

Brunswick School Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Executive Session following
Town Hall
85 Union Street

Board Members Present: Michele Joyce, Chair; William Thompson, Vice Chair; Brenda Clough; Janet Connors; Richard Ellis; James Grant; Chris McCarthy; Joy Prescott; Corinne Perreault; and Molly Gramins, Student Liaison

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Gregory Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; James Oikle, Business Manager; Paul Austin, Director of Student Services; Paul Caron, Director of Maintenance and Transportation; Shanna Crofton, Principal, BHS; Walter Wallace, Principal, BJHS; Jean Skorapa, Principal, HBS; Steve Ciembroniewicz, Principal, Coffin; Sue Alexander, Administrative Secretary

Guests: Officer Terry Goan; members of the press; Megan Austin; Dana Bateman; Charity Kaiser; Molly Berberich; Amanda Similien; Becky Wilkoff; James Ford; other community members and students.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance/Roll Call

Ms. Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for a roll call.

Adjustment to the Agenda

Addition to Consent Agenda of Minutes of November 19 Special Meeting to be approved.

Move Board Chair's Report, item d to be done after Future Agenda Items.

Consent Agenda Action

The following items were approved by unanimous consent of Board members present (Connors abstained).

- *87. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes:
Minutes of November 12, 2014
Minutes of November 19, 2014 Special Meeting

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

Board members reported on emails received from community members regarding the fifth grade transition, and the Brunswick Community Education Foundation (www.brunswickcef.org), a newly launched independent organization supporting K-12 students in Brunswick.

Public Participation

Megan Austin proposed only half of the fifth grade be moved to BJHS and gave reasons for her proposal.

Superintendent's Report

a. Building and Equipment Use:

- Midcoast Youth Theater – use of Crooker Theater
- Cal Ripken softball pitching clinic – use of Coffin School
- Simpson's Point Children's Theater – use of Coffin School
- Cooperative Development Institute – use of high school

b. Recognition

- Jennie Driscoll passed the National Board Teaching Certification
- Melissa Mullison, Payroll and Benefits Clerk

c. Donors Choose Classroom Projects at Coffin School

Mr. Perzanoski thanked all teachers at Coffin School who took part in this project. Over \$10,000 in donations through Donors Choose (www.donorschoose.org) has been generated to benefit teachers through equipment, books, supplies, technology, etc.

d. Budget Update – Mr. Oikle

Mr. Oikle reported on some new changes: a new Payroll and Benefits Clerk was doing a great job; the Business Office has automated their account receivable process; and due to a computer company merge, the School Department and Town Offices' computers should now be able to communicate with each other. The Business office is beginning the process of next years' budget.

e. Proposal to retire/sell bus 33 and dump truck – Mr. Caron

Mr. Caron reported that another bus and a dump truck has been retired due to high mileage and wear and tear. He is requesting permission to sell both vehicles.

88. By unanimous consent of the Board members present the sale of these vehicles was approved.

f. PTO update, Coffin & HBS – B. Wilkoff, M. Berberich, & C. Kaiser

Charity Kaiser and Molly Berberich (Co-Presidents of Community for Coffin), Amanda Similien (Co-Chair of Stowe Community Group) and Becky Wilkoff (Stowe community Group member) all reported on their organization's various events and work which promotes student support, staff support and appreciation, fundraising, promoting literacy, encouraging healthy habits through 5-2-1-0, community service, and coordination and collaboration among both parent groups.

g. Fifth Grade Transition Report – W. Wallace

Mr. Wallace gave an update on the fifth grade transition. A website has been developed and the Steering Committee and sub committees are working hard on student scheduling needs, scheduling student step up day, student visitations, staff visitations, joint staff meetings, parent information evenings, potential summer open house, providing HBS with middle level research, and creating a “decisions” calendar. Many decisions also still need to be made regarding busing, student drop off and pickup, daily schedules, staff configurations, special education staff, diversified studies space, playground equipment, itinerant staff, start and end times, classroom teachers, support staff, nursing assistance, classroom equipment, copiers/workroom, technology equipment, recess space/location, portable location and set up, classroom locations, storage for music, art, phys. ed. equipment and supplies, library collection, lockers/cubbies, moving schedule, extra-curricular, security/access, and additional offerings.

h. Update on Option 6 State Extension – P. Austin

We received a letter from the state of Maine stating that our application for Option 6, a 2-yr waiver for the proficiency-based diploma, has been approved. This year’s 6th graders will be the first class to graduate with a proficiency based diploma. Steering committee has been formed and three task forces have been formed: Policy, Practices, and Communications.

A suggestion was made for the School Department and each school to have a Facebook page to increase communication.

i. Superintendent’s Advisory Committee Update – D. Bateman

Dana Bateman reported on the progress made by the two sub-committees who have been meeting since August: one sub-committee has the task of researching successful innovative program options; and the other is working on developing a plan to assess community interest in the programming options. The next Advisory Committee meeting is January 12.

j. School Climate Survey Update

Mr. Perzanoski reported that he talked to the company and in answer to previous questions the Board had posed: the survey questions cannot be customized but we can add some things to the end of the survey; they would assign a whole research team to work with us; October-November or February-March are typically the best time of year to conduct the survey; and the process for releasing the results is determined by us.

Board Chair’s Report

a. Student Liaison Report – Ms. Gramins

BHS Student Government met and discussed winter carnival and the rules and expectations of activities scheduled, class fundraisers, and graduation.

b. Inauguration, January 2015

The Inauguration will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall.

c. Review of Board Goals

Mrs. Joyce read the 2014 Board goals and reviewed the Board’s progress on meeting these goals.

Committee Reports

a. Wellness Committee Report – Ms. Prescott

Ms. Prescott reported that the committee reviewed and reflected on the current wellness policy. The next meeting will be held December 15.

b. Technology Committee Report – Ms. Prescott

Ms. Prescott reported that the committee is looking at the benchmarks.

c. Student Services Committee Report – Ms. Clough

Ms. Clough reported that the committee met on November 13 and they reviewed the annual update of Title I Reading and Math Programs, and distribution of the Title I and Title II monies. They heard a report on extra and co-curricular activities at HBS and Coffin Schools. They also heard an update on Special Ed.

d. Curriculum Committee Report – Ms. Perreault

The committee met on December 2 and they were given the grade 6-8 Music Curriculum. They plan to bring this to the full board in January. They also discussed technology benchmarks, technology courses, and K-5 and middle school Foreign Language ideas. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 16.

e. Policy & Planning Committee Report – Mr. McCarthy

The committee is hoping to bring a policy recommendation from the proficiency based diploma to the full board in February. At the next meeting they plan to establish an ad hoc planning group focused on strategic planning. The concept is that it will be comprised of board members, community members, and possibly faculty members to put together a draft strategic plan.

f. Personnel & Negotiations Committee Report – Mr. McCarthy

The committee is continuing to explore the department head, team leader structure. They are also continuing work on negotiation preparation which he will discuss with the Board in executive session this evening.

New Business

89. Consideration of the Superintendent's Nomination of Teachers for 2014-2015 School Year

Vote to elect the following teacher for the 2014-15 school year:

Stacy Musica, Math Interventionist, Harriet Beecher Stowe School

Motion: Grant Second: Thompson Vote: unanimous of the Board members present

Nomination of above teacher was approved.

Calendar/Announcements

Tomorrow night there is a band concert at BHS Crooker Theater at 7pm

There is a Facilities Committee meeting tomorrow morning at 7:15am

Future Agenda Items

A plaque presentation was made by Bill Thompson to Michele Joyce on behalf of the Board to thank her for her service.

Executive Session

90. Consideration of Executive Session to Discuss Teacher Negotiations


Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (D).

Motion: Prescott Second: McCarthy Vote: unanimous by Board members present

The Board entered executive session at 8:54 p.m. The Board will not re-entered public session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:54 p.m.


Paul K. Perzanoski Secretary
Brunswick School Board