

March 23, 2016

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on March 23, 2016 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Coddling and Mrs. Trivella, Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mrs. Nault, Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Holmes, Finance Director, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance and Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman, were in attendance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Genna called the to meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA - none
- b. Local 1303 - none
- c. PTO – none
- d. PAC – Mrs. Sallum spoke on behalf of the PAC. She informed that a sub committee has been formed to make improvements to the efficiency of parent pick-up. Paraprofessionals will read to students waiting to load the buses, teachers with lap top carts will be rerouted to avoid crowded areas during student departure times, four buses will load at a time, and numbers will be prominently displayed on buses.

She also stated that she spoke with Mrs. Nault who informed her that a formal exit interview process is not necessary because families are asked the reason for student withdrawal at the time they are withdrawn. The discussion is noted and placed in the student's file.

Mrs. Sallum informed that the Board of Education members would be receiving an email regarding pre-school classes and separating the students by age.

Mrs. Nault stated she has asked the teachers to return lap top carts either before 3:10 pm or after 3:30 pm to avoid over crowding during student departure times.

Mr. Atchinson stated that he would still like to see some sort of generic information as to why students are withdrawn from the Brooklyn Schools in the event that the Board of Education needs to act on any issues that arise.

Mrs. Nault stated that six families withdrew students this year. Four families left because of relocation and two left as a result of teacher transitions. One of the two has since returned.

e. Public –

Mrs. Arends commended the Board of Education on the improved communication and the availability of online documents.

She also requested that the Board of Education look into posting all student grades and assignments online.

Mrs. Arends also noted that school climate surveys will be out soon and she would like them made available to the public.

She stated that other schools have a lot of school by-laws, policies, reports, etc. posted online and would like to see Brooklyn do the same in the future.

Mrs. Morrison thanked Mrs. Nault for handling a recent bullying incident with her child in a professional manner.

3. Minutes of

- February 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Add Mrs. Trivella to the Transportation Committee

Motion to approve meeting minutes of February 24, 2016 as amended
(Coddling / Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

- March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Add Mrs. Lyons as being in attendance.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 9, 2016 as amended
(Coddling / Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Genna made a motion to add an agenda item.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss a real estate related matter and invite Mr. Otto, Mr. Voccio and Dr. Berry to attend (7:18 pm)
(Genna / Anderson)
Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to adjourn executive session (7:46)
(Coddington / Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

4. Administrative Reports:

a. Cafeteria Report

Mrs. Marquis explained the summer program that the Brooklyn Schools food service program will participate in. The program will provide lunch beginning on June 27, 2016 to anyone 18 years of age and under, all students and adults in the summer recreation program, residents of Quebec Square, and the teen center. Lunches will be given and a bagged breakfast for the following day will also be handed out.

b. Elementary School Acting Principal

Mrs. Nault presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding a new standards based report card. A standards based report card is reflective of Common Core State Standards and is a measure of progression. It is a growth model rather than an average model. Students will not be given letter grades. The grading model is as follows:

E – student has met the standard and is using higher level thinking

M – student is meeting the standard and is on track to meet the goal by the end of the school year

P – student is making progress (usually where students will be at the start of the school year)

N – student is not making progress toward the standard

Report cards will be given out on a trimester basis. The first would be in early December, the second in mid March, and the third would be given on the last day of school. Parent conferences would be held twice a year; once in mid November and again in mid April.

Staff will be trained on how the standards based report card works, and how to track students progress. Parents will also be given an opportunity on how to interpret the new report card.

Dr. Berry stated that a formal request be given to the Board of Education for their approval to move forward with the standards based report card.

c. Middle School Principal

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets

d. Assistant Principal

Sports – *No report (between seasons)*

e. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets

f. Finance Director

- Excess Cost Grant

Mrs. Holmes explained the excess cost grant to the Board of Education members and its guidelines per the Connecticut State Statutes.

Motion to agree to the netting method to account for the excess cost grant and for Mrs. Holmes to present change in the method to the Board of Finance for the 2016 – 2017 school budget

(Coddington / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

g. Board Chair

- Discussion of Attorney Client Privileged Communication

Motion to go into executive session to discuss attorney client privileged information for addressing a personnel matter (8:28 pm)
(Genna / Anderson)
Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to adjourn executive session (9:35 pm)
(Coddington / Anderson)

- Discussion and possible action regarding Superintendent performance

Motion to go into executive session to discuss performance of the superintendent and invite Dr. Berry, Attorney Mills, Attorney Gesmonde, and Attorney Murphy (9:36 pm)
(Genna / Coddington)
Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to adjourn executive session (11:00)
(Anderson / Coddington)
Unanimous vote to approve

h. Superintendent

- Payment of Bills

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets

Motion to pay bills as presented
(Coddington / Anderson)
Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Genna asked if any of the Board of Education members would like to discuss any matters before she tabled the remainder of the meeting and adjourned.

Mr. Anderson asked if parent volunteers are allowed to be assistant coaches. Mrs. Sweet informed that all assistant coaches and volunteers must have a coaching certificate. If the person is a certified teacher, they simply need to go to the CIAC website. There is information there on how to obtain a coaching certificate. If the person is not a certified teacher, they must complete a course.

Mrs. Lyons stated that the committee will meet to discuss the nurses' contracts on Tuesday at 3:00 pm.

The transportation committee will meet on Friday at 1:00 pm.

Motion to table the remainder of the agenda items and adjourn the meeting at

11:08 pm

(Genna / Coddington)

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary