

February 24, 2016

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on February 24, 2016 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Coddling and Mrs. Trivella, Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance and Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman, were in attendance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Absent: Mr. Anderson

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA - none
- b. Local 1303 - none
- c. PTO – none
- d. PAC – none
- e. Public – none

3. Minutes of

- January 27, 2016 Board Minutes

Amend item 4a, page 2, “reading day” to read “reading week”

Amend page 3, to read February 24, 2016 for next monthly Board of Education meeting

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 27, 2016 as amended
(Coddling / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

- February 3, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2016
(Coddling / Trivella)

Unanimous vote to approve

4. Administrative Reports:

- a. Elementary School Acting Principal:

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets.

Report on Morton Foundation Donation – *Sean Maloney*

Mr. Maloney informed that he entered a nationwide contest concerning incorporating technology into the classroom. He received \$1000.00 worth of books for the elementary and middle school. He explained that a foundation in Massachusetts donated \$12,500 in funds to incorporate technology in the classroom. He stated the funds have been used to purchase a lap top cart of Chromebooks and various accessories to help elementary students with coding, sequencing and mapping. He also stated that approximately 30% of students in his classroom do not have Internet access at home. His goal is to get all students involved in utilizing the internet on a regular basis.

The Board of Education members thanked and congratulated Mr. Maloney.

b. Middle School Principal:

Report on Technology

Mr. Yanku introduced Mr. Lessig, Brooklyn Middle Schools technology education teacher, who presented an overview of technology at both the elementary and middle school buildings.

Mr. Lessig stated that he is hopeful that the school website will be updated over the summer and ready for the next school year.

He explained that students starting in 3rd grade utilize Google Classroom.

High School Choice

Mr. Yanku explained how high school choice is presented to both parents and students at the start of the school year, and through the decision making process. The designated high schools are Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School. Brooklyn also provides transportation to Quinebaug Middle College and H.H. Ellis Regional Technical High School. For the 2016-2017 school year, two students are planning to attend NFA.

Mr. Lessig presented an overview of the Brooklyn Public Schools technology as of Spring 2016. He also outlined the technology goals through 2018. He outlined all technology at both the elementary and middle school buildings.

Mr. Atchinson asked when the website would be updated.

Mr. Lessig stated that he is hopeful that it will be done over the summer and ready for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mrs. Coddling asked what grade level can utilize Google Classroom. Mr. Lessig stated that Google Classroom is appropriate for students in grade 3 and up.

Mrs. Trivella commented on the progression of the technology in the recent years and asked if the designated high schools use Google Classroom. Mr. Lessig was unsure how many are, but is sure that some do.

He stated that Jane Cook is an independent curriculum consultant who works with the Brooklyn School district as well as some area high schools.

Mr. Otto commented that smartboards have improved the atmosphere in the classrooms for both students and faculty. He also stated that the Brooklyn public library should incorporate some computers and technology in their facility for public use.

Dr. Berry stated that NFA asked if they could utilize Brooklyn Middle as a pick-up location for Brooklyn students. She also informed that NFA asked to rent a Brooklyn bus to transport Brooklyn students to NFA. She informed NFA that all Brooklyn buses are utilized in both the morning and afternoon and NFA cannot use one of Brooklyn's buses.

c. Assistant Principal:

- Report on Sports
Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets.

d. Special Education Director:

- Special Education Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets.

Mrs. Trivella noted that the report showed 15 referrals. She asked if that number reflected that 15 additional students were identified as special education, or if they were simply referred to special education.

Dr. Berry stated she would look into it and let her know.

Mrs. Trivella also asked if she knows how many 3 and 4 year olds currently enrolled in pre-school will be moving up to kindergarten. Dr. Berry stated that she doesn't have a count at present.

Mrs. Lyons noted that according to the report, 35 students currently receive speech and language services. She was informed that those 35 students are only the students that are designated to receive speech services. The caseload is much greater than 35.

e. Superintendent:

- Payment of Bills

Mrs. Coddling inquired about the current \$720,000.00 bill from Killingly High School.

She stated that according to representatives of Woodstock Academy, Brooklyn is the only sending district that pays their bill on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Lyons stated that that is incorrect. According to the contract, Woodstock Academy should only be billing Brooklyn based on the number of students that are enrolled as of October 1st of the current school year.

Motion to pay bills as presented
(Coddling / Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

- Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets.

5. Public Comments:

None

6. Committee Reports:

a. Budget

There was a budget meeting earlier today. Mrs. Holmes was there to clarify some things. The next meeting is March 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

b. Curriculum

Mrs. Trivella commented there used to be curriculum committees. Eighth grade teachers would work with high school teachers to make sure the curriculum was aligned.

Mrs. Coddling stated that Woodstock Academy offered to conduct a joint professional development day with the middle school teachers to help students transition to high school. She stated that, according to Woodstock Academy, Brooklyn freshman are lacking in the math content area. She stated that Brooklyn students often have to retake algebra and Spanish during their freshman year. She informed that PSAT scores for freshman show where Brooklyn students are lacking, and that should be addressed. She also informed that Woodstock Academy representatives would like to present to the Brooklyn Board of Education what is happening with Brooklyn students.

c. Policy

See item #7

d. Communications

Mr. Atchinson noted that the room had been rearranged, and a microphone system is being used to help with the sound problem. There will be updates to the website, and board packet information has been posted on Brooklyn Matters, a Facebook page. He stated that he would like to see email communications for minutes, and information to anyone who would like to subscribe. He also stated that he would like to live stream the meetings on YouTube for people who are not able to attend.

e. Capital / Facilities

Mrs. Genna stated that the committee has not met.

f. EASTCONN

Mrs. Trivella will now be the EastConn liaison. She met with the CEO. The first meeting was cancelled, however, she did receive information on how EastConn monitors residency.

g. High School Relations – WA

Mrs. Coddling stated that the Board of Trustees meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for next week. They are working on improving communication.

h. High School Relations – KHS

Mrs. Genna met with the Killingly High School chairperson. She informed that discussion at the meeting included the principal being placed on leave. They were not able to discuss personnel issues at the meeting.

i. Recreation Committee

Mrs. Lyons stated that the meeting was postponed.

j. Transportation

Mrs. Lyons and Mr. Otto have come up with a contract that include changes concerning:

- the number of buses running and their sizes to ensure the buses are full
- the Superintendent can alter groups and numbers of buses at any time
- a four year contract
- qualifications for drivers, including random drug testing and census taking on every bus, every day
- unannounced vehicle inspection to insure the quality of the buses being used
- length of time the bus can idle
- radio and GPS location, so the school can have more control of the transportation system
- monitors on buses
- scheduled arrival and departure times
- penalties for failure to comply with the contract
- seatbelts for the first 3 rows of seats

Mrs. Lyons recommended that Board of Education members approve the contract so it can be sent out for bid.

Mrs. Coddington stated that parents are no longer allowed to board the buses to buckle their child in; the student must do it themselves, or have another student fasten the buckle.

Discussion concerning bus restraints and monitors ensued.

Mrs. Lyons stated she would email a copy of the contract to the Board of Education members.

Motion to send transportation contract out to bid
(Coddington / Atchinson)
Unanimous vote to approve

k. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Nothing to report at this time.

l. Board of Finance Liaison

Mrs. Genna stated that they are currently working on their budget.

Representatives from PTO, BEA, BOF, and other committees that have issues to bring to the Board will be asked to present these issues to the Board of Education or appropriate committee as necessary.

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

7. Old Business

Policies and Regulations that were distributed at the January 27, 2016 meeting for discussion / vote.

(January 27, 2013 re-approval, to be listed by numbers and fall 2015)

Policies and regulations from January 27, 2013

0521 (a, b) – Non-Discrimination

3542.1 (a, b) – Food Services

3542.33 (a, b, c) – Food Services

4111 (a, b) – Personnel – Hiring, Records, Finger Printing

4111.1

4112.5 (a, b)

4112.6

4115 (a, b, c, d) – Personnel – Certified

4117.4 – Personnel – Non-renewal

5111 (a, b, c) – Student – Admission/Placement

5113 (a, b, c) – Student – Attendance

5113.2 (a, b, c, d) – Student – Absence and truancy

5114 (a to r) – Student – Suspension

5124 – Reporting to Parents

5131.911 (a – i) – Bullying

5141 (a – h) – Student Health Services

5141.21 (a - j) - Student Health Services Medications
5141.3 (a - i) - Medications/Immunizations
5141.4 (a - c) - Reporting Child Abuse
5144.1 (a - f) - Physical Restraint
5145 (a - k) - Civil / Legal Rights - 504
5145 (form and appendix) - 504 Rights
5145.15 (a-b) - Directory Information
6146 (a-b) - Graduation Requirements
9012 (a-b) Responsibilities of board
9321 - Meetings of the Board
9330 (a-d) - Board / School Records
6142.101 (a-m) - Student Nutrition (had been reviewed by our Food Services Director)

The following policies and regulations from fall 2015:

4111 - Recruitment and Selection
5118.1 - Homeless Students regulation
5118.1 - Homeless Students policy
5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment
6141.312 Migrant Students
6146.1 Grading/Assessment Systems
6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program

Motion to approve the policies submitted listed above
(Lyons / Coddling)
Unanimous vote to approve

8. New Business:

- Any matter the chair wishes to present

Nothing at this time.

9. Other

Dr. Berry stated that there is an interim principal at the elementary school that will remain in that capacity through the remainder of the school year. She stated in the past the Board of Education members approved a committee to aide in the search for a qualified candidate. She stated she would like to speak to the Board

of Education members to discuss how they would like to proceed with forming a committee and who will sit on the committee.

Mrs. Lyons and Mrs. Trivella will meet to discuss new contract negotiations for the nurses and food service director.

10. Public Comments

None

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:57pm.

(Trivella / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully submitted

Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary