

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on June 12, 2013 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Lyons, and Mrs. Johnson. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, and Ms. Rotella, Elementary School Principal, Mr. Ives, Board of Finance, Andrew Dionne, Board of Selectman. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Motion to change item 3 to item 2 and item 2 to item 3 on the agenda.

(Rossi / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to accept

2. Mr. Kevin Farr, Superintendent of Schools, Killingly

Mr. Farr, Superintendent of Killingly Schools spoke on behalf of the Killingly Schools. He stated that he wants to make sure that every student gets the best opportunities and education possible despite budget cuts. He stated that at this point the budget cuts are primarily at the elementary and middle school levels. However, the needs of the students come first. Killingly is able to maintain their 1:1 iPad program despite budget cuts. They are also looking at creative ways to stem outplacement costs. There is also a study being done of the transportation system to see where cuts can be made. He stated that this is a difficult time in the history of our country, and things are not getting easier. Schools are in the public eye and they have to spend their money wisely. He will attend the town council meeting tomorrow night to advocate for the Killingly Schools. He stated that the parents are the “customers”, so he is sure to return their phone calls, and deal with any issues so the parents can have peace of mind. He also stated that they are in the process of preparing teachers for students in the fall.

3. Comments by:

a. BEA - None

b. Local 1303-AFSCME - None

c. PTO – Amy Landes, the PTO President, asked Ms. Trivella to ask the board members if any of them would be willing to help out at the back to school barbeque on September 5, 2013. Ms. Trivella, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Lyons offered to help.

d. Public – none

4. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on April 24, 2013 and May 6, 2013

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 24, 2013
(Trivella / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to accept

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 6, 2013
(Rossi / Lyons)
Unanimous vote to accept

5. Correspondence: State Educator Evaluation and Support Plan

- Dr. Sharah Barzee – Educator Evaluation and Support Plan

Dr. Berry informed the board members that Brooklyn's Plan had been sent to Hartford for review, and that all categories were met and accepted.

- 3rd Quarter Honor Roll from Killingly High and Woodstock Academy

The list of students who achieved honors status was presented. It was noted that there are fewer students achieving at that level at Killingly High School than at Woodstock Academy. It was noted that this was just one marking period and assessments as to why cannot be made based on the amount of data that was present. It could be something to keep track of in the future. Attorney Kelley mentioned having the recognized students take a survey as to why they feel they have been successful. It would be an added piece of data for possible future assessments.

6. Consent Agenda

None

7. Administrative Reports:

- a. Middle School Principal – *Report Only*
- b. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Rotella spoke to the board of education members regarding the new Professional Development and Teacher Evaluation Plan. She explained that the plan was modified and revised by a committee of Brooklyn teachers and administrators using a model provided to the district by EASTCONN. The plan was then sent to the Connecticut Department of Education for review and feedback. Ms. Rotella then gave the board members highlights of the

plan. She reviewed the purpose of a good teacher evaluation and professional development plan as a means of continual professional growth, school improvement and student success. The other highlights included teacher training, evaluator training, process and timeline, observation schedule, and dispute resolution. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

c. Assistant Principal – *Report Only*

d. Special Education Director – *Report Only*

- Special Education Enrollment

Dr. Berry presented the Special Education Enrollment report. She pointed out the high school costs for special education students. There is a high school tuition cost for each student. In addition, there are costs for special education students for individualized services they receive.

The board members would like to see a breakdown of the services, the costs for each service, and a final dollar amount for each student.

The Brooklyn Elementary School currently has an Intensive Instructional Program with 8 students. This program allows special education students to remain in the school system instead of being out-placed. This program not only serves students in their home school, but is much more economical than out of district placements.

e. Superintendent

- 2013~2014 Teacher of the Year

The 2013-2014 teacher of the year is Denise Nault.

- Bus Accident

Dr. Berry informed the board of education members that the two students who were injured at the time of the bus accident two weeks ago, are back to school. The second grade student is a bit hesitant about getting on the bus at this time. She stated that she was pleased with the way in which First Student handled the situation. Medical attention for the students was first and foremost and First Student took responsibility of costs incurred for their medical bills.

- Recreation Department (space/summer program)

Dr. Berry stated there is a space at the elementary building for the Recreation Director to use. It is an empty classroom with an entrance to the exterior.

- Capital Projects

The 2013-2014 capital budget was approved by the voters at the town meeting on May 22, 2013.

- Summer Program

Dr. Berry informed the board members that there would be a summer program for the students in the Intensive Instruction Program. It is important for these students to maintain the skills they have attained throughout the school year.

- July Meeting

There will be a meeting in July or August. A date has not been set. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio will send out possible meeting dates to the other members.

- School Climate Survey

Dr. Berry handed out the survey. She asked the board members to take the report home and review it. It will be discussed at the next Board of Education meeting.

- Graduation Award

Dr. Berry asked the board of education members to give a \$50.00 award to a graduating 8th grade student as they have done in the past.

Motion to give a \$50.00 award to a graduating 8th grade student
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

Motion to amend the BEA graduation award to a high school student and add an additional \$250.00.
(Trivella / Kelley)

Graduation is Thursday, June 20th at 6:30. Attorney Kelly, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Trivella, and Mr. Dionne will be in attendance.

The board members requested some background information on any award that is given in memory of someone.

Dr. Berry presented a letter to the board member from Woodstock Academy to Elijah Martin, a former Brooklyn student. Elijah has been named valedictorian of his graduating class.

- Health Insurance – Federal Requirements as of January, 2014 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Dr. Berry stated that our health insurance agent was keeping us informed of the new federal requirements.

- Budget Report

Dr. Berry stated that the employment contracts have been given out to staff members. Not all the contracts have been returned. As of this time, she is not aware of anyone retiring.

Dr. Berry informed the board members that Amanda Langevin, a teacher at the elementary school, has requested maternity leave and is requesting to take the remainder of the 2013~2014 school year off for a child rearing leave.

Motion to accept Amanda Langevin's child rearing leave request.
(Johnson / Lyons)
Unanimous vote to accept

- Healthy Food Certification

Dr. Berry presented the cafeteria report.

Motion to accept the Nutrition Program as noted below
(Johnson / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to accept

- *To be completed only by districts opting for the healthy food certification, i.e., those districts that checked “will” in Section 2.*

Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) with

Brooklyn Board of Education

(Name of the Board of Education or Governing Authority)

is hereby amended to include the above certification statement of compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and application for funding related to those standards. This addendum covers the period from **July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.**

**Local or Regional Board of Education or
Governing Authority**

Signature: _____
(Signature of the Authorized Representative)

Dr. Louise S. Berry
(Printed Name of the Authorized Representative)

Superintendent of Schools
Title (Superintendent of Schools, President or Chairperson of the Board)

Date of the Authorization

- Dr. Berry informed the board members that the National School Lunch Program is requiring an increase in the cost of school lunches.

Elementary School lunch:

currently \$2.50 will increase to \$2.60

Middle School lunch:

currently \$2.60 will increase to \$2.75

Pre-K and Kindergarten

currently \$1.50 will increase to \$1.75

There will be no change in the cost for breakfast.

Motion to accept the required cost increase although Brooklyn's members were concerned about an increase in price when the economy is not good.
(Johnson / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

A letter will be sent home to parents informing them that the cost increases are a government mandate.

- Enrollment Report

Dr. Berry presented a report from Woodstock Academy concerning the educational differences between boys and girls.

She also presented a report from the State Department of Education on the percentage of minority students in the Brooklyn school system. Last year, 9.55% of enrollment was minority students. This year 13.26% of the student enrollment is minority.

In response to the question concerning the number of classes for kindergarten students, Dr. Berry informed the board members that the 2013~2014 school year, there will be 3 morning sessions and 3 afternoon sessions.

8. Public Comments –

Austin Tanner, First Selectman, stated that the Recreation Department will have office space within the town offices. However, it has not yet been decided where it will be.

9. Committee Reports

a. Budget

No Report

b. Policy

The committee has not had a meeting since the last Board of Education meeting.

c. Curriculum

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio gave dates for future meetings.

d. Negotiations

Mrs. Lyons informed that the contracts for the school nurses, the food services director, and the superintendent's have been signed.

Motion to accept the contracts of the two school nurses, the food services director and the superintendent.

(Johnson / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

e. Capital

No Report

f. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson handed out the minutes reflecting changes that have been made due to the sequester.

g. High School Relations

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio informed the board members that there is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Mrs. Trivella informed the board members that Woodstock Academy's basketball team received the Fair Play Award. Aaron Patterson, Woodstock Academy's athletic director, spoke to incoming freshman about some of the high school sports programs.

Mrs. Trivella attended the Senior Tea at Roseland Cottage with Woodstock Academy seniors.

h. High School Study Committee

Mrs. Trivella spoke to Kevin Marcoux, Killingly High School's Guidance Director, who stated that he would like to speak to the 8th grade students in the fall.

Mrs. Trivella presented the board members with CAPT scores comparing Brooklyn and non-Brooklyn students at Woodstock Academy.

She also presented notes from the Strategic Planning Committee showing data on student enrollment at Woodstock Academy verses Killingly High School.

Mrs. Trivella informed the board members that at this time, students at Woodstock Academy are required to earn 24 credits to be able to graduate from high school. As of 2017, students will be required to earn 25 credits to graduate. If a student needs a fifth year to be able earn the required credits, it will be the financial responsibility of the sending town to pay the tuition.

i. Recreation Committee

Mrs. Lyons did not attend the last meeting.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none
BEA – none
BOF – none

10. Old Business

- Finance Director Position

The Board of Selectman and the Board of Education have agreed to meet to further discuss the finance director position.

Dr. Berry and Austin Tanner will meet and discuss where the need is and the kind of position that would best fit the need. Dr. Berry will report back to the board members for a future vote.

11. New Business

The board of education members congratulated Dr. Berry on being the recipient of the prestigious David Knapp Award from the New England Board of Higher Education. They have purchased a large brick to be placed in her honor at the elementary school.

- School Climate Survey

Discussed earlier in the meeting – see Superintendent's Report

- Any matter the chair wishes to present

none

12. Public Comments

none

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:47 pm
(Johnson / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary

Robert Rossi
Secretary