

BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
46 Federal Street  
Brunswick, Maine 04011

**MINUTES**

Brunswick School Board

**Special Meeting**

October 26, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

Town Hall

85 Union Street

School Board Members Present: William Thompson, Chair; Joy Prescott, Vice Chair; Brenda Clough; Richard Ellis; Teresa Gillis; Corinne Perreault; Sarah Singer

School Board Members Absent: Janet Connors; Jim Grant

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Pender Makin, Assistant Superintendent;

Guests: Melissa Hewey, Attorney, Drummond/Woodsum

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

**Adjustment to the Agenda**

None

**Presentation: School Board Roles and Responsibilities – Melissa Hewey, Attorney, Drummond/Woodsum**

Melissa Hewey reviewed School Board roles and responsibilities and also those of the Superintendent. The School Board asked questions and received answers.

**Executive Session**

85. Consideration of Executive Session

Vote to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel matters and attorney consultation pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A) and 1 MRSA 405(6) (E).

Motion to enter executive session.

Motion: Thompson    Second: Ellis    Vote: unanimous by Board members present  
Approved to enter executive session.

The Board entered executive session at 7:35 p.m.  
The Board reconvened in public session at 7:55 p.m.

86. Consideration of Any Appropriate Action as a Result of Item 85.


Motion to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a settlement agreement of a lawsuit on terms negotiated by counsel and to contribute up to \$25,000 toward the settlement amount.

Statement by Bill Thompson: This is a difficult decision for me to make. On the one hand, we all know that we will prevail in the lawsuit and I think the negotiation history makes it clear that the lawyers representing the plaintiffs know that too. On the other hand, I realize that there is a difference between “prevailing” and “winning” and I know that as long as this lawsuit drags on, there are no winners. It is taxing on our staff and our administration. Most importantly for me, though, if this case goes to court, we know that some of our students will have to testify. I do not believe that court is a place for students and I think that we owe it to them to do whatever is necessary to make sure that they do not have to do that. That is why I am voting to settle this case.

Motion: Thompson    Second: Perreault    Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present

**Adjournment**

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

  
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Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary