

Brunswick School Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

7:00p.m.

Council Chambers

Town Hall

85 Union Street

Board Members Present: William Thompson, Chair; Joy Prescott, Vice Chair; Brenda Clough; Janet Connors; Richard Ellis; Christopher McCarthy; Sarah Singer; Molly Gramins, Student Liaison

Board Members Absent: Jim Grant; Corinne Perreault

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; Paul Austin, Director of Student Services; Jim Oikle, Business Manager; Cherie White and John Paige, Curriculum Coordinators; Sue Woodhams, Director of Technology Integration; Shanna Crofton, BHS Principal; Walter Wallace, BJHS Principal; Lisa Cushman, BJHS Assistant Principal; Jean Skorapa, HBS Principal; Josh Levy, HBS Assistant Principal; Lou Sullivan, grade 5 teacher; Janelle El Ghazouani, grade 5 teacher; Maria Palopoli, grade 5 teacher; Steve Ciembroniewicz, Coffin School Principal; Paul Caron, Director of Maintenance and Transportation; Michelle Caron, Asst. Transportation Director; Susan Alexander, Administrative Secretary

Guests: Lyndon Keck, PDT Architect; many parents, students, community members; members of the press and TV 3; and a Brunswick Police Department officer.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance/Roll Call

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

Adjustment to the Agenda

Add Cable TV Committee to the Committee Report.

Consent Agenda Action

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

- *5. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2014
Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of January 5, 2015

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

School Board members received several messages and phone calls on various perspectives from the community regarding the fifth grade transition.

Public Participation

Input on the 5th grade transition:

Grade 5 teachers, Janelle El Ghazouani, Maria Palopoli, and Lou Sullivan, offered their perspective.

Cian Marnagh, parent, spoke of concerns with extra daycare costs due to the 45 min shift for school day.

Samantha McDorr, parent, would prefer to keep her 5th grader at HBS and would like to see parents have a choice.

Jeffrey Selinger, parent, encourages the Board to consider alternatives to the 5th grade move that would give a choice to parents as to whether they stay at HBS or transition to BJHS.

Seth Levy, parent, feels academically it would not matter, but feels children have to grow up faster when in a 5-8 school. When HBS built there was talk of having 3-5 graders together and now the Board risks violating the trust of parents by changing that and taking the 5th graders out of the school.

Megan Austin, parent, would like to thank Mr. Wallace and the transition team for working so hard to overcome the many issues that would arise with the transition; would also like to thank the team of parents who are bringing three proposals to the Board later tonight; and would like to thank Mr. Thompson for hearing the presentation tonight.

Lori Bozeman, child care provider, sees Brunswick continuing to grow and stated that what we are proposing with the transition is a temporary solution to a long-term problem. She also stated that having outgrown BHS and HBS there is a need to look at a long-term solution.

Architect's Report

PDT update on repairs to Coffin School and BJHS – Lyndon Keck

Mr. Keck had been asked to put together a proposal for developing a “repair only” plan for both Coffin and BJHS. The Board may want to submit application to the state for a future new school; however, if we are not able to get a new school in the next 10 years or more, we need to look at repairs to existing schools. He gave a brief summary of the conditions of Coffin School, which was built in 1954, and BJHS, originally built in 1959 with additions built in 1966 and 1976 and repairs from a fire done in 1983. He submitted to the Board a “repairs-only” proposal, which is not to improve the looks of the buildings but to identify critical items that would cover student safety, school security, structural integrity and severely worn-out finishes. It would take approximately 4-5 months to complete the work and he estimates the cost could be \$6 million or more. Cost estimates will be done depending on the extent of the repairs that are done. A great deal of discussion took place.

Mr. Perzanoski reminded the Board that when they voted in the fall to repair the buildings, part of that vote included putting an applications in for both of the buildings, coming up with an emergency plan in case something happened, and also to be able to start putting money away for maintenance for our buildings in the future.

Superintendent's Report

a. Building and Equipment Use:

- Ampersand Academy of Dance – use of BHS Crooker Theater
- Foreign Language for Youth – use of HBS

b. Donations

Mr. Perzanoski expressed his thanks for the following:

- Miscellaneous donations to HBS from Pathways Vineyard Church, LL Bean, Tri County Literacy, and an anonymous gift
- Crayons and colored pencils to HBS from Peter Sticklett
- Monetary donation to the BJHS Music Department from Katherine Thorson

c. Voted to accept the following resignation:

- MaryAnn Wilson, Administrative Secretary, Coffin School, effective May 13, 2015
- Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent, effective July 1, 2015
- Carl Hanscom, head custodian, Coffin School, effective July 6, 2015
- JoAnn Hanscom, custodian, BJHS, effective July 6, 2015
- Robert Eggleston, bus driver, effective July 10, 2015
- Ruth Wilson, Ed. Tech III, Coffin Library, effective end of school year

d. Leave of Absence

- Barbara Austin, Food Service Worker, BJHS, 3 weeks for family medical reasons

e. Budget Report – Mr. Oikle

We are in the process of developing next year's budget. This year's budget is going well. The auditors will present at 3:30pm tomorrow and all board members are welcome to attend. One School Board member asked to have it noted that they had a concern that the audit presentation was not being made to the full Board this year.

f. Administrator Evaluations Reminder

Mr. Perzanoski reminded the Board that administrator evaluations will be available for their review after February 4th.

g. Draft 2015-2016 School Calendar – feedback due by February 27

The 2015-2016 draft calendar is available on our website and feedback is welcome from community members, staff and students. Please note that due to state statute we have to develop our calendar along with the two other districts who are involved with Region 10 Technical High School and we cannot have any more than five dissimilar days with those districts. This year Labor Day is late so we will have to start school before Labor Day.

h. Effective Educator Law (Teacher/Principal evaluation system) – Greg Bartlett and Lisa Cushman

Revising our current evaluation system to the PE/PG (Professional Evaluation/Professional Growth) Model that the state recommends has been a huge endeavor. Mr. Bartlett explained the key components of the new teacher/principal evaluation system and the three major goals, which are professional practice, professional growth, and student learning and growth. He also explained the Skillful Leader Course (professional observation and evaluation training), and the cost to train administrators, department heads, and teachers which is required by the state. The Board will be voting for its approval in May in order for us to submit to the state in June to put this into effect. Mr. Bartlett and Lisa Cushman answered questions from the Board.

Board Chair's Report

a. Student Liaison Report – Molly Gramins

The BHS Student Government's main focus right now is to continue planning the Winter Carnival and semi-formal dance. They are working with teachers on the activities and incorporating student input. The semi-formal dance will be held February 6 and carnival is the week of February 8.

b. 2015 Board Committee Assignments

These have been given to the board members.

c. Fifth Grade Transition

Three parents, Teresa Kelly-Gillis, Eleesa Marnagh, and Heidi Boyd, delivered a presentation to the Board on the petition that was circulated on Election Day regarding the 5th grade transition. They are asking the Board to reconsider the vote to move the 5th grade to the Jr. High and consider other options such as leave the 5th grade at HBS, move only some 5th graders to BJHS (parent choice), repurpose one music room at

HBS as a classroom, or move one second grade class to Coffin School for a multi-age classroom. They presented the petition with 875 signatures to the Board Chairman. There was much discussion following the presentation. The Superintendent recommended the transition team get together again and look at additional information, consider public opinion, and come back to the Board at the February meeting and present their findings, including costs. It was agreed to move this to an agenda item in February.

Committee Reports

- a. Cable TV Committee – David Carpenter, Brunswick Cable TV Advisory Committee Chair
He would like more school involvement in cable access. He explained the opportunities available by extending cable TV to the school department at currently no cost to the school department. There is already equipment at the town and also at the high school that could be combined to expand the possibilities with TV3. The Board expressed interested in more information and he was asked to make an appointment with the Superintendent to discuss details and report back to the Board.
- b. Student Services Committee – Brenda Clough
The committee met on December 11 and heard an overview of the ESL Program; heard a report on some of the budget issues; heard a brief discussion on how students use technology to show what they have learned; and was told the school psychologist intern at Coffin School is completing her term this spring. Their next meeting is tomorrow at 7:30am.
- c. Policy and Planning Committee – Chris McCarthy
The following Board members will be on the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee; Joy Prescott, Brenda Clough, Chris McCarthy, and Rich Ellis. Ms. Prescott will be chairing the committee. They will be looking for community members to join.

New Business

The Superintendent asked the Board to approve his nomination of Barbara Smith-Lunney, Resource Teacher, at Harriet Beecher Stowe School, for the 2014-15 school year.

This was approved unanimously by the Board members present.


Calendar/Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Teacher/Principal evaluations at a future Board workshop
Cable TV 3 at a future Board workshop
5th grade transition at the February meeting
Budget items at the February meeting
Option 6

Adjournment

Without objection Mr. Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48p.m.


Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board