

September 24, 2014

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on September 24, 2014 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Majek, and Mr. DonFrancisco. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent and Mrs. King, Elementary School Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Absent: Mr. Rossi

Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, arrived at 7:50

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – None
- b. Local 1303-AFSCME – None
- c. PTO – None
- d. Public – Mrs. Arends thanked Dr. Berry for the information she received concerning the Rediker on-line lunch account costs. She stated that the overall cost is approximately \$3000.00 and in her opinion it is worth it for the parents to be able to access their child's account. It was also noted that there would be a cost to parents to deposit money into an account. Costs vary depending on the payment method. Mrs. Arends also stated that she requested climate survey information from the parents and students at the Board of Education meeting in August. To date, she has not received the survey information, and requested it through the Freedom of Information Act.

Dr. Berry stated that intent of the State Department of Education is to try to give teachers and administrators a clearer knowledge of the environment in which they work.

Attorney Kelley stated that according to the Connecticut statutes, the survey might not be able to be requested via FOI. He stated that it is a topic that the Board of Education members would research and discuss it in a private session.

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on August 27, 2014

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2014
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Consent Agenda

None

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Elementary School Principal

Report on Open House – enclosed in the member's packets

Report on Staff Development

Mrs. King informed the Board of Education members that the two professional development days were successful. One activity focused around State Police report and presentation. Another workshop informed the teaching staff about drug-endangered children. Mrs. King gave the Board members a packet of information that was shared with the staff. It educated the staff members about what drug endangered children go through and how their home situations carry over to their education and behaviors in the school setting.

b. Middle School Principal

Report on Open House and High School Choice Fair – enclosed in the Board member's packets

c. Assistant Principal

Athletic Report – enclosed in the Board member's packets

d. Special Education Director

Special Education Enrollment Report – September 17, 2014 –
enclosed in the Board member's packets

Motion to accept Mrs. King's signature for the food service
application
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

e. Superintendent

- Title One Application

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that she is in the process of writing an application for a federal grant of approximately \$250,000 for remedial reading services. Remedial reading services include two teachers in each building.

Motion for Dr. Berry to submit the Title One and Title Two grant application
(Kelley / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

- Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the payment of outstanding bills
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to approve

- High School Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board member's packets

- Fire Alarm System – Project

Dr. Berry stated that she met with the representatives from Hughes Associates, Inc., a provider of fire protection engineering services, on September 2, 2014. They toured both buildings and evaluated the current equipment. Costs for specifications, design and overseeing the installation of the new equipment would be about \$33,000.00. Costs for all of the new equipment for the middle school building would be between \$100,000.00 and \$120,000.00. Costs for all the new equipment in the elementary building would be between \$120,000.00 and \$140,000.00.

Mr. Otto stated that taxpayers must approve the funds to be spent. He also stated that in his opinion, Mortlake and the fire marshal should be included in a meeting with Hughes.

Motion for the Board of Education to authorize Dr. Berry as Superintendent to execute any documents to initiate a contractual obligation with Hughes as the consultant for the fire alarm system
(Kelley / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

- Grant

See above

- Special Olympics

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that there are two groups of youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 16 years old who use the cafeteria and gymnasium twice a week to practice athletic skills. This has been going on for years and continues to be led by Michelle Plucenik. Parents and students enjoy the program and are grateful to Brooklyn for allowing them to use space at the Brooklyn Middle School for this weekly activity.

7. Public Comments

Mrs. Arends stated that she likes the wiki-spaces that 7th and 8th grade teachers use to post classroom and homework assignments. She stated that she would like to see 5th and 6th grade teacher use it as well.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Budget – nothing to discuss at this time
- b. Policy – Attorney Kelley stated he is in the process of reviewing the high school contracts from Killingly High School and Woodstock Academy. He will continue his review of the contracts and summarize them for the next meeting. He stated that Killingly's contract is self-renewing unless termination is indicated.

- c. Curriculum – nothing to discuss at this time
- d. Negotiations – Mrs. Lyons informed that the meeting that was scheduled for September 17th, but was cancelled. There is another meeting scheduled for October 16th.
- e. Capital – Mr. Rossi was not in attendance to report
- f. EASTCONN – nothing new to report
- g. High School Relations – WA – Attorney Kelley stated that he did not receive an email notification for the Board of Trustees meeting. There is an executive committee meeting next Wednesday.
- h. High School Relations – KHS – Mrs. Johnson stated that Killingly High School has hired an additional language instructor. She also stated that Killingly High School has a great unified sports program for students with special needs.
- i. Recreation Committee – Mr. DonFrancisco informed that he did not attend the meeting. There has been a change in the drop off and pick up policy. Vehicles are no longer allowed to drive in front of the Rose Wing.
- j. Board of Selectman Liaison – Mrs. Lyons informed that she did not attend the meeting.
- k. Board of Finance Liaison – Mrs. Lyons informed that she did not attend the meeting.
- l. School Climate Reports – discussed earlier in the meeting

Representatives from the:

PTO – none
BEA – none
BOF – none

9. Old Business

Regarding the search for a finance director, another candidate has been interviewed and Mr. Ives is pursuing the candidate for possible hire.

10. New Business

None

11. Other

None

12. Public Comments

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary

John DonFrancisco, Secretary