

August 28, 2013

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on August 28, 2013 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Lyons, and Mrs. Johnson (arrived at 7:20). Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, and Ms. Rotella, Elementary School Principa. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – None
- b. Local 1303 - AFSCME – None
- c. PTO – Reminder that the back to school barbeque will be September 5, 2013 at 5:00 pm.
- d. Public – None

3. Presentation of Diploma

Mr. Doherty spoke to the board members and the audience regarding a Brooklyn student, Stephan Reindeau, whom he had home tutored during the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Reindeau was awarded a 2012 Killingly High School Diploma.

4. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on June 12, 2013 and July 31, 2013.

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 12, 2013

(Lyons / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of July 31, 2013 with the following changes:

Mrs. Johnson requested that the Board of Education members enter executive session immediately to discuss a letter received by all the members of the Board of Education.

(Lyons / Trivella)

Unanimous vote to accept

5. Correspondence:

- Woodstock Academy Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes. No discussion.

- Woodstock Academy 4th Quarter Honor Roll

Members reviewed the 4th Quarter Honor Roll. No discussion.

6. Consent Agenda

None

7. Administrative Reports:

- a. Middle School Principal *(Report Only)*

- b. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Rotella presented a report regarding the professional development programs that she and Mr. Yanku attended concerning school improvement. They attended a 5 day course regarding the State of Connecticut teacher evaluation requirements.

They also attended a 3 day training on administrator evaluations as well as a technological training on the bloom board.

She stated that the State of Connecticut Department of Education pays for the trainings.

The first professional development day for Brooklyn teachers on August 26, 2013 was on the evaluation process, and how teachers will be assessed. One-third of teachers will be evaluated this year.

Ms. Rotella noted that the first day of school was extremely successful. Students arrived happy and were met with many exciting events.

She stated that Mr. Yanku suggested that teachers start keeping a portfolio to track their own success even when they are not being evaluated.

Ms. Rotella was asked to keep track of the time it takes to evaluate teachers. It will help the board members plan for the future.

She explained that the Bloom Board Program is free. It will not be a cost to individual teachers unless they choose to take part in professional development that goes beyond the state allowance of \$75.00 per teacher.

c. Assistant Principal (*Report Only*)

d. Special Education Director (*Report Only*)

- Special Education Enrollment

Dr. Berry presented the report. She explained that the number of out-placed students is greater than in the past. Therefore, the costs have a greater financial impact.

e. Superintendent

- Technology Grant Application

Dr. Berry informed the board members that Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Lessig, and Mrs. Loughlin put together an application for a state grant for technology. The amount requested in the grant was \$168,312.00. She explained that the grant would be to the level of state reimbursement for construction and Brooklyn's reimbursement rate is 76%. Therefore, if we receive this grant, Brooklyn will be responsible for the remainder of the cost. The grant focused on three things:

- 1) Infrastructure of technology (Elementary and Middle School)
- 2) New Computers (\$38,000)
- 3) Professional development training for staff

Dr. Berry informed the board members that she received a letter and donation of \$5,000 for the My Access writing program. The check will be used for the program in the middle school.

- New Staff

Charles Carney is the new member of the custodial staff.

Natalie Geeza was chosen as the new 7th grade geography teacher.

Arturo Gutierrez was chosen as the new Spanish teacher for both 7th and 8th graders.

Dr. Berry will work the board members to come up with a date and time when they can meet the new members of the Brooklyn Middle School staff.

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry stated that students are still being enrolled. Therefore, she was unable to provide a firm number at this time.

- Bus Drivers

Dr. Berry presented a report with the names and license numbers of all the bus drivers as required by the contract with First Student.

Motion to participate in the Healthy Foods Program.

(Lyons / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

Dr. Berry stated that Mrs. Wright, the occupational therapist, has resigned. We will be contracting with EastConn for these services.

- 2013 CMT – Comparison By Town – Northeast CT

The board members commended Ms. Rotella and Mr. Yanku. The CMT results showed improvement and the percentage of students who scored at the proficient level and/or goal level is significant.

Dr. Berry commented on the six-month asbestos reassessment completed in July and stated that the asbestos reports are available for review. The next reassessment is scheduled for January, 2014.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Committee Reports

a. Budget

Due to students who recently moved into the district, there are new special education costs that were not budgeted for.

b. Policy

Attorney Kelley stated that there was no committee meeting over the summer. There is information that needs to be looked at. There will be a meeting possibly in September.

c. Curriculum

Next meeting is October 21, 2013 at 3:45 in the middle school library.

d. Negotiations

The Local 1303 contract is up for negotiation. Dr. Berry will provide a copy of the current contract for the board members to review.

e. Capital

The fire alarm system needs updating. The estimate that was given was \$56,000. However, the actual costs for work needed could be much more.

f. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson handed out booklets and minutes of yesterday's meeting.

g. High School Relations

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio attended the Woodstock Academy meeting. Mr. Richard Foye is the interim headmaster. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio recommended that since both she and Mrs. Trivella will be leaving the board, two other board members

take their places on the High School Relations Committee.
She recommended Mr. Rossi and Attorney Kelley.

h. High School Study Committee

Mrs. Trivella stated that the committee did not meet.
However, she spoke to Holly Singleton about CMT data.
Ms. Singleton informed her that the data comes from the
state. She will follow up after school has been in session for
a short time.

Mrs. Trivella is still collecting data on whether or not honors
standards are the same from our designated high schools.

i. Recreation Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2013.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

10. Old Business

Motion to approve the line item transfer of remaining bills for fiscal year
2012-2013; and to return as much of the \$23,775 from the 2012-2013
budget to the town after outstanding summer school bills are paid.

(Johnson / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

11. New Business

None

12. Public Comments

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm.

(Lyons / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary

Robert Rossi
Secretary
Board of Education