

August 27, 2014

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on August 27, 2014 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Majek, Mr. DonFrancisco, Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal, and Mrs. King, Elementary School Principal. Members of the public were in the audience.

Absent:

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – none
- b. Local 1303-AFSCME – none
- c. PTO – none
- d. Public – Mrs. Arends, a parent, requested the climate survey results. She stated that she did receive 2/3rds of the climate survey results, but did not receive the results concerning the teachers. Dr. Berry informed her that she would look into getting her that information and be in touch.

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on June 25, 2014

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on June 25, 2014
(Kelley / Johnson)
Unanimous vote to accept

4. Correspondence:

- Letter of Resignation

A letter of resignation from Mrs. Christine Boyle was read to the Board of Education members.

Motion to accept the letter of resignation with regret from Mrs. Boyle
(Rossi / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

5. Consent Agenda

- None

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Elementary School Principal

Report on staff workshops – August 25th & 26th

Staff members had a busy day on Monday attending school wide and team meetings. Tuesday, they were able to spend time in their classrooms getting ready for the first day of school.

School Climate Report – 2013 / 2014

Mrs. King presented the school climate survey taken by the parents of students in grade 3. Her presentation went through the survey questions and compared results from the 2012-2013 school year as well as the results from the 2013-2014 school year. Parental comments regarding their concerns and compliments were shared.

The student survey results were also presented. The survey results were from 3rd grade students, and the 2012-2013 school year as well as the results from the 2013-2014 school year. The results were presented and compared.

b. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku presented a report on the CMT science scores from both the 5th and 8th graders from the. He showed the scores and growth of both test groups.

Report on staff workshops – August 25th & 26th

Staff members had a busy day on Monday attending school wide and team meetings. Tuesday, they were able to spend time in their classrooms getting ready for the first day of school.

School Climate Report – 2013 / 2014

Mr. Yanku presented the school climate survey results to the Board of Education members. He informed the members that the survey was taken at the 6th grade level. His presentation went through the

survey questions and compared results from 2013 and 2014. He also shared some of the comments that were included in the survey where some parental concerns and compliments were expressed.

The student survey results were also presented. The results from 2013 and 2014 were compared for each of the survey questions. Student comments were also shared.

c. Assistant Principal

No Report

d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment Report – August 28, 2013
August 13, 2014

The report was included in the Board of Education member's packets.

e. Superintendent

- Woodstock Academy 4th Quarter Honor Roll

The Woodstock Academy 4th Quarter Honor Roll report was included in the Board of Education members' packets.

- Summer Programs

The Brooklyn Recreation Department ran a summer program at the middle school. Over 100 students attended the summer program.

A summer program for autistic students took place at the elementary school. Seven students attended the program.

- 2014 Legislative – Education Law Summaries

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that in their packets is the new legislation which requires a crisis plan is in place for all schools. She informed the members that she is currently in the process of putting a crisis response plan together to send to the state.

- High School Enrollment Report – enclosed

Dr. Berry stated that there has been a decline in enrollment. She also stated that to date, there are currently 78 students enrolled in the kindergarten program.

- Bus Driver Listing

A list of bus drivers and their licenses was included in the Board of Education members' packets.

- Roof Replacement

Dr. Berry asked that the Board of Education members take action to approve an application to the State of Connecticut for a roof replacement on the Rose Wing of the elementary building. The expense will be reimbursed at 65%.

Motion to approve the formal application to the State of Connecticut to replace the Rose Wing roof.

(Rossi / Johnson)

Unanimous vote to accept

- New Staff

Dr. Berry presented the resumes of the new staff members for review by the Board of Education members. She spoke about each of the new staff members and introduced their credentials to the Board of Education.

Art – Lori Sullivan

Kindergarten – Mary Barrett

Grade 1 – Rebecca Swanson

Elementary Remedial / Developmental Reading –
Catherine Case

Long Term Substitute / Developmental Reading –
Keegan Coderre

7. Public Comments

Ms. Anderson stated that the outside basketball hoop is broken. She asked if it could be repaired so the students can utilize it at recess. She also stated that the parent pick-up line at the elementary school was very long. Some buses were unable to get through the line of parent cars waiting to pick up their children.

She also asked if Brooklyn Schools participated in the wellness program. She stated that some of the foods that are served in cafeteria are not healthy in her opinion. She stated that she would like to see more healthy options on the menu.

Ms. Arends also commented on the student lunch account system. She would like to be able to access an itemized list of the purchases made on her child's account. At present, she is only able to get a balance on the account.

Dr. Berry stated that she has looking into the issue in the past and the cost was significant. She will look into it again.

Ms. Arends also stated that she would to be able to see her student's grades and assignments on-line. She was informed by the Board of Education members that 7th and 8th grade assignments are posted on-line.

Ms. Arends stated that she did receive survey results from the parent survey and the student survey. She requested the results of the survey taken internally by the staff be made available to the parents, and also commented that she would like to see them posted on-line. Mr. Yanku informed that the staff survey is done internally for administrator information and is generally not public information.

8. Committee Reports

a. Budget

Dr. Berry stated that throughout the 2013-2014 school year, many requests were made to Killingly for a bill for high school special education services. She was informed at the end of the second semester that the bill would be approximately \$165,000.00. The financial office finally received a bill in early July in the amount of \$77,000.00. The bill was paid and the account was closed. Thus, \$153,790.83 was returned to the Town of Brooklyn.

b. Capital Project

Dr. Berry stated that problems with the fire alarm system are still a major concern.

Motion to formally ask the Board of Finance to allocate some funds to upgrade the fire alarm and security system
(Rossi / Johnson)

**no action

Mr. Otto stated that the funds returned to the town are public / general funds and proper procedure must be followed for funds to be dispersed. He stated that the Board of Finance is supportive of the need to update the fire alarm and security system. The voters must also support it.

Dr. Berry informed that the system was installed in 1954. She stated that she was informed by Mr. Ives and Mr. Deary that the Board of Education members need to request improvements to the fire alarm and security systems and send the request to the Capital Committee.

Motion for the Board of Education to authorize Dr. Berry to proceed with determining a cost of the evaluation of the fire alarm system and apply to the Capital Committee to pay for the evaluation to examine the system and review the existing specifications.

(Kelley / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to approve

b. Policy

Attorney Kelley stated he received some policy regarding school safety.

b. Curriculum

Mrs. Johnson stated that she will speak to Mr. Yanku and Mrs. King regarding curriculum, but has not done so yet due to the busyness of the start of school.

d. Negotiations

Mrs. Lyons informed that Local 1303 negotiations are continuing and moving forward. There was a meeting last week and another mediation meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2014. She stated that she feels that both sides will be able to come to an agreement.

e. Capital

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

f. EASTCONN

Mrs. Johnson handed out a pamphlet from EastConn. She stated that EastConn continues to grow.

g. High School Relations – WA

Mr. Rossi and Attorney Kelley did not attend the meeting.

h. High School Relations - KHS

Mrs. Johnson stated that the freshman started Wednesday and the upper classman start Thursday.

i. Recreation Committee

Mrs. Lyons stated that she did not attend the meeting. She informed that there are two vacancies on the recreation commission. She also stated that approximately 150 students attended the summer program. It was a great success.

j. Board of Selectman Liaison

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

k. Board of Finance Liaison

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

l. School Climate Report

The School Climate Report was presented earlier in the Meeting.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – There is a meeting tomorrow to close out the 2013-2014 budget and to discuss the 2014-2015 budget.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

High School Contract

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that both Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School are designated schools for Brooklyn students. At present, Brooklyn does not have a contract with Killingly High School. The last contract was a ten-year contract starting in 1997 and ending in 2007. She informed that without a contract, there is no security that Killingly will remain a designated school.

Discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons of having a contract with Killingly High School.

Dr. Berry informed that Board of Education members that 3 candidates have been interviewed by for the finance director position. She, Mr. Ives and Mr. Deary, conducted the interviews. At this time, they have decided to continue their search for a finance director.

11. Other

None

12. Public Comments

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:03 pm
(Johnson / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary

