

April 23, 2014

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 23, 2014 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mrs. Majek, and Mr. DonFrancisco. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Ms. Rotella, Elementary School Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mr. Rossi arrived at 7:52 pm.

Absent: Mrs. Johnson

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – None
- b. Local 1303 - None
- c. PTO – None
- d. Public – None

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on March 26, 2014

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 26, 2014  
(Kelley / DonFrancisco)  
Unanimous vote to accept

4. Correspondence:

- State Department of Education

The letter was reviewed by the Board of Education members.

- State Newsletter

The letter was reviewed by the Board of Education members.

5. Consent Agenda

- None

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Elementary School Principal

- School Climate Report & Smarter Balanced Field Test

The report was included in the Board of Education members packets.

Ms. Rotella presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding common core curriculum alignment at the elementary school. She informed the Board of Education members what has been done in the past three years to develop a curriculum that aligns with the common core state standards. Year one was considered an awareness phase; the differences between the Connecticut Mastery Test and the Common Core State Standards was examined. A Curriculum Committee was established as well as a Professional Development Committee.

In year two, one teacher per grade level attended the Consortium. It was decided that all grade levels would complete a pilot for the My Math and Envisions in the 2013-2014 school year.

In year three, a new way of doing things was implemented with the help of technical assistance. The technology helped with communication and collaboration. The STAR assessment program was implemented in grades 1 through 8.

Mrs. Nault informed the Board of Education members that the second grade has been working on written responses in both reading and math. Examples of the curriculum were presented.

Ms. Rotella stated that she feels they have a good understanding of the Common Core State Standards and the interventions needed for student success. She informed the Board of Education members that Common Core State Standards have been being implemented for the last three years and each year they have been refining and revising the curriculum in a collaborative manner. At this time, the curriculum has been started for language arts, however, it is not done in every area.

b. Middle School Principal

Report was not included in the Board packets

c. Assistant Principal

The report regarding spring sports was reviewed. Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members there is no softball team this season due to lack of interest.

d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment Report – April 2014

The report was enclosed in the Board packets and reviewed by the Board of Education members.

e. Superintendent

- Full Day Kindergarten

Dr. Berry stated that 100 letters were sent to parents of pre-school students asking their opinion concerning a full day kindergarten program. Of the 100 letters, 57 were returned. 52 responses indicated they would like a full day program. Five responses indicated they did not support a full day program simply because they were not ready to give up time with their youngster yet. All of the letters that were returned had positive feedback and appreciative comments from parents that they were given the opportunity to offer their opinions.

Motion to adapt a full day kindergarten program

(Kelley / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

The Board of Education members decided that children must be 3 years old by December 31<sup>st</sup> to attend pre-school; and 5 years old by January 1<sup>st</sup> to attend kindergarten.

Motion to change the cut-off date for pre-school. Children must be 3 years old by January 1<sup>st</sup> in order to start pre-school. Children must be 5 years old January 1<sup>st</sup> to attend kindergarten.

(Rossi / Majek)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Teacher Appreciation Week

Motion to contribute \$500.00 to the BEA Scholarship Fund in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week

(Rossi / DonFrancisco)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the payment of the current outstanding bills

(Rossi / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Letter of Resignation

Motion to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Christine Ferreira with regrets.

(Kelley / DonFrancisco)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Non-Tenured Staff

Motion to send letters to non-tenured staff indicating the potential to be laid-off if the budget does not pass

(Rossi / DonFrancisco)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry presented the Enrollment Report

- 2014-2015 Budget

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that she spoke with the Board of Finance and informed them that at this time she is not able to finalize the 2014-2015 budget due to ongoing negotiations with Local 1303. There will be a budget hearing at the end of May and a town meeting on the budget on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Berry also informed the members that the insurance rate increase was at 18%, and then reduced to 12.78%. Dr. Berry is confident that it will be between 9% and 10%.

Mr. Ives would like the town employees to join the school employees on an insurance plan in the hopes of getting a lower rate for more people.

## 7. Public Comments

Mrs. Wimmer commented that Mr. Page volunteered time and helped clean up the courtyard.

8. Committee Reports

a. Budget

The budget cannot be finalized at this time due to ongoing negotiations with Local 1303.

b. Policy

Mr. Kelley stated that there was nothing to report at this time. The committee should meet within the next month.

c. Curriculum

There has not been a meeting recently.

d. Negotiations

Mrs. Lyons stated that negotiations with Local 1303 are slowly moving forward.

e. Capital

Mr. Rossi stated that the three approved capital projects are repairs to the Rose wing roof, updating the fire alarm system, and a study on school safety.

f. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson was not in attendance, therefore, information on EastConn was not available.

g. High School Relations – WA

There is a Woodstock Academy Board of Education meeting next week. The Board of Finance meeting has been held.

h. High School Relations – KHS

Mrs. Johnson was not in attendance. No information was available.

i. Recreation Committee

Mr. DonFrancisco stated that the Recreation Department recently cut \$5000.00 out of their 2014-2015 budget.

i. Board of Selectman Liaison

Mrs. Lyons informed that she did not attend the meeting.

j. Board of Finance Liaison

Mrs. Lyons informed that the Board of Finance is currently putting together a budget.

Motion to approve the Healthy Certification Statement  
(Rossi / Kelley)  
Unanimous vote to accept

Representatives from the:

PTO – none  
BEA – none  
BOF – none

9. Old Business

Dr. Berry stated that the Finance Director position was posted by the town and Mr. Ives has received 20 applications for the position.

10. New Business

11. Public Comments

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm  
(DonFrancisco / Majek)  
Unanimous vote to accept