

May 28, 2014

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on May 28, 2014 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Majek, and Mr. DonFrancisco. Also present were Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Comments by:

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

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on April 23, 2014

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 23, 2014  
(Rossi / Kelley)

Abstained: Johnson

Motion Passed

4. Correspondence:

- PTO - Brick Walkway / Elementary

A letter from the PTO concerning the completion of the brick walk way at the elementary building was acknowledged by Board members.

5. Consent Agenda

- None

6. Administrative Reports:

- a. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Rotella's report was included in the Board of Education packets.

b. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku informed the board members that all middle school students had taken the Smarter Balanced pilot test. The testing spanned over the course of about 30 school days. He informed that instruction time was compromised in that scheduling for the entire student body needed to be changed to accommodate the testing. He stated that there were three faculty meetings and many grade level team meetings to work out the logistics of the testing schedules. The students were patient and cooperative and all the staff members helped to make it a success. He stated that he is not sure of what, if any, results or feedback they will get from the State of Connecticut concerning the test results.

c. Assistant Principal

The spring sports report was presented and students were recognized for their accomplishments.

d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment Report – May 2014

The Special Education Report was included in the Board packets.

e. Superintendent

- Security Review

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that she and Mrs. Geeza walked the corridors and rooms of both school buildings with state troopers who reviewed the premises for safety and security. Their recommendations based on the concerns raised by the state troopers are to make adjustments in the habits of faculty and staff on a daily basis. Doors and windows should be closed and locked at all times. The troopers informed that changing the habits of people within the building on a daily basis would help to improve the safety and security of the school. Dr. Berry stated that she is in the process of putting a plan together to

address some habits that will ensure better safety practices. The police will come back at any time and respond to any further questions from Brooklyn.

- Special Education State Grant Application

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education that there is a special education grant application that has been submitted in the amount of \$235,000.

- School Readiness State Grant Application

There is a school readiness grant application that will be submitted in the amount of \$107,000.

Motion to approve the School Readiness Grant Application  
(Rossi / Kelley)  
Unanimous vote to approve

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Woodstock Academy Honor Roll

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Honor Roll report was presented. Brooklyn students who attained honors or recognition status were commended for their achievements.

- Graduation Award

Motion to give a \$50.00 scholarship award at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation on June 18, 2014  
(Johnson / Majek)  
Unanimous vote to approve

- Graduation Attendance

Dr. Berry invited the Board of Education members to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation on June 18, 2014. The members requested that a small amount of information be given to explain the graduation award before it is presented.

- Connecticut Invention Convention

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders once again have participated in the Connecticut Invention Convention. She stated that eleven students made it to the state level and these students presented their inventions at the University

of Connecticut. Five of those students won awards for their inventions.

- Payment of Bills

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

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry presented the enrollment report. It was noted that enrollment is down 30 students from the start of this school year.

- 2014-2015 Budget Hearing / Town Meeting – June 5, 2014

There is a town meeting on June 5, 2014 to take action on the 2014-2015 town and school budgets. There is a special meeting on May 29, 2014 for the Board of Finance to act upon three resolutions.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Committee Reports

- a. Budget

There was a hearing to present the school and town budgets for 2014-2015.

- b. Policy

Attorney Kelley stated that there is nothing new to report at this time.

- c. Curriculum

Mrs. Johnson stated that she has not attended a curriculum meeting because their meetings have centered on Common Core State Standards.

- d. Negotiations

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Negotiations are progressing.

e. Capital

Mr. Rossi stated that the Rose Wing Roof repairs have been approved. He also stated that the fire alarm repairs and updates were not approved. He stated that he believes there was a breakdown in communication along the way. Better procedures need to be in place and clearly defined for all parties involved in the capital improvements process. He stated that it might be necessary to have a special meeting with the Board of Finance members and the Board of Education members to establish procedural steps for improvements going forward.

Mr. Rossi recommended requesting a written report from the person who conducted the investigation of the fire alarm system. The Board of Education did not receive any report from him. A verbal report was presented to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Otto commented that the Capital Committee and the Board of Education should sit down and discuss what needs to be done to move forward. He stated that the Board of Finance has no negative feelings about the need for a new fire alarm system.

Motion to have a meeting with the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Capital Committee to establish a procedure for submitting requests for capital improvements.

(Johnson / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

f. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson informed that the annual meeting was held on May 27, 2014. She did not attend the meeting.

g. High School Relations – WA

Mr. Rossi reported that the International Program has had no significant changes. He also stated that there are many Brooklyn students who participate in a number of activities and are very successful. Woodstock Academy is working on

improving their communication with sending towns. They are also in the process of faculty and headmaster evaluations.

h. High School Relations – KHS

Mrs. Johnson reported that Killingly High School's first budget was turned down. Their special education budget was higher than is usually shown in their budget.

i. Recreation Committee

Mr. DonFrancisco stated that he did not attend the recent meeting.

Dr. Berry stated that the Recreation Department is handling the mowing and upkeep of the fields on the school grounds.

i. 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.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Public Comments

None

12. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel  
Recording Secretary