

February 4, 2015

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on February 4, 2015 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Majek, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, and Mrs. King, Elementary School Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mrs. Johnson arrived at 7:20

Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman, arrived at 7:20

Absent: Mr. DonFrancisco

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – none
- b. Local 1303 - AFSCME – none
- c. PTO – none
- d. Public – Mrs. Arrends asked about student safety when a group of students were recently locked in a classroom when a lock on the classroom door failed. Mr. Tusia, Director of Property Services, explained that the mechanism in the door lock failed and the door had to be removed. The students were not in danger and a ladder was placed at the window as an emergency exit if the need arose. All students were safe in the classroom for approximately 15 minutes while the door was being removed.

Mrs. Arrends also asked why there was no school on Tuesday, February 3, 2014. Dr. Berry informed her that school was closed because there were many roads in Brooklyn that were too narrow for the buses to pass on, and town crews needed more time to clean up the road for safety purposes.

Mrs. Arrends also asked the Board of Education to consider purchasing a software program, which would allow teachers to post student grades for individual assignments. Dr. Berry informed her that some schools, which are considered alliance districts, have such software. Brooklyn school is not considered an alliance district (a low performing district).

She also asked where the school falls on the on the priority list for plowing and snow removal. Dr. Berry informed her that her concern

should be directed to the Board of Selectman. Mrs. Arrends also asked about if some of the snow days will be made up within the school year rather than make them all up in June. Dr. Berry stated that make-up days are an issue that will be addressed by the Board of Education members.

Finally, Mrs. Arrends asked for climate survey reports from the elementary school. She stated that she asked for them at a prior Board of Education meeting and has not received them yet.

Mrs. Lyons asked Mrs. Arrends to put her concerns and requests in a letter that can be examined by the Board of Education members more closely.

Mrs. Johnson congratulated Dr. Berry on being asked to speak at the Oxford Education Research Symposium at Oxford University, Oxford, England in March, 2015.

3. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on December 10, 2014

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2014 Board of Education meeting

(Johnson / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

4. Correspondence:

- John Cole Resignation

Motion to accept Mr. Cole's letter of resignation with regret

(Kelley / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to accept

5. Consent Agenda

- None

6. Administrative Reports:

- a. Elementary School Principal  
Presentation on Curriculum

Mrs. King presented a report on curriculum development and how it aligns with the Common Core State Standards. She stated that

they are currently working on English Language Arts. She handed out an example of all the components of curriculum development. She informed the Board of Education that the availability of a consultant to work with members of the elementary staff at professional development meetings has been a huge help. At this time, teachers are implementing portions of the Common Core State Standards into their daily instruction. Mrs. King stated that the ELA district goal is to be finished with this curriculum by the end of the school year.

- b. Middle School Principal  
Report on Curriculum and Professional Development

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- c. Assistant Principal  
Winter Sports

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- d. Special Education Director  
Special Education Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- e. Superintendent

- High School Choice Report

The high school choice breakdown report was included in the Board of Education members' packets.

Dr. Berry stated that she has not received a final figure from Woodstock Academy or Killingly High School concerning their tuition costs for the 2015-2016 school year. She suspects there will be a significant increase in costs.

- 2015-2016 Budget Preparation

The development of the 2015-2016 budget will begin this month and the members of the Board of Education need to schedule additional meetings during February and March to develop a budget.

- Payment of Bills

Dr. Berry will present the bills at the next Board of Education meeting.

- Enrollment Report

Report was enclosed in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- Union Contract

Some of Board of Education members have not had the opportunity to review the contract. They will review the contract and vote on it at the next budget meeting.

- State Report on Small School Districts

The report was in the packets for review. Mr. Otto commented on the Connecticut State Department of Education Report on the Study of Small School Districts. He stated that future consolidation of surrounding small school districts is something that should be considered.

- Capital Projects

- Rose Wing Roof
- School Security – Key Card Access
- Data Cabling
- Telephone System
- Classroom Security – locks on inside of classroom doors

Motion to authorize the submission of the four proposals to be submitted to the Capital Committee for the next step (Kelley / Johnson)  
Unanimous vote to accept

- Fire Alarm Update

Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that they have received two bids for the fire alarm system update. One was in the amount of \$562,900.00 and the other was in the amount of \$387,260.00. Hughes & Associates, a very reputable company, has recommended the second bid of \$387,260.00 from the Fire Suppression System Group.

Motion to present the \$387,260.00 proposal from the Fire Suppression System Group to the Capital Committee for review

(Johnson / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

7. Public Comments

Mrs. Andrews expressed concerns about traffic patterns during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

The Board of Education is aware of the problem, and the need for a comprehensive plan to rectify the current traffic problems.

She also stated that the sidewalks at the elementary school are slippery and she would like to see more attention to them.

8. Committee Reports

a. Budget

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Policy

Attorney Kelley is currently reviewing changes to the Connecticut State Statutes to see how they affect Brooklyn's policy.

c. Curriculum

Nothing to discuss at this time.

d. Negotiations – Local 1303 Contract

See section 6e.

e. Capital

See section 6e.

f. EastConn

Nothing to discuss at this time. The meeting was canceled.

g. High School Relations – Woodstock Academy

At a previous meeting, Attorney Kelley mentioned that a Brooklyn student received the Headmaster's Award, but he did not have her name at the time. Michaela Green is the student who received the award.

h. High School Relations – Killingly High School

Nothing to report at this time.

i. Recreation Committee

The minutes are available for review on the town website.

j. Board of Selectman Liaison

Mrs. Lyons did not attend the meeting.

k. Board of Finance Liaison

Mr. Otto stated that there would be a new report coming out. He also stated that the Finance Director would speak to Dr. Berry about special education funding.

Mr. Voccio stated that there is a budget workshop meeting on Saturday at 9:00.

The next Board of Selectman meeting will be next Thursday.

There is a new accounting system to bring the town and school budgets together.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Other  
None

12. Public Comments

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:44 pm  
(Johnson / Kelley)  
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted  
*Joann M. Engel*  
Recording Secretary