

Brunswick School Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Brunswick Station

16 Station Avenue

Room 217

Note: The Board met from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in a budget workshop and discussed English As a Second Language program, Gifted and Talented, and Alternative Education.

Board Members Present: James Grant, Chair; Corinne Perreault, Vice Chair; Brenda Clough; Janet Connors; Richard Ellis; Michele Joyce; Michelle Small; William Thompson; Julia Brown, Student Liaison

Board Members Absent: James Matthew Corey

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Gregory Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent; Paul Austin, Director of Student Services; James Oikle, Business Manager; Paul Caron, Facilities Director; John Paige, Principal, Coffin School; Christine Patton, Administrative Secretary

Guests: David Watson; Patti Sparks and granddaughter; Dave Taft; John Bibber; Darren Fishell, The Times Record; Emily Guerin, The Forecaster; Brunswick Police Officer; others

Call to Order

Mr. Grant 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

None

Consent Agenda Action

The following items were approved by unanimous consent:

*18. Minutes of February 8, 2012

*19. Professional Learning Communities Support System (Certification Committee) Recommendation for a Teacher Mentor

Approved Shelby Kavanaugh, Kindergarten Teacher at Coffin School, as a mentor for Heather Caron, Long Term Substitute Elementary Teacher, Coffin School.

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

Mrs. Perreault made an announcement about an upcoming high school stage production. Ms. Small and Ms. Joyce heard from citizens about the 2012-2013 budget.

Public Participation

Alex Anesko spoke about monetary donations to the school department and the Gifted and Talented program.

Rotary Club Commemorative Plaque – Dave Watson

Dave Watson, John Bibber and Dave Taft, on behalf of the Brunswick Rotary Club, the Village Heritage Society and the Brunswick High School Alumni Association, asked for Board support for a plaque honoring the old Brunswick High School. The plaque would be placed in the H. B. Stowe School lobby area.

Motion: Connors Second: Thompson Vote: Unanimous of the Board Members Present

Voted to accept the commemorative plaque honoring the old Brunswick High School as presented.

Superintendent's Report

a. Student Government Report

No report

b. 2011 NECAP Results – Greg Bartlett, Paul Austin, John Paige

Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Austin reported on 2011 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) results whereby students in grades 3 through 8 were tested in reading and math. Brunswick's scores ran almost concurrent with state results except in upper grades where Brunswick scored higher. Mr. Paige addressed problem areas and described interventions.

c. Building and Equipment Use:

- Cal Ripken Baseball – use of Stowe cafeteria for baseball sign-ups
- Portland Symphony Orchestra – use of Crooker Theater for a performance
- New England Regional Theater Company – use of junior high stage for a performance
- G.E.A.R. Parent Network – use of junior high cafeteria for a meeting
- Maine Parent Federation – use of high school library for a transition meeting
- Alma-Lea's Dance Studio – use of Crooker Theater for a dance recital

d. Resignations:

Mr. Perzanoski announced the following resignations:

- Richard Coyne, Physical Education Teacher, Brunswick High School
- William Trufant, Groundskeeper, System-wide

e. Recognition

- Douglas DeCamilla – Northern Stars Planetarium

Mr. Douglas DeCamilla, grade 3 teacher, was recognized for his assistance with a show at the Northern Stars Planetarium.

- National Geography Bee

Mr. Perzanoski congratulated Nicholas DaRosa on qualifying to represent Brunswick at the state level of the National Geographic Bee.

f. Budget Update – Mr. Oikle

Mr. Oikle reported that a shortfall in the special education budget has been resolved. Each school appears in good standing and has enough funds to finish the fiscal year. Savings have been seen in utilities due to a mild winter, and workers' compensation and health insurance costs are within the budget limits.

g. Update on Traffic Changes at Stowe School

The Superintendent reported that traffic flow changes initiated in February have reduced congestion at the Stowe School.

h. Energy Savings Proposal – Paul Caron

Mr. Caron presented a proposal to save energy costs at Brunswick High School and Stowe School.

Motion: Joyce Second: Connors Vote: Unanimous of the Board Members Present

Approved Mr. Caron's proposal for a contract with the Seimens Company to replace and install energy savings controls at Brunswick High School and a preventative maintenance contract for the Stowe School as presented.

i. State Supreme Court at Brunswick High School

Mr. Perzanoski said Brunswick High School will host the Maine Supreme Judicial Court next fall.

Board Chair's Report

a. Student Liaison Report – Julia Brown

Ms. Brown announced the Top 10 for 2012, and reported on attending the US Senate Youth Program in Washington, D. C. She said that students would like to offer their thoughts on the proposed school budget, and that a school climate survey has been given to grade 5 students.

b. Reports of Budget Forum March 8, Budget Workshop March 14

Mr. Grant reported about the March 8 public forum and the March 14 workshop. He announced that the March 22 workshop will cover K-8 education.

Committee Reports

a. Student Services Committee – Ms. Clough

Ms. Clough said the committee discussed nurse substitutes, high school athletics and school start and end times.

b. Maine Region 10 Cooperative Board – Mrs. Connors

Mrs. Connors reported that the Board discussed evaluation forms, capital project updates and the grade 8 exploratory program. They also viewed a Region 10 promotional film.

c. Curriculum & Program Development Committee – Ms. Joyce

Ms. Joyce reported the committee had presentations about a digital art course, the honors wind ensemble, "credit withheld" status on a required assignment (junior/senior paper), and elementary grading trimesters.

Ms. Joyce moved, with a second by Mrs. Perreault, to approve the courses of digital art and the honors wind ensemble.

After discussion, there was a motion by Mrs. Connors to table this item because the Board had not seen the curriculum. This was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The vote to table was 3-5 (Ellis, Clough, Connors, Perreault, Joyce opposed). The motion to table failed.

The vote on the original motion was 3-5 (Small, Ellis, Connors, Thompson, Grant opposed). The motion to approve the courses failed. Mr. Perzanoski said that this item would be placed on the April 11 agenda.

There was discussion on a required English course paper and the effect of “credit withheld” if the paper was not completed.

Ms. Small moved, with a second by Mrs. Connors, to send the question of “credit withheld” status to the Policy Committee. After discussion, Mr. Ellis moved the question. The vote was 3-5 (Ellis, Perreault, Joyce, Thompson, Grant opposed), and the motion failed.

Mrs. Connors moved, with a second by Ms. Small, to approve that the required assignment cannot be made a graduation requirement. The vote was 2-6 (Ellis, Clough, Perreault, Joyce, Thompson, Grant opposed). The motion failed.

d. Budget & Finance Committee – Mr. Ellis

Mr. Ellis was elected chair. The committee then discussed budget presentations, general propose aid cuts, and actual spending versus budgeted funds. Mr. Perzanoski said he may ask for a special meeting on April 25 for a budget vote.

e. Personnel & Negotiations – Mrs. Perreault

Mrs. Perreault said that negotiations with the BEA were progressing.

f. Facilities & Maintenance Committee - Mr. Ellis

Mr. Ellis reported that the committee heard a report by Harriman Inc. about repairs to the junior high, and discussed the energy savings proposal from Mr. Caron.

g. News from the Maine School Board Association – Mr. Grant

Mr. Grant reported that the Board discussed several bills coming up for legislative consideration.

New Business

20. Consideration of Discussion About Strategic Planning

Mr. Perzanoski made his recommendation to the board about beginning strategic planning in the fall.

Motion: Ellis Second: Small Vote: Unanimous of the Board Members Present

Voted to postpone the start of the strategic planning process with Systems In Sync until September 1, 2012, and to fund it at the same budget level as 2011-2012.

Calendar/Announcements

None

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Thompson asked about having a presentation about the Grade 9/10 Academy, school board committees and meeting times.

Ms. Small suggested discussing committee duties and decision-making.

Mrs. Perreault asked for a football field update.

Executive Session

21. Consideration of Executive Session

Vote to enter executive session to discuss personnel and negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (D).

Motion: Connors Second: Joyce Vote: Unanimous of the Board Members Present

Voted to enter executive session to discuss personnel and negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (D).

The Board entered executive session 9:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 9:40 p.m.

22. Any Action as a Result of Item 21

Motion: Thompson Second: Ellis Vote: Unanimous of the Board Members Present

Voted to approve offering a retirement incentive to teachers as defined below:

The Brunswick School Board offers a retirement incentive for teachers who have reached retirement age as defined by Statute, and who are currently eligible for full retirement under the Maine State Retirement System.

This is not an “early” retirement incentive and not available to anyone retiring before normal retirement age. Employees must be age 60 with 10 years of service prior to July 1, 1993, or age 62 to be eligible.

Employees may choose to receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$5,000 (prorated by FTE) paid on or before July 31, 2012, or an amount equivalent to the balance of 55% of the cost of the Anthem single “Choice Plus” plan paid monthly until the employee reaches 65.

The effective retirement date for those applying can be no later than June 30, 2012. An employee who retires under this program and is then rehired by the District must refund all payments from the programs and will not be entitled to future benefits.

Adjournment

Mr. Grant adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board