
  - To HBS Bobcat 5K Team – \$300 from Five County Credit Union, \$1,000.00 from Goodwin's Chevrolet \$1000.00, and \$150.00 from Albert Putnam, PE
  - To HBS Grade 2 Chinese New Year's Celebration - Kate Egan and Jonathan Wayne donated a child's Lion Dance Dragon Costume with head and tail
  - To HBS art program –Flowers Etc. donated artificial flowers
  - To BJHS Student Fund – \$25.00 from Mr. & Mrs. F. Michael Guptill

### c. Resignations

The following resignations for the purpose of retirement were announced:

- Leslie Soule, Grade 1 Teacher, Coffin School
- Susan Loyd, Resource Teacher, BHS
- Theodore Carver, bus driver

### d. Changes in Budget Workshop Schedule

The 2015 Budget Public Forum that was scheduled on February 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to snow and rescheduled to Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, site to be determined. There will also be another Public Forum on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the end of the budget process.

### 11. Student Enrollment Option Report

Due to the anticipated increase in student enrollment at Harriet Beecher Stowe School, options are being considered for possible student reorganization for 2015-2016.

- Scenario I was to move grade 2 to Coffin Elementary School. Paul Caron presented the possibility of adding a 10-unit modular and the cost involved.
- Scenario II was to maintain all current programs where they are currently housed. Jean Skorapa reported on reconfiguring teachers/classrooms to support the estimated growth in student population.
- Scenario III was to move grade 5 to the Junior High School. Walter Wallace reported on the visitation that was done in November to Westbrook and Cape Elizabeth Middle Schools, both of which currently have a grade 5-8 configuration.
- Scenario IV was to develop a choice K-5 Elementary School at Hawthorne School. The Superintendent explained this concept and asked the Board for the opportunity to research this.

There was a great deal of discussion concerning each scenario.

Without objection and with unanimous consent, the Board members present agreed to form a committee to research theme-based creative opportunities system-wide.

### **Board Chair's Report**

#### a. Student Liaison Report

Ms. Jorgensen stated that the annual Winter Carnival and Pep Rally is scheduled to be held on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. She also reported on the current mentoring program with upperclassmen and BHS Academy students. She is working with the principal and guidance office to have this added to next year's course booklet which would make it easier to recruit mentors and enable follow through.

Due to the time, Ms. Joyce asked if we could move to the Curriculum and Program Development Committee Report as a number of guests are interested in this. The Board unanimously agreed.

### **Committee Reports**

#### a. Curriculum and Program Development Committee

Mrs. Perreault said the committee met January 21 and discussed the two BJHS math program proposals. They were recommending Big Ideas Math Program. Mrs. Perreault stated that Curriculum work continues on Health, Art, Music, and World Language. She said the addition of Civics to the curriculum is also being discussed. Mrs. Perreault reported that the committee weighed the pros and cons of piloting the new Smarter Balanced assessment and the committee supports piloting this assessment this school year.

Mr. Perzanoski has posted a letter on the website regarding the Smarter Balanced test and will send out an update as soon as he has more information. The Board will have a chance to take a portion of the test. A great deal of discussion within the School Board took place regarding the Smarter Balanced testing. Public participation was allowed:

Kate Kalajainen expressed concerns that our elementary students do not have the IT skills necessary to properly take the Smarter Balanced test. She asked that a plan be made to work with those students to improve their IT skills in order to prepare them for the test.

12. Consideration to close meeting after 3 hours limit.

Motion: Connors      Second: Perreault      Vote: 2 – 7 (Joyce, Thompson, McCarthy,  
Prescott, Clough, Ellis, Jorgensen opposed)

Necessary 2/3 vote was **not** attained. Motion to close the meeting was denied.

13. Consideration to continue meeting for an additional 15 minutes.

Motion: McCarthy      Second: Ellis      Vote: 8 – 1 (Connors opposed)

Necessary 2/3 vote was attained. Approved to continue meeting for an additional 15 minutes.

14. Consideration to move Board Chair's Report Item b., Discussion on 1/29/14 Special Meeting on Facilities, from tonight's agenda to the Special Facilities Meeting agenda on 2/29/14.

On a motion by Mr. Ellis and with no objections from the Board members present, it was approved to remove the Discussion on 1/29/14 Special Meeting on Facilities from tonight's agenda and add it to the Special Facilities Meeting agenda on 2/27/14.

**Committee Reports continued**

b. Policy and Planning Committee Report

Mr. McCarthy reported that the committee met on January 30, 2014. Mr. McCarthy agreed to be chair. The committee discussed committee goals and updating policies. They will plan to meet monthly on the last Thursday of the month.

**Board Chair's Report continued**

b. Report on 2/4/14 RSU 5 Meeting

Mr. Thompson reported that Mr. Oikle, Mr. Perzanoski and he had a preliminary meeting with RSU 5, towns of Pownal and Durham, after Freeport voted to withdraw from RSU 5. They are looking for a 10-year agreement. Pownal is also interested in the Junior High School since they do not have a Jr. High.

c. Committee Chair Elections (for committees not already held)

Budget and Finance Committee: Mr. Ellis volunteered without objection

Facilities and Maintenance Committee: Mr. Ellis was nominated by Ms. Perreault, and Ms. Prescott seconded

Student Services Committee: Ms. Clough was nominated by Mr. McCarthy, and Mr. Ellis seconded

Personnel and Negotiations Committee: Mr. McCarthy volunteered without objection

d. The State House Event

The Board has been invited to attend the State House event on March 24, 2014. All Board members and MSBA President will gather in the Hall of Flags at 11:30 a.m. for a press conference, followed by a chance to talk to legislators. They are hoping for a large turnout.

**Calendar/Announcements**


- Special Facilities Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m., February 27<sup>th</sup> for all Board members
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – BHS is hosting a jazz festival
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – BJHS Husky Howl, a talent show fundraiser for music department
- Registration is now open for Bobcat 5K which will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- High school boys and girls basketball teams will be competing in tournament this weekend
- Congratulations to BHS music students who received music awards. We have an amazing music program.

**Future Agenda Items**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

  
Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary  
Brunswick School Board