

**Brunswick School Board**  
**Student Services Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes – February 2, 2018 9:45 a.m.**  
**Office of Student Services Director**

**School Board Members in Attendance:**

Sarah Singer, Elizabeth Sokoloff, Mandy Merrill

**Brunswick School Department Representatives:**

Barbara Gunn-Director of Student Services

Martin Mackey-Principal of REAL School

Joyce Foley, Christine Schmidt, Sarah Hillery-Instructional Strategists

- The meeting was called to order by Mandy Merrill at 9:53 a.m.
- Special Education Update
  - CDS  
The CDS Advisory Group's work was cut short by the DOE Commissioner in December, cancelling scheduled meetings and asking for a final report following the last meeting. The report was requested in order to finalize the discussions in four key areas: funding, facilities, staffing, and regionalization opportunities.
  - Special Education Review  
Evidence of Action Plan completion will be submitted after February vacation.
  - Budget
    - Proposing an additional special education teacher at Coffin to bring caseloads to levels comparable in other schools
    - Proposing two additional Educational Technician IIIs in order to meet the significant needs of incoming students from CDS
    - Proposing to increase Educational Technician hours from 32.5 to 35 in self-contained Life Skills and Behavior programs to include time for supervision and collaboration with teachers
    - Proposing a stipend for a Special Olympics Coordinator
    - Proposing to move Out-of-District Tuition from Local Entitlement to the local budget
  - The Task Force to Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative Approaches to Services Report was distributed. It will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- Brunswick REAL School---Martin Mackey
  - Receiving referrals from outside districts, usually high needs students.
  - Brunswick has ten students at REAL. There are twenty-two students from other districts. Many students require 1-1 support.
  - Noise cancelling curtains have been installed in the high school classrooms. There is a drastic reduction in noise.
  - There has been discussion with staff regarding the prevalence of substance abuse. Staff are working with students around this issue. There has been staff training. The Addiction Resource Center is coming in weekly.

- Boys to Men are collaborating with staff and providing five-one hour sessions to the Junior High and High School classrooms.
- Graduation will most likely be held on June 7 at the YMCA. Seven students will graduate.
- The vans have been paid off early.
- The proposed budget will reduce a .5 Ed Tech position due to a student graduating.
- Laptops will be purchased for all teachers next year.
- Collaboration with outside agencies is going well.
- There is a new partnership with Midcoast Hunger Prevention.
- REAL has applied for four BCEF grants.
- BHS FLS program is delivering breakfast to REAL on Fridays.
- Other
  - Pre-K space at the new school was discussed. Steve Ciembroniewicz and Joyce Foley will attend the next committee meeting for further discussion.
- Future Agenda Items—
  - The next meeting will be March 2 at 9:45.
  - Special Education Update
  - Task Force to Identify Special Education Cost Drivers and Innovative Approaches to Services Report
    - Recommendation 9: Universal Pre-K—Space in new school (Steve Ciembroniewicz and Joyce Foley)
  - REAL School Update
  - BHS Academy (Shanna Crofton)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Gunn  
Director of Student Services