

March 28, 2012

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on March 28, 2012 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio, Joan Trivella, Mae Lyons, Robert Rossi, Sheila Johnson, Jim Kelley, Rick Ives, Board of Finance, Andrew Dionne, Second Selectman (7:11), Alan Yanku and Frances Rotella, Middle School and Elementary School Principals, respectively, and Louise Berry, Superintendent. Members of the teaching staff, girl's basketball team, coaches, and public were also in the audience.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio at 7:07 pm

Motion to add an item to the agenda, and recognize the girl's basketball Team.

(Kelley/Johnson) Unanimous vote to accept.

Dr. Berry introduced the girls basketball coaches, Mrs. Ferragatta and Mrs. Sorel and congratulated them for their effort this season. Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio introduced each team member, and presented them with a certificate.

2. Presentation – Glen Lessig & Jeff Kelleher – Education Technology Plan

Mr. Lessig presented the powerpoint presentation on the tech plan for the upcoming 2013-2015 school years. He informed the Board of Education members that the plan is currently being reviewed by EastConn and will then be returned to the Board for their approval.

He stated that there are five goals in the current technology program:

- to engage the student
- to assess the student
- to improve professional development
- infrastructure for teaching and learning
- productivity and efficiency

He noted that for these goals to be met, a strong network is needed to support each area. He gave an overall review of the current equipment being used, and noted that as a result of grants received during the past two years as well as funds from the local budget, the hardware is in "good shape". He followed with a breakdown projection of the technology equipment needed for 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015.

Attorney Kelley inquired as to where funds have come from in the past for such equipment. Mr. Lessig informed him of grant monies that have been used. Attorney Kelley asked about the possibility of leasing equipment and software. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kelleher followed with comments on the breakdown of the servers. Currently, the schools work off of nine servers. He reported on the role of each server and its current age. Attorney Kelly asked if Apple gives “breaks or reductions in price for our loyalty”. Mr. Kelleher stated that although we have use Apple products, we do not receive any discounts. Dr. Berry stated that investing in hardware is an investment in capital. Members agreed. She recommended that the need for equipment and projected costs would be presented to the Capital Committee.

3. Public Comments / Comments by Representatives of:

- a. BEA – no report
- b. Local 1303 – AFSCME – None
- c. PTO – None
- d. Public – None

4. Minutes of Board Meetings held on February 22, 2012 and March 5, 12, and 19, 2012.

Motion to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2012 meeting.  
(Johnson/Rossi) Unanimous vote to accept.

Motion to accept the minutes from the budget meetings held on March 5, 12 and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
(Johnson/Rossi) Unanimous vote to accept.

5. Correspondence

Woodstock Academy – No Questions

6. Administrative Reports

a. Middle School Report:

Mr. Yanku recognized Mrs. Sweet’s leadership in the CMT testing program. He informed the Board that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade had been chosen by the state to take a supplemental test on the computer. Said tests are going smoothly. Mr. Rossi asked if students would benefits from having the after school program continue throughout the year. Dr. Berry agreed that extending the after school program would be a benefit to the students, however, due to financial constraints, it is not feasible at this time. Implementing the program from November through March is critical.

Mr. Rossi asked about summer reading lists, and who makes the decisions as to the books that are chosen for summer reading. Mr.

Yanku informed that it is the decision of the grade level teachers and the reading selections are not required, just encouraged.

b. Elementary School Principal Report

Ms. Rotella informed the Board that CMT testing in the elementary ran smoothly, and that all testing materials are packed and ready for shipment. She acknowledged Mrs. Sweet's efforts and thanked her for all the time she put in to make testing a success. She informed the Board that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be starting a supplemental test next week. Supplemental testing as well as make-ups will take place over the course of the next two weeks.

c. Assistant Principal's Report / ERR Report

Mr. Yanku presented the ERR report. Mrs. Johnson asked what constituted a major infraction. Al informed her that it could be a number of offenses, for example, bullying. Mrs. Johnson questioned the number on the ERR report. She noted that the numbers did not add up and thought it may be a typographical error and asked for clarification. Mr. Yanku said that he would follow up with Mrs. Sweet for clarification.

d. Superintendent

Dr. Berry informed the Board that she had received a letter from the State Department of Education regarding the BEA contract negotiations. She said she would forward the letter to Attorney Littlefield.

Dr. Berry asked the Board to take action on the non-certified non-renewal notices.

Motion to send non-renewal notices to non-tenured teachers.  
(Lyons/Johnson) Unanimous vote to accept.

Dr. Berry reminded the Board that there are five days that need to be made up due to the August, 2011 storm. She suggested that the five days be added to the existing school calendar, making June 15<sup>th</sup> the last day of school for students through grade 7. Eighth grade students would graduate on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Motion to accept the changes to the calendar and date of graduation.  
(Rossi/Kelley) Unanimous vote to accept.

Dr. Berry presented the Special Education Enrollment Report, the grade Pre-K to 12 Enrollment Report and the Cafeteria Report. No discussion.

Dr. Berry reminded the Board that there is a budget meeting with the Board of Finance scheduled for April 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the middle school library. She told the Board that she is still working on further decreases in health insurance premium costs for 2012-2013. Currently, the premium increase has been reduced from 5% to 2.8%

Dr. Berry informed the Board that at present, there is a surplus of fuel oil of 12,000 to 15,000 gallons. The options are to receive a credit from the vendor at a savings of approximately \$40,235.00, or pay a \$0.05 per gallon per month storage fee for approximately the next 6 months. The cost incurred for storage will be around \$3,500. If we accept a credit from the vendor, those funds could be applied to the current deficit. The deficit would then be under \$100,000. Discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of selling it back to the vendor and lowering the current deficit or paying the storage fee and thus, saving money on next year's costs.

Motion to authorize Dr. Berry to sell the fuel oil back to the vendor and the refund be put toward the current deficit.  
(Rossi/Kelley) Unanimous vote to accept.

7. Public Comments:

None

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Budget – None
- b. Policy  
Attorney Kelley received the CAGE report on Brooklyn's policies and advised that he will start by-law revisions.
- c. Curriculum  
Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio informed that there is a curriculum meeting scheduled for May 14, 2012 at 3:45.
- d. Negotiations  
Mrs. Lyons informed the Board that the negotiations with administrators were completed and contracts have been signed by employees.

Motion to approve administrator's contracts.  
(Johnson/Rossi) Unanimous vote to accept.

- e. Capital  
Mr. Rossi informed the Board that Mr. Kowolenko has submitted a prioritized list of capital improvements, which include the Rosewing roof, the fire alarm system and a number of other projects which will be presented to the town's Capital Committee.
- f. EastConn  
Mrs. Johnson presented the EastConn report. No questions.
- g. High School Relations  
Mrs. Trivella reviewed the minutes of the last Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees' meeting.
- h. Recreation Committee  
Mae Lyons informed the Board that she did not attend the last meeting due to the fact that the Board of Education's budget meetings were held at the same time.

Representatives from:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

9. Old Business:

There is a meeting scheduled with Nick Caruso of CABA on April 2, 2012 at 5:00 pm

Dr. Berry informed the Board that she and Mr. Tanner represented the Middle School Wall Committee at a state review of the projects' fiscal plans in Hartford on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She noted a decision needs to be made as to the material that will be used for the new gymnasium floor. The options are maple hardwood or an all-purpose material. The Wall Committee will meet tomorrow night to discuss this issue. Dr. Berry stated that in her opinion the multi-purpose floor would be the better choice given the various events that take place within.

10. New Business:

Mrs. Johnson wanted to acknowledge the "Louise S. Berry Way". A road recently named in honor of Dr. Berry.

11. Public Comments:

Mrs. Maloney asked the Board if they had a chance to review her letter presented at the last meeting, which asked the Board to reconsider making her position full time. She had concerns with the legal issues surrounding student counseling in the elementary school. Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio told Mrs. Maloney that the Board gave her letter consideration, but due to budget constraints, her position would remain part-time. Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio also informed her that the Board had turned the matter over to Dr. Berry who then spoke to Mrs. Brown, Director of Special Education. Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio informed her that Mrs. Brown had recommended that the position remain part-time, unless counseling with the school psychologist was required by an IEP, and if counseling of students was mandated, then Mrs. Maloney's schedule would need to be changed.

12. Motion to adjourn at 9:36 pm.  
(Lyons/Johnson) Unanimous vote to approve.