

March 27, 2013

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2013 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Trivella, and Mrs. Lyons. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, and Ms. Rotella, Elementary School Principal. Members of the teaching staff were in the audience.

Absent: Mrs. Johnson

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Comments by:

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

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on February 18, 2013, February 27, 2013 and March 13, 2013

Motion to accept with the following changes:

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio would like the minutes of February 18, 2013 to read Ms. Gerardi-Voccio and not Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio.

Add Mrs. Trivella's name to the list of people who were in attendance at the meeting on February 18, 2013.

Clarify that Attorney Kelley's comments reflect that neither the Woodstock Academy Trustees nor the Brooklyn Board of Education know why Brooklyn students have transferred out of Woodstock Academy, and the goal of the Academy's administration and staff is to welcome all students who are interested in attending Woodstock Academy.

Clarify that only the 3 Woodstock Academy trustees that Mrs. Trivella and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio met with said they were not interested in coming to a board meeting at this time.

In the explanation of 8.h.

Change the word dedicated to designated.

Motion to accept the changes as amended
(Kelley/Rossi)
Abstained: Trivella, Lyons
Motion Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 2013
(Rossi/Kelley)
Abstained: Lyons
Motion Passed

4. Correspondence:

- Woodstock Academy Minutes

Dr. Berry presented the minutes of February 13, 2013 and the agenda of March 26, 2013

- BEA Health Insurance

Dr. Berry informed the board members that she is waiting for an answer from the BEA concerning the new health insurance.

5. Consent Agenda

None

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Dr. Berry presented Mr. Yanku's Middle School Report. Mrs. Trivella asked if there are course selection books from Killingly High School that can go home with the course selection forms. She noted that it would be beneficial to all 8th grade parents and students to be able to read course descriptions when selecting courses. Dr. Berry will find out and get back to her.

b. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Rotella presented her report. CMT tests are complete and are being packaged to ship. She is almost ready to send in the new teacher evaluation program. An EastConn model was used as support together with a 7 member team of Brooklyn teachers. One-third of the staff will be evaluated next year using this model.

Teachers will be aware of their standing and professional development will be made available to teachers whose evaluations reflect areas that need improvement.

Discussion of the new teacher evaluation model ensued.

Ms. Rotella informed the board members that struggling students are the topic of conversation at team meetings. She attends every team meeting she can. For the meetings she cannot attend, the teachers turn in minutes. The meetings are productive and successful.

c. Assistant Principal

No report to present

d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment

Dr. Berry presented the enrollment report and stated that bringing out placed students back to the regular school program is a goal. However, this means additional costs in the budget for paraprofessional support.

e. Superintendent

- 2012 / 2013 School Calendar – Make-up Days

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education that the days needed to be made-up due to inclement weather will be scheduled for June. At present, the last day of school will be Friday, June 21, 2013.

- Special Education Costs

Dr. Berry informed the board members that there is an increase in high school special education costs. The current cost for the 2012 / 2013 school year is \$764,369.00

Discussion of high school special costs ensued.

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry presented current enrollment report.

- Cafeteria Report

Dr. Berry presented the current cafeteria report.

- Financial Report –

Members discussed during executive session held earlier in the evening. Financial responsibilities of the superintendent of schools was discussed.

- 2013 – 2014 Projected Budget

Dr. Berry went over the account items that had been changed. She stated that taking action tonight would be helpful. If not, a special meeting will be necessary for next week because the Board of Education needs to send an approved budget by to the Board of Finance during the first week in April.

There is a decrease of 8.94% in the health insurance costs with the new plan.

Mrs. Desabota stated that the Insurance Committee would like a representative from Anthem to come and speak to them to answer and questions and clarify some health plan issues before the BEA signs approval of the plan.

Dr. Berry will contact Anthem and arrange for a representative to come.

Dr. Berry presented the 2013-2014 budget to the board members and informed them that at this time the budget is \$16,495,607.00 which is a 1.6% increase from last year.

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio raised the issue of the possibility of increasing the time of the elementary school media (library) specialist. She asked if there is still a need for more staff in the library. The board members had agreed to revisit this issue before the 2013-2014 budget. Ms. Rotella stated that she had not asked the medial specialist if she was willing to increase her hours if the budget allowed for it. She noted the

importance of having more time for students for use the library and technology. Increasing the hours of the media specialist would allow more students in grades pre-k through 4 more time to learn library and technology skills which align with Common Core Standards. Ms. Rotella also stated that paraprofessionals are not teachers and the teachers should be the ones instructing the students. She does not feel that paraprofessionals should be left alone with students.

Discussion of the benefits of increasing the hours of the media specialist ensued.

Dr. Berry will get a cost analysis of adding additional hours for the media specialist.

- Magnet School Transportation Grant

Dr. Berry stated that there are currently 9 students attending Quinebaug Valley Middle College. There is an \$11,000.00 state grant for transportation that has been sent to Brooklyn and she has asked the town to allocate these funds to the school's budget.

- Non-Tenured Staff

Dr. Berry asked the board members to take action on terminating the employment of all non-tenured employees, as has been the practice in prior years until the schools budget is approved by the town. She will check on the status of Brianna Lazure.

Motion to notify all non-tenured staff of termination of employment.

(Trivella/Lyons)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Other

7. Public Comments

None

8. Committee Reports

- a. Budget – There will be a meeting on April 3, 2013 at 6:00 pm.
- b. Policy – Attorney Kelley received the third packet of revisions of the policy. There is no meeting scheduled at this time. They will be presented to the Board of Education at a later date.
- c. Curriculum – Ms. Gerardi-Voccio will forward the minutes to Dr. Berry.
- d. Negotiations – The negotiations committee will wait for Sheila Johnson to return and schedule a meeting. A tentative date is set for Monday, April 1, 2013.
- e. Capital – Dr. Berry informed the board members that the capital committee has discussed resurfacing the north parking lot. It will be done in phases. Mr. Rossi expressed concerns about the fire alarm system not being managed by the same company. There are plans to address this problem.
- f. EastConn – nothing to report
- g. High School Relations – A tentative meeting has been set for April 25, 2013 in the Brooklyn Middle School library to discuss high school relations.
- h. High School Study Committee – Mrs. Trivella informed the board members that some high schools are requiring more credits to graduate.
- i. CABA Delegate Assembly – nothing to report
- j. Recreation Committee – The recreation department is currently working on a budget.
- k. Wall Committee – Dr. Berry informed the board members that the areas with peeling paint in the gymnasium have been painted over.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

9. Old Business - none
10. New Business – Mrs. Trivella asked how to have an item added to the agenda. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio informed her that it would take a two-thirds vote. Dr. Berry stated that if she had notice of the issue prior to the distribution of the agenda and meeting materials, she would add it to the agenda if the chair agreed.
11. Public Comments - none
12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:01 pm
(Lyons/Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary

Robert Rossi
Secretary
Board of Education