

April 24, 2013

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 24, 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. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Absent: Mrs. Johnson

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 March 27, 2013

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2013  
(Kelley / Rossi)  
Unanimous to accept

4. Correspondence:

- Dianna Roberge Wentzell

Dr. Berry presented a letter from Dianna Roberge Wentzell from the State of Connecticut Department of Education explaining how the curriculum will change due to Common Core State Standards.

5. Consent Agenda

None

6. Administrative Reports:

- a. Middle School Principal

Dr. Berry presented Mr. Yanku's report and indicated that he was not able to attend the meeting because his wife is home recovering from a serious bike accident.

b. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Rotella was not present at the meeting. Dr. Berry presented her report.

c. Assistant Principal

Dr. Berry presented Mrs. Sweet's spring sports report.

d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment

Dr. Berry presented the report and noted that there are currently 159 students who receive special education services. This number has remained consistent throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

e. Superintendent

- EASTCONN / School Business Manager

Dr. Berry presented the job description posting from EASTCONN. She stated that the 2013-2014 budget has increased to reflect a part time certified business manager. She will keep the members informed of the progress.

Mr. Ives and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio met prior to discuss the certified business manager position. Mr. Ives would like to know how the board members feel about hiring a full time certified business manager who would work part-time for the Brooklyn School System and part-time for the Town of Brooklyn. The business manager would be a full-time employee rather than purchasing the service from EASTCONN. The salary and the duties of the employee would be split between the school and the town. Mr. Ives stated that half of the business manager's salary would be taken off of the 2013-2014 school budget. A hiring committee consisting of Board of Education members as well as Board of Finance members would meet to come up with a job description.

Mr. Ives clarified that if the board agreed to the sharing of a business manager, he/she would not be

an independent contractor, but rather an employee. He stated that it would probably take a couple months to come up with job descriptions and work out the amount of time spent with both the school and the town and draw up parameters and guidelines.

Mr. Ives stated that there is a Board of Finance meeting on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. He is hoping for a public town hearing on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. He asked that a Board of Education vote on his proposal for a finance manager be taken by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The board members agreed to meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the middle school library to discuss and vote on this issue. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio will let Mr. Ives know of their decision prior to the Board of Finance meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

- CCSS Local Team

Dr. Berry stated that there will be a need for professional development days to train teachers for CCSS. She noted that there are additional funds in the budget to pay for the professional development days.

- Graduation Date

Dr. Berry informed the board members that graduation will be on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the middle school auditorium. She asked if the board members could attend the ceremony and hand out diplomas and awards.

- Award Presentation

Dr. Berry stated that two eighth grade students will receive state awards for leadership at graduation.

- Teacher Appreciation Week

Dr. Berry reminded the board members that in prior years, the Board of Education has made a contribution to the teachers school scholarship fund in acknowledgement of Teacher Appreciation Week. This contribution is awarded to a graduating senior.

Motion to contribute \$250.00 to the Teachers  
Scholarship Fund  
(Rossi / Kelley)  
Unanimous vote to accept

- 2013 – 2014 Proposed Budget

Dr. Berry stated that there is nothing to change in the proposed 2013-2014 proposed budget at this time.

There has not been a decision concerning the health care change yet. There is a significant difference in the Anthem policy. There is a \$1000.00 hearing aid/hearing care allowance in the Anthem policy. The Oxford policy has a \$5000.00 hearing aid/hearing care allowance with no age restrictions. Discussions are ongoing.

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry presented the enrollment report.

- Cafeteria Report

Dr. Berry presented the cafeteria report.

7. Public Comments

none

8. Committee Reports

- a. Budget – nothing to discuss at this time.
- b. Policy – Attorney Kelley stated that the committee needs to meet again to go over another packet of proposed policies.
- c. Curriculum – There has not been a meeting since the last board meeting. The next meeting is set for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 in the middle school library.
- d. Negotiations – Negotiations are 99% finished.

- e. Capital – Nothing has changed since the last meeting. Mr. Rossi had a meeting with Andrew Dionne concerning funds allocated for paving. There are traffic flow concerns. He suggested there be a significant study and plan for the paving and changes that may need to be made to remedy the traffic flow concerns. This is a project that Board of Education is in charge of, and it is not a capital project. Mr. Rossi will chair the Facilities Committee. Mrs. Lyons will also be on the committee. The committee will meet with Mr. Kowolenko to start a study. Mrs. Lyons asked if something could be done in the future concerning snow removal, and that is not a good idea to pile snow against the newly constructed portion of the building.
- f. EastConn – Nothing to report at this time.
- g. High School Relations – Ms. Gerardi-Voccio stated that she feels the relations committee is back on track after a meeting concerning the recent communication issues. She also wanted to make it know that the Brooklyn Board of Education is not favoring Woodstock Academy over Killingly High School, Marrianapolis, or any other choice high school. Brooklyn is just providing the facility for them to have their community forum meeting.
- h. High School Study Committee – Mrs. Trivella informed the board members that she has extended the invitation to other high school boards of education to have a community forum meeting at our facility.
- i. Recreation Committee – Mrs. Lyons had nothing to report in 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 7:57 pm  
(Lyons / Rossi)  
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

*Joann M. Engel*

Recording Secretary