

Brunswick School Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Town Hall

85 Union Street

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; Jim Oikle, Business Manager; Sue Woodhams, Director of Technology Integration; Shanna Crofton, BHS Principal; Jim Flanagan, BHS Social Studies teacher; Nina Bosso, Reading Strategist, BJHS; and others.

Guests: 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 7:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked the Superintendent for a roll call.

Adjustment to the Agenda

Add Discussion on Snow Days

Add Update on School Climate Survey

Add Student Services Committee Report

Eliminate MSBA Report

Consent Agenda Action

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

***6. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of January 14, 2015**

***7. Consideration of Extension of Administrator Contracts**

Vote to extend the contracts of the following administrators through June 30, 2017:

Lisa Cushman, Assistant Principal, Brunswick Junior High School

Tim Gagnon, Assistant Principal, Brunswick High School

Jeff Ramich, Athletic Director, Brunswick High School

Jean Skorapa, Principal, Harriet Beecher Stowe School

Walter Wallace, Principal, Brunswick Junior High School

Sue Woodhams, Director of Technology Integration

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

The Board received several emails from various members of the public regarding the fifth grade transition move.

Public Participation

Ralph Tucker introduced himself as a former School Board chairman, and Maine House Representative on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Insurance and Financial Services Committee. He offered any help and offered to return at a later meeting for an update or to answer any questions with regard to happenings in Augusta.

Teresa Kelly-Gillis, parent, thanked the Board for listening to the parent group presentation last month and for considering their thoughts and concerns. She also thanked Mr. Wallace, teachers and fifth grade transition committee members for all their work and research.

Megan Austin, parent, agreed with Superintendent's recommendation to not send the fifth graders to BJHS in 2015. She feels the work the transition committee has done has been appreciated and valuable, and is pleased that the Superintendent has also recommended that we continue to discuss the issue of overcrowding in our schools.

Superintendent's Report

a. Building and Equipment:

- Midcoast Youth Theater – use of BHS Crooker Theater
- Town of Brunswick Planning and Development – use of Hawthorne conference room
- AAU Baseball – use of BJHS gym
- Plus One Basketball – use of BHS gym

b. Donations:

Mr. Perzanoski expressed his thanks for the following:

- Hats and mittens to HBS from CMP

c. Resignations for the purpose of retirement:

- Mary Kornegay, Administrative Secretary, Harriet Beecher Stowe School, 32 years of service
- Linda Pierce, Special Ed Secretary, Brunswick High School, 9 years of service

Mr. Perzanoski thanked them for their contributions and wished them well in their new endeavors.

d. Budget Report – Mr. Oikle

Mr. Caron and Mr. Oikle are keeping an eye on the overtime account as they are spending it faster than last year due to the excessive snow fall. The initiatives made with the account receivable system is up and running and fully functioning. As of now accounts receivable is all done within the automated computer system and reporting will be easier.

e. NEASC Report – Mrs. Crofton and Mr. Flanagan

Every ten years the high school has a visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for accreditation. "Accreditation means we have conducted a self-evaluation of all programs and hosted a visiting committee, made up of peer educators, to evaluate the instruction in terms of its own stated educational goals and the seven Strands for Accreditation of the Committee on Public Secondary Schools." The process and its purpose, as well as the high school's beliefs, core values, expectations, and goals, were explained. This year's visiting NEASC team will be here March 1-4.

f. Site visit for Option 6, March 24

There will be three members of the state department that will be here as part of the Option 6 Proficiency Diploma extension. They will be meeting with administrators and teachers on March 24 and will be meeting with some Board members at their second visit to review our progress. More information will be forthcoming.

g. Process and Factors Involved with Snow Days

Mr. Bartlett explained the process and factors that involve the decision to call off school for the day. He explained that this “judgment call” can be very difficult when the weather does not comply with what the weather forecasters say the weather will do. He also expressed to parents that they have every right to keep their child home if they do not feel safe sending their child to school when school has not been cancelled.

h. Update on School Climate Survey

Samples of parent, staff, and student surveys were given to Board members. Mr. Perzanoski asked for feedback within the next few weeks and suggestions from the administration. The School Climate Survey has been approved for this year and has been budgeted for next year. The latest that this would be done would be the fall of 2015.

i. Options for Possible Reorganization

Mr. Perzanoski noted that on page 23 of the handout there is an error: the second sub-total should be \$24, 240 and the complete total should be \$66,610. He reviewed the process since 2013 that we have gone through, the five options that were researched and considered, and the vote on May 28, 2014 when the 5th grade transition option was chosen. He explained the reasons the enrollment at HBS has decreased and summarized “where we are presently” and the projected cost of the 5th grade transition. He also summarized the updated enrollment and cost of the previous five options.

The Superintendent recommends:

- 1) Table any move of staff or students until at least the fall of 2017.
- 2) Allow the 5th grade transition process to continue and report its findings.
- 3) Gather information from staff and the community about these options before the end of June 2015 to determine if any financial implications associated with any changes should be reflected in the bond request to repair the buildings. A great deal of discussion followed.

8. Motion was made that the Board accept the Superintendent’s recommendations listed above.

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

Voted to accept the recommendations made by the Superintendent.

Board Chair’s Report

a. Student Liaison Report – Molly Gramins

BHS Student Government met and discussed: Friday’s Winter Carnival, a dance that was moved to March 6, graduation costs, and a chance that juniors may be able to take the SATs for free in April.

Reminder from the Board Chairman to the Board Members: By March 1 please email him any ideas that they would like incorporated into the Board Goals.

Committee Reports

a. Curriculum and Program Development Committee – C. Perreault

The Committee met on February 3 and discussed the K-5 Music Curriculum. Music teachers will finalize this on the next teacher's workshop day. Shanna Crofton and Cindy Cygan brought the committee a textbook that they would like to use for the CAD I program and also the proposed CAD II program. Cindy has established a STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) at the high school which already has 37 students involved.

9. Approval from the Board is requested for two new high school courses:

1. Basic 3D Modeling
2. Advanced Drafting/CAD

Approval passed by unanimous consent by the Board members present.

b. Policy and Planning Committee – J. Prescott

The Committee met and discussed Policy IKF, the graduation requirement which is associated with the work that is needed for proficiency based diploma.

c. Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee – J. Prescott

The committee met for an organizational meeting to discuss the direction of the committee, specific time frames, and how best to communicate to the Board and to the community.

d. Personnel and Negotiations Committee – W. Thompson

The committee met on February 6 and elected Mr. McCarthy as Chairman. They also discussed the Assistant Superintendent advertisement, an update on negotiations, and the next meeting date.

e. Budget and Finance Committee – R. Ellis

As past Committee Chairman, Mr. Ellis went to the Town Finance Committee meeting to hear the results of the annual audit for both the school district and the town. Basically there were no significant findings within the report and only a few opportunities to strengthen our policy were noted. Mr. Ellis also wanted to recognize Mr. Oikle and his staff for doing such a great job.

f. Student Services Committee Report – B. Clough

This committee met and heard an update on the BHS Academies. This included information on enrollment updates, the continuing decline of the drop-out rate, data collection and goals, challenges, scheduling, grants received and how they are being used, and their need for a social worker and better technology.

Michelle Caron, Assistant Director of Transportation, spoke to the committee regarding data collection that they are using regarding the buses and also numbers of students riding the bus.

New Business

None

Calendar/Announcements

In light of the petition that was received at the last meeting, Ms. Clough is arranging a meeting with District 2 residents on February 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Harriet Beecher Stowe School Community Room.

There will be a public NEASC Welcome Reception on March 1 at 4:15 p.m. in the BHS Library.


The Brunswick School Department now has a Facebook page that will be used for announcements.

Future Agenda Items

School Climate Survey

Adjournment

Without objection Mr. Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Paul K. Perzanowski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board