

Brunswick School Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
****Executive Session 6:00 p.m.**
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
85 Union Street

Board Members Present: Michele Joyce, Chair; William Thompson, Vice Chair; Janet Connors; James Grant; Corinne Perreault;

Board Members Absent: Richard Ellis; Chris McCarthy; Brenda Clough (arrived at 6:40 p.m.); Joy Prescott (arrived at 6:56 p.m.)

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Gregory Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; James Oikle, Business Manager; John Paige, Curriculum Coordinator; Shanna Crofton, Principal, Brunswick High School; Bob Goddard, Teacher, Brunswick High School; Jeff Hipsher, Teacher, Brunswick High School; Walter Wallace, Principal, Brunswick Junior High School; Sue Alexander, Administrative Secretary

Guests: Michelle Richeson; Sarah Judd, BHS student; Gino Ring, BHS parent; Brunswick Police Officer; members of the press; and others.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Attendance/Roll Call

Mrs. Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

Executive Session

63. Consideration of Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of attorney consultation pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (E)

Motion to enter executive session.

Motion: Grant Second: Thompson Vote: unanimous by Board members present

The Board entered executive session at 6:02 p.m.

The Board re-entered public session at 7:10 p.m.

Adjustment to the Agenda

- a. Under leave of absence, Mr. Perzanoski asked to add Jill Bernier

- b. Under teachers Mr. Perzanoski asked to add:
 - Gayle Brann, Grade 8 Language Arts, BJHS
 - Sharon Callahan, Language Arts, BJHS
 - Russell Pierson, Social Studies, BJHS
 - Cathy Kelley, English, BHS
 - Lugene Doughty, Grade 1, Coffin

- c. Under item 69. Mr. Perzanoski corrected the misspelling of Michelle Richeson's name.

- d. Under item 68, Consideration of Teachers, Mr. Perzanoski made a correction:
Penny Inman, Katherine Swain, Megan Flanders will be teaching at HBS, not BJHS.
- e. Ms. Joyce asked to add a reminder to her report

Moved from Consent Agenda:

Ms. Clough asked to have the following items removed from Consent Agenda:

Policy and Planning Committee

Consideration of First Read Policies

- a. Revised Policy FILE: AD Philosophy/Vision of the Brunswick Public Schools
- b. Revised Policy FILE: ADAA School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

Consent Agenda Action

The following items were approved by unanimous consent of Board members present:

- *64. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes:
Minutes of June 11, 2014
Minutes of June 18, 2014 Special Meeting

- *65. Policy and Planning Committee

Consideration of First Read Policies

- b. Revised Policy FILE: ADA School System Goals and Objectives

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

Ms. Prescott reported that Board members have received several emails on the topic of graduation.

Public Participation

None

Superintendent's Report

- a. Building and Equipment Use:
 - Merrymeeting Adult Education – use of BHS classrooms during the year for adult classes
 - Brunswick Parks and Recreation – use of schools for recreation programs and hunter safety
 - Town of Brunswick – use of schools for committee meetings
 - Bowdoin International Music Festival – use of BHS band room and Crooker Theater
 - Arts are Elementary – use of schools during the year
 - Fox Run Homeowners – use of BJHS classroom
 - Cooperative Development Institute – use of BHS for Brunswick Bay MHC Board meeting

b. Resignations and/or Retirements:

Mr. Perzanoski thanked the following for their service and wished them well:

- McKell Barnes, Math Teacher, BHS
- Henry Taber, .5 Tech. Ed., BHS
- Brooke Cox, Math Teacher, BHS
- Priscilla Vaughan, Health/Consumer Life Science, BJHS
- Kim Sampietro, Reading Strategist, BJHS
- Susan Blankenship, Social Foundations Teacher, HBSS
- Kaitlin Woodbury, Ed Tech III, FLS, Coffin School
- Cheryl Morin, Ed. Tech Secretary, BHS
- Darlene Warren, Ed. Tech Secretary, BHS
- Gayle Brann, Grade 8 Language Arts, BJHS
- Sharon Callahan, Language Arts, BJHS
- Russell Pierson, Social Studies, BJHS
- Cathy Kelley, English, BHS
- Lugene Doughty, Grade 1, Coffin

c. Leave of Absence

- Andrea Piela, Ed Tech III, Functional Life Skills, BJHS, unpaid leave for purpose of student teaching
- Jill Bernier, Technology Technician, unpaid leave for health reasons

d. Report on Summer Leadership Retreat regarding Maine State Standards – John Paige

Mr. Paige gave an update on our work to implement proficiency based learning in Brunswick in order to meet the requirements set by the State of Maine and recently enacted law. A team of 23 administrators and teacher from throughout our district attended the Maine Principals' Association Summer Leadership Retreat on June 24-26. A first draft of a plan to effectively implement proficiency based learning in Brunswick was presented. Due to several factors that have made it difficult to meet the State's timeline, we will be requesting an extension from the State.

e. Budget Update – Jim Oikle

Mr. Oikle reported that he was still closing out the 2013-2014 budget. All items that needed to be taken care of as a result of the ed. tech. negotiations are either complete or will be completed on time. The 2014-2015 budget is up and running.

Ms. Prescott requested a report on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on School Choice and on facilities process:

Mr. Perzanoski reported that the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on School Choice has a current membership of approximately 12 and their first meeting will be held on August 27 at 6 p.m.

Mr. Perzanoski reported that the next facilities workshop date is September 24 and PDT will be there with an update.

65. Policy and Planning Committee

Consideration of First Read Policies (removed from consent agenda)

- a. Revised Policy FILE: AD Philosophy/Vision of the Brunswick Public Schools
- c. Revised Policy FILE: ADAA School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

After discussion, the committee was asked to add the words “students’ families” to “community” in the last paragraph on the first page of File: AD; and to add “and/or” at the end of the second paragraph of File: ADAA; and to change a period to a semi-colon on the last page, at the end of bullet b of File:ADAA.

Motion was made to move Policy AD and ADAA to Second Read.

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

66. Consideration of sale of old math textbooks at Brunswick Junior High School

Motion to approve the sale of old math textbooks at Brunswick Junior High School.

Motion: Connors Second: Thompson Vote: unanimous by Board members present

Board Chair’s Report

Ms. Joyce gave School Board members a handout regarding workplace cell phone etiquette. She asked School Board members to avoid cell phone use, particularly for texting and emailing, during School Board meetings. There was much discussion.

Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum & Program Development Committee - Corinne Perreault

Ms. Perreault reported that the committee met on August 1. They discussed a recommendation for a new Spanish IV book at the high school. The committee will meet with teachers in September for clarification.

Title 1 funds have a carry-over from last year’s budget which needs to be used this year. Mr. Bartlett asked the Board for approval to use these Title 1 funds to hire two .5 Title 1 Reading and Mathematics teachers at Coffin School, one-year only positions.

- 67. Motion made to use the Title 1 carry-over funds to hire two .5 Title 1 Reading and Mathematics teachers, one year position only.

Motion: Connors Second: Thompson Vote: unanimous by Board members present

Ms. Perreault reported that the committee discussed changing the title of Consumer Science at the Jr. High to Health/Consumer Science. The curriculum does not change, only the title.

b. Personnel & Negotiations Committee – Paul Perzanoski

The committee looked at job descriptions concerning department heads and team leaders. They also discussed possible timelines for the upcoming negotiations with the BEA.

New Business

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

Motion to elect the following teachers for the 2014-15 school year:

Christopher Baribeau, Connections Teacher, BHS
 Samantha Francis-Taylor, .5 English, BHS
 Brian Choate, Math Teacher, BHS
 Bethany Fortier, Physical Science Teacher, BHS
 Rebecca McKarns, Resource Teacher, BHS
 Cynthia Cygan, Tech Ed Teacher, BHS
 Colleen Kearney-Graffam, Visual Arts Teacher, BHS
 Debora Melanson, Resource Teacher, BHS
 Jonathan Fisk, Functional Life Skills Teacher, BJHS
 Michelle Russo, Grade 7 Math Teacher, BJHS
 Penny Inman, Reading Intervention, HBS
 Katherine Swain, Resource Teacher, HBS
 Megan Flanders, Resource Teacher, HBS
 Carla Shaw, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher, BJHS
 Sarah Sherrill, Librarian, Harriet Beecher Stowe School
 Jola Hebert, Grade 3 Teacher, Harriet Beecher Stowe School
 Alisha Copp, Grade 3 Teacher, Harriet Beecher Stowe School
 Keira Monahan, Grade 1 Teacher, Coffin School
 Kimberly Jordan, Kindergarten Teacher, Coffin School
 Carrie Thomas, Kindergarten Teacher, Coffin School
 Eugenie Knowles, Reading Strategist, Coffin School
 Elaine Graviett, .33 Title 1, St. John's School
 Gayle Brann, Grade 8 Language Arts, BJHS
 Sharon Callahan, Language Arts, BJHS
 Russell Pierson, Social Studies, BJHS
 Cathy Kelley, English, BHS
 Lugene Doughty, Grade 1, Coffin

Motion: Grant Second: Connors Vote: unanimous by Board members present

New teacher orientation will be held on August 26.

Update from RSU5 – Michelle Richeson

69. Discussion and Possible Action of a Guaranteed Acceptance

Ms. Richeson introduced members of the Durham and Pownal working group from the RSU 5 School Board who were in attendance. She briefly explained the withdrawal process which has led to the formation of the Freeport Withdrawal Committee. A withdrawal agreement between Freeport and the Durham/Pownal working group (the future RSU5) was unanimously approved, subsequently sent to the DOE, and conditionally approved. The first public hearing will be held on August 26. If Freeport votes to withdraw, the remaining RSU5 towns will be left without a high school and will then be mandated by DOE to have a School of Guaranteed Acceptance (SGA). The SGA is the school that is willing to accept,

without limitation of numbers, any student that does not have another school to attend. Freeport is willing to be the SGA for Pownal middle school students and they can accept up to 500 high school students, but cannot be the SGA for secondary students. Based on previous discussions with Brunswick School Department administration and School Board members, RSU5 would like to ask Brunswick to be the SGA for their high school students.

Motion for Brunswick to be the School of Guaranteed Acceptance, contingent upon the approval of the Town Council.

Motion: Thompson Second: Connors Vote: 6-0 (Grant abstained)

70. Discussion and Possible Action on 2015 Brunswick High School Graduation

The Board has received correspondence from parents, high school staff, students, and community members. There is concern about the rising cost of graduation. After much discussion, it was suggested we contact Bowdoin regarding flexibility of vendors and use of equipment. Other suggestions include eliminating the large screen; fundraising; selling tickets to attend graduation; adding a cap of amount school department would pay toward graduation; and moving graduation to a weekend day.

The Board agrees to accept Public Comment:

Sarah Judd, Brunswick High School senior and treasurer of the class of 2015: Sarah wished to note that the class of 2015 has held fundraisers for the past three years and have only raised approximately \$7,500 which has been allocated for their prom. She thinks it would be difficult for the class to raise \$15,000 in one year. She also noted that the use of Watson Arena allows the entire community to be a part of graduation as well as the Brunswick High School Chorus and Band.

Motion to set a \$10,000 cap for the cost of graduation at Bowdoin pending a conversation with Bowdoin on flexibility of vendors and use of their equipment. Included in this cap is the \$3400 for materials/supply costs.

Motion: Thompson Second: Connors Vote: unanimous by Board members present

Calendar/Announcements

None

Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:56 p.m.

Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board