

April 22, 2015

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 22, 2015 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Majek. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, and Mrs. King, Elementary School Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mr. DonFrancisco arrived at 7:23 pm.

Mr. Otto arrived at 8:18 pm.

Absent: --

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Grade Four – Research Project on Famous Americans

Mrs. King welcomed all the parents and students. She explained that the 4th grade students and teachers would be giving a presentation on a research project that the students recently completed. She informed the Board of Education members that Common Core State Standards were integrated into the curriculum for this project. Students presented their research through various modalities and formats of understanding. The 4th grade teachers collaborated to create the project, which included social studies, technology and library science.

The 4th grade teachers explained the various components and the progression of the students' research project. They also spoke to the success of the presentation of the projects to the community.

3. Comments by:

- a. BEA – none
- b. Local 1303 - none
- c. PTO – none
- d. Public – Mrs. Arrends stated that she put her concerns regarding the school's climate survey in writing as requested at a previous month's Board of Education meeting. She asked when she would be given a response.

Mrs. Lyons informed her that she would review Mrs. Arrends' letter and get back to her.

Mrs. Gibb, Brooklyn School's speech and language pathologist, stated that she and Mr. Collins sent a letter to the Board of Education members informing them of the number of students that they currently work with. At present, the two speech pathologists serve approximately 120-130 students. She stated that they feel that there is a serious need for additional personnel in this field.

A discussion ensued about the responsibilities of a speech pathologist and the potential need for additional personnel.

4 Minutes of April 7, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 7, 2015 with a change that reads "a member of the teacher staff" to the attendance list:

(Johnson / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

5. Correspondence

- Kenneth Couture, Department Coordinator, Killingly High School Agricultural Program

Motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Sally Timmons and Mr. Lou Brodeur to the Consulting Committee for the Killingly Agricultural Education program.

(Kelley / Johnson)

Unanimous vote to approve

6. Administrative Reports:

- a. Elementary School Principal
See agenda item #2
- b. Middle School Principal
Report – enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets
- c. Assistant Principal
Spring Sports report - enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets
- d. Special Education Director
No report

- e. Superintendent
 - 2015 – 2016 Proposed Budget

Dr. Berry stated that she has not allocated any grant funds into the 2015-2016 budget. The state has not notified Brooklyn of the grant funds for 2015-2016. She informed that she is waiting to hear if the funds have been approved by the state. At present, the 2015-2016 budget is \$17,418,021.00, which is an increase of 2.28%.

Dr. Berry informed the members that the health insurance rate is less in the 2015-2016 budget than in the current year's budget.

Mrs. Lyons stated that there is a town meeting on June 3, 2015.

Motion to accept the proposed 2015-2016 budget
(Kelley / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

Mr. Otto asked if Dr. Berry had answers to the 4 questions asked by Mr. Gene Michael at last night's meeting concerning the 2015-2016 school budget.

Dr. Berry stated that she would review the questions and forward Mr. Deary the answers to his questions.

- Payment of Bills

Dr. Berry stated that if there are outstanding bills to be paid, she will forward the list to the Board of Education members for their review.

- Enrollment Report

The report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets

- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4th – 8th)

Motion to donate \$500.00 to the BEA Scholarship Fund in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week
(Rossi / Majek)
Unanimous vote to approve

- Non-Tenured Staff

Dr. Berry presented the list of non-tenured teachers. Since 1993 non-tenured teachers have received letters indicating the potential to be laid off if the budget does not pass.

Motion to notify the following non-tenured staff members informing them of termination of their positions
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to approve

Ms. Mary Barrett
Mrs. Catherine Case
Mr. Keegan Coderre
Ms. Natalie Geeza
Mrs. Allison Knutson
Mrs. Amanda Langevin
Mr. David Ramsey
Mrs. Rebecca Swanson
Mrs. Lori Sullivan

- Capital Projects

School Security – Key Card Access – *Under review*

Telephone System – *Under review*

Classroom Security – Locks inside of classroom doors – *Under review*

Cameras – *Under review*

Data Cabling – *Under review*

Mr. Rossi stated that the above referenced capital projects are currently under review and will be discussed at the next capital meeting.

7. Public Comments

Mrs. Arrends asked if the data for the recent climate survey would be shared with the public.

Mrs. Lyons stated that survey was just recently completed and has not yet been reviewed by the Board of Education members.

Mrs. Wimmer asked for clarification on the professional development days at the end of the year.

She was informed that the 8th grade graduation will be June 18, 2015. Monday, June 22, 2015 will be an early release day for students with the teachers staying until 4:00 pm for professional development. Tuesday, June 23rd and Wednesday, June 24th will be full days for teacher training.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Budget – already discussed earlier in the meeting
- b. Policy – nothing to report at this time
- c. Curriculum – Mrs. Johnson stated that there is a meeting sometime in June.
- d. Capital – already discussed (see capital projects)
- e. EastConn – Mrs. Johnson informed of the recent meeting she attended.
- f. High School Relations – Woodstock Academy

Attorney Kelley informed that there was a Capital Committee meeting at which they discussed a program, which allowed for an additional school year that students could attend as a postgraduate. He stated that while there is an academic component, the post year is primarily for athletic purposes. The program was accepted. The next meeting for the Board of Trustees is next Tuesday.

- g. High School Relations – Killingly High School

Killingly High School graduation is Friday, June 19, 2015.

- h. Recreation Committee –

There was no meeting in that there was no quorum.

- i. Board of Selectman Liaison – nothing discussed
- j. Board of Finance Liaison – nothing discussed

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

9. Old Business

Mr. DonFrancisco informed the Board of Education members that he recently spoke with a company about a new cafeteria program called Pay For It. It is a program that would allow parents to add funds to student accounts using a credit or debit card, and view student purchases. The total cost of the system upgrade is \$8,000.00

However, he was offered a \$1,200.00 courtesy discount (\$600.00 each building) making the system upgrade cost \$6,800.00

There is a 3.5% charge incurred by parents each time a credit or debit card is used to apply funds to an account, and \$1.75 charge each time a cash payment is applied to an account.

Both the Woodstock and Putman school districts are currently using this system.

10. New Business - none

11. Other - none

12. Public Comments - none

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm
(Johnson / DonFrancisco)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary