

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on November 28, 2012 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: JoAnn Gerardi-Voccio, Joan Trivella, Robert Rossi, Sheila Johnson, Mae Lyons, members of the Board of Education. Also in attendance was Drew Dionne, Board of Selectmen. Frances Rotella, Elementary School Principal, and Louise Berry, Superintendent were also in attendance. In the audience were Diane Wimmer and Enrica Desabota, members of the BEA, and representatives of the press.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and requested a motion to adjourn in order for the Board of Education members to attend a town meeting on the school building project.

MOTION: (Johnson/Rossi) to adjourn the meeting in order to attend the town meeting on the school wall project.

VOTE: Unanimous

At 7:35 PM following the town meeting, Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio called the Board of Education meeting to order.

2. Public Comments / Comments by Representatives of:

- a. BEA – no comments
- b. Local 1303 – AFSCME – no comments
- c. PTO – no comments

3. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 24, 2012

Mrs. Trivella asked that the October 24th minutes be amended to include the following statement within the report on the proposed financial director for the town and the school:

Mrs. Trivella commented on the need to develop a job description which addresses the responsibilities of both the town and the school and although the committee had sample job descriptions, there is a need to continue the study of issues concerning this proposed position.

MOTION: (Johnson / Trivella) To approve the minutes of the October 25, 2012 meeting as amended.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence

The minutes of the October 16th and 24th meetings of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees were included in Board packets.

Woodstock Academy also sent the list of undergraduate awards that were presented to students at their convocation held earlier this fall.

The issue of recognition of Brooklyn students receiving these awards and more specifically the recognition of students at the middle school level who have received awards, both academic and non-academic was discussed at length. During the discussion, the following comments / questions were raised:

- How do we as a Board recognize these students?
- Are certificates for academic success appropriate; should the Board recognize only honor roll or highest honors?
- Should we have a Board of Education Recognition Night?
- Honors Night is held in May – should the Board of Education be part of this program?
- Is there a role for Board of Education members at an Honor Assembly?
- Board of Education members need to know about students who excel in academic areas, sports, and/or special achievements.
- Principals should include the names of all students who excel in the School's newsletter to parents.

The conclusion of this discussion was a request to the superintendent to develop a plan for Board of Education members to provide support and recognition to students who demonstrate special achievement in academics, sports and other achievements.

Following the discussion on recognition of students who have received academic and/or sport awards, the question of the elementary library program for Pre K and K students was raised.

At present, there are five volunteers who take books from the library to the pre-school class rooms once a week. On special occasions the kindergarten students spend time in

the library. Plans for next year will include schedules that provide for kindergarten and pre-school students having a weekly visit to the library.

5. Consent Agenda – None

6. Administrative Reports

a. Middle School Principal

Reports on the Parent Night – 8th grade students and the library Book Fair were included in Board packets.

b. Elementary School Principal

Mrs. Rotella presented an overview of the Connecticut Core Requirements, which must be followed when implementing the new state teacher evaluation program. Highlights of the presentation are listed below:

- Teachers' success often translates into students' success.
- The guidelines for teacher and administrator evaluations are part of Public Act 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform.
- The amendment will not be binding until the NEAG School of Education at UCONN validates a pilot of the evaluation system designed by the CSDE.
- There are four components that need to be included in an evaluation.
 1. 45% Student Growth and Development
 2. 40% Observation of Teacher Performance
 3. 5% Whole School Student Learning
 4. 10% Parent or Peer Feedback
- Each teacher will have to be evaluated a prescribed number of times per year.
- The design principles of an evaluation plan must foster dialogue about students learning, encouraging professional growth and consideration of multiple measures of performance.
- Educator evaluation and support systems may be revised and must be approved annually by the State Department of Education.

Members of the Board asked questions about various aspects of the evaluation system. It was noted that the Connecticut Educators Association has raised many concerns about the process, therefore it is assumed that many changes will be seen before September 2013, when the new system of evaluating teachers and administrators is scheduled to commence.

c. Assistant Principal

Report on the fall and winter sports programs are included below.

Fall Sports

Girls' Soccer: The girls' team completed their undefeated season (12 and 0) by winning the QVJC Large School Division Championship and the tournament. Coach Sorel and the team celebrated the season with the annual end of the season pizza party on 11/9/12.

Boys' Soccer: The boys' team also posted victories in the playoffs and championship game to become the QVJC Large Division Champions. Their season stats were 10 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss. Mr. Quevillon and Mr. Gadomski were very proud of the boys' determination and spirit this season. They also celebrated with a pizza party.

Cross Country: Mr. Partyka reports, "Seventeen Brooklyn students went to Wickham Park on Saturday, Nov. 3rd to participate in the middle school cross country championship. The students who participated in the "East of the River, B race," of 350 runners included fifth graders: Alexia Baribeau, Stephanie Bellows, Ashley Edwards and Hali Korsu. Alexia's half-sister, Taylor Deveau, who ran cross country 5 years ago for Brooklyn and is now a freshman at Southern, participated in one of the team's practices for Wickham. Cross country alum are always welcome. The boys who ran the B race included: Tyree Albee, Zac Canning, and Ryan Noll. We have a young group of strong runners who should be very competitive next year!

The girls were led, as they have been all year, by Brooke Brouillard. Brooke has had the most successful season of any Brooklyn cross country runner in the 14 year history of the program. Brooke continued her magical season finishing tenth in the "A" championship race at Wickham ahead of 304 accomplished runners. No previous Brooklyn boy or girl has ever, finished higher than 23rd at the championship race. Eight eighth graders and a sixth grader finished ahead of Brooke. Brooke is already looking forward to next year. Jennifer Gancarz, a sixth grader, finished 2nd for Brooklyn followed by eighth graders Julie Sullivan and Keeling Chiu. Keeling became the first Brooklyn girl to race all four years at Wickham.

The A race is the state championship race. It is run on a demanding 2.3 mile course which includes the fabled, "Green Monster" hill. It is an accomplishment to

complete this course. The boys who took on this challenge were: Thomas Bomster, Steven Madenjian, Holden Pimental, Edwin Ruiz-Sandoval and Ryan Schultz running alongside 357 other middle school students.

The cross country team was composed of an unusually friendly, low maintenance group of students. They were spirited and possessed a great sense of humor. Mr. Partyka stated "Coaching for Jen Ferragatta and I was simply a joy this year."

Winter Sports

Girls' Basketball: Mrs. Jen Ferragatta will be coaching basketball this season. Sign ups have taken place and tryouts were held on Monday, November 19th and Tuesday, November 20th. The girls' team began practicing on Monday, Nov. 26th. Their first game is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 4th against Parish Hill.

Boys' Basketball: Mr. Joe Banas has joined us this year as the coach for the boys' team. The boys tryouts were on Nov 19th and 20th and practice began on Monday Nov. 26th. Their first game is an away game against Parish Hill on Dec. 4th.

Cheerleading: Mrs. Kim Caron is coaching cheerleading once again this year. Sign ups have already taken place. Tryouts were held on Monday, 11/26, Tuesday, 11/27 and Wednesday, 11/28. Mrs. Caron is looking forward to a great season.

d. Special Education Director

The special education enrollment report was included in Board of Education packets.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

November 19, 2012

	PK - 8	PK - 8 Breakdown	9 - 12	Outplaced	District %	District %
DISABILITY	Nov-12	Grade & # of Students	Nov-12	Nov-12	Oct-12	Nov-12
Autism	6	1(1) 4(2) 6(1) 7(1) 8(1)	WA-1	0	4.3%	4.3%
Dev. Delay	10	PK(6) - 1 Windham Nexus K(4)	0	0	6.1%	6.2%
Emotional Disturbance	4	4(1) 6(1) 7(2)	LMHS-1 KHS-3 QVHS-1 5	7(1) 8(1) 9(1) 11(3) 6	9.9%	9.4%
Hearing Impaired	1	1(1)	0	0	.6%	.6%
Intellectual Disability	1	6(1)	WA-1	1	1.8%	1.9%
Learning Disabilities	39	K(1) 1(2) 2(3) 3(1) 4(1) 5(4) 6(10) 7(7) 8(10)	WA-10 NFA-1 KHS-5 QVHS-2 18	0	35.8%	35.4%
Multiple Disabilities	5	2(1) 4(1) 5(2) 7(1)	0	8(1) 11(1) 2	4.3%	4.3%
OHI - ADD/ADHD	7	3(1) 5(1) 7(2) 8(3)	WA-2 KHS-1 3	9(1) 10(1) 2	7.5%	7.5%
OHI	3	K(1) 2(1) 7(1)	WA-1 KHS-1 NFA-1 QVHS-1 4	9(1) 12(1) 2	5.6%	5.6%
Speech & Lang.	37	PK(16) K(6) 1(4) 2(2) 4(1) 5(2) 6(1) 7(1) 8(4)	WA-1 KHS-1 2	0	23.5%	24.2%
Visual Impairment	0			1	.6%	.6%
Totals:(162)	113		34	14	100.0%	100.0%
Referrals to Special Educ: (7)	BES - 504 21 students (November 2012)	BMS - 504 44 students (November 2012)				

e. Superintendents Report

- The enrollment report for November 2012 is recorded below:

GRADE	June, 2012			August 22, 2012			September 26, 2012			October 19, 2012			November 2012			December 2012			January 2013		
Preschool - 3/4 yr. olds	120			116			120			121			124								
Kindergarten	70			79			81			82			84								
Grade 1	99			76			76			75			79								
Grade 2	73			98			100			100			99								
Grade 3	85			75			77			76			76								
Grade 4	92			96			89			91			93								
Total Elementary	539			540			543			545			555								
Grade 5	103			89			95			95			96								
Grade 6	88			103			102			102			101								
Grade 7	102			101			93			92			91								
Grade 8	94			95			103			103			104								
Total M.S.	387			388			393			392			392								
High School	KHS	WA	O/P	KHS	WA	O/P	KHS	WA	O/P	KHS	WA	O/P	KHS	WA	O/P						
Grade 9	26	55	3	37	42	0	37	40	0	45	37	0	46	35	0						
Grade 10	23	57	2	30	57	3	31	55	4	27	55	3	27	54	3						
Grade 11	10	84	0	20	58	4	23	54	5	23	54	5	23	56	5						
Grade 12	14	65	0	12	80	0	11	82	0	10	82	0	10	80	0						
Total Reg. Tuition Students	339			343			342			341			339								
QVMCHS	9			7			9			9			9								
Ellis Tech	36			30			30			30			30								
KHS Vo-Aq	10			13			7			7			7								
KHS ALPS	1			1			0			0			0								
WA/E-CONN	-			-			2			2			2								
The Killingly count includes 4 students who receive Special Education Services more than half time.																					

- The financial report of the cafeteria program is also recorded below:

Cafeteria Report	October 31, 2012
Beginning Balance	21,331.94
Food/Supplies	10,903.28
Employee Insurance	4286.84
Payroll	14,229.82
Total Expenses:	29,419.94
Deposit/Sales	\$15,376.88
Reimbursement Grants	\$3,077.00
Total Income:	\$18,453.88
Ending Balance as of 10/31/2012	\$10,365.88
Pending Reimbursement	
(September Sales)	\$15,474.56
(October Sales)	\$14,488.88

- Middle School Gym Project
Mrs. Berry reported on the progress of the renovation of the middle school gym and
- School Budget for 2012-2013
A report on expenditures to date was provided to the Board of Education.

7. Public Comments – None

8. Committee Reports

- Budget – The 2012-2013 budget was reviewed during the Superintendents Report.
- Policy – The following policies, presented at the October meeting were approved:
 - 4111 Recruitment and Selection
 - 5118 Homeless Students
 - 5145.14 Campus Recruitment

6146.1 Grading/Assessment
6159 Individual Education Program

MOTION (Trivella/Rossi) to approve the policies as presented.

VOTE Unanimous

- c. Curriculum – The members of the Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposed policy for grading as requested by the Policy Committee and decided to maintain the working as recommended by CAFE.

The committee established meeting dates for the 2012-2013 in January (1-/28/12), March (3/25/13) and May (5/13/13).

- d. Negotiations - The mediation session for the 2013-2016 BEA Contract was held on November 5, 2012. Agreement was reached but the proposed contract must be accepted by the BEA before it becomes final.

- e. Capital – None

- f. EASTCONN – None

- g. High School Relations – Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio commented on the budget problems at Woodstock Academy and the possibility of a decrease in teaching positions during the second semester. She also commented on the decrease in student enrollment, the emphasis on recruiting of foreign students and plans to market their school.

- h. High School Study Committee – Mrs. Trivella reported on the first meeting of this committee which was held on November 26th. During the committee meeting she raised the following issues:

- The present programs Brooklyn offers for 8th grade students and their parents on high school choice;
- The importance of high school visitation by 8th grade students and their parents;
- The value of Brooklyn's Parent Night on High School Programs and the need to combine this program with other school events to increase parent attendance; and
- The importance of the student shadowing experiences at all high schools.

Mrs. Trivella also recommended that requests be made for information on graduation rates from both designated high schools and tuition rates for 2013-2014 from WA, NFA and KHS. She also questioned the need for additional services for Brooklyn students in grades 9-12.

i. CABA Delegate Assembly – None

j. Recreation Committee – Mrs. Lyons commented on the highly successful Halloween Night activity at the Fairgrounds.

k. Wall Committee – None

9. Old Business – None

10. New Business – None

11. Public Comments – None

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (Johnson/Rossi) to adjourn @ 9:50 PM

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Rossi
Secretary