

August 26, 2015

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on August 26, 2015 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Majek. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal, and Mrs. King, Elementary School Principal. Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, and Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman were also present. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Connecticut State Police Resident Trooper, E. Trotter was present.

Absent: Mr. DonFrancisco

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Mrs. Lyons read the statement printed at the top of the agenda.

2. Board of Education Resignation – Mr. Kelley

Motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Kelley
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

3. Appointment of Board of Education to fill remainder of vacant term

Motion to accept the appointment of Mrs. Genna based on the democratic
Recommendation
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

Mrs. Genna was sworn in by Mrs. Leona Mainville, Brooklyn Town Clerk,
to serve as a member of the Board of Education to fill the remainder of a
vacant term from August 26, 2015 to November 3, 2015.

4. Comments by:

- a. BEA – none
- b. Local 1303-AFSCME – none
- c. PTO – none
- d. Public – none

5. Minutes of

- June 4, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2015 as accepted
(Majek / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to approve

- June 24, 2015 Board Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2015
(Majek / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to approve

- July 1, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

Amend the minutes to read Aimee instead of Amy
Motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to approve

- July 29, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2015
(Rossi / Johnson)
Unanimous vote to approve
Abstained: Majek

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Elementary School Principal

Presentation with Mr. Yanku regarding curriculum goals

Mr. Yanku and Mrs. King presented a power point presentation on curriculum goals. Mrs. King explained what has been done thus far and what still needs to be done. Curriculum is a work in progress. Help in curriculum writing has been facilitated by Jane Cook, an independent literacy and technology specialist. A portion of the professional development days are used for implementing and developing draft versions of curriculum that will be continuously revised as needed. This year, the elementary school will be pursuing a more in depth math curriculum to be implemented this year. They will also be implementing an English / Language Arts curriculum.

Technology is incorporated into Common Core State Standards testing through the use of smartboards, laptops, chromebooks, and macbooks. Google Docs, Google Classroom and Google Calendar are also utilized. All grades will be revising and reflecting on the ELA curriculum.

The social studies and science curriculum are currently being looked at at the elementary and middle school levels. At this time, social studies and science are integrated in the ELA curriculum.

Mrs. Majek stated that working with a consultant with expertise in math would be helpful.

b. Middle School Principal

See above

c. Special Education Director:
Special Education Enrollment Report

The report was in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

d. Superintendent:

- Payment of Bills

The report was in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- Enrollment Report

The report was in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- First Student Driver List

The report was in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- Capital Projects

Fire Alarm System – is about 30-40% complete. Installation will continue after school hours (second shift) beginning Monday, August 31st. The old system is still working at 100% and will not be taken offline until new system is operational.

Card access – Door lock installation will be completed by the end of this week. Card readers should be operation in approximately 2 weeks.

Camera system – wiring is complete. Cameras are being installed at this time. Estimated completion in 3 weeks.

New phone system – has been installed and operating. Project Complete

Updated Wi-Fi system – most of the work has been completed. Approximately one days worth of work left – waiting on patch cables. IT upgrades are complete, except for activation of the Ruckes system. Project should be complete by the end of the week.

7 Public Comments:

Kelly Coddling asked for clarification on the fire alarm system. She wanted to be sure that the old fire alarm system would still be functioning until the new one is up and running.

The old system is working and will remain so until the new system is fully operational.

She also asked if the hallways in the school would be clear of construction materials.

The hallways will be clear of construction materials when school is in session.

Courtney Tanner-Bellows stated she voiced a concern at a meeting in the spring of 2014. Students going to the after school program from the middle school, knock on a door at the elementary and are let in by an after school staff member. The door is opened not knowing who is on the other side. It is a safety concern for the students in the school.

Dr. Berry will speak to Bucky Lohbusch, the director of the recreation department, about the potential safety issue.

Mrs. Lyons stated that it is a recreation department issue and she should bring it to their attention.

Siobhan Curran requested that a microphone be used at future meetings.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Budget

Noting to report at this time.

b. Policy

Nothing to report at this time. Attorney Kelley was Chair of the policy committee. Mrs. Genna, filling Attorney Kelley's vacancy, was given the policy binders for her review.

c. Curriculum

Discussed earlier in the PowerPoint presentation

d. Capital

Discussed earlier in the meeting

e. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson did not attend the meeting because she was out of town.

f. High School Relations – Woodstock Academy

Mr. Rossi stated that freshman started August 26, 2015 and upperclassman start August 27, 2015. Woodstock Academy was ranked number 337 out of the top 500 schools in the United States. It is ranked number 10 in the State of Connecticut.

g. High School Relations – Killingly High School

Mrs. Johnson stated that freshman started August 26, 2015 and upperclassman start August 27, 2015.

h. Recreation Committee

Mr. DonFrancisco was not at the Board of Education meeting.

i. Board of Selectman Liaison

There is a meeting tomorrow, August 27, 2015.

j. Board of Finance Liaison

Mrs. Lyons was unable to attend the meeting last week. Mr. Otto stated the Board of Finance has invited the Superintendent and the Chairman of the Board of Education to attend a meeting to review the methods of calculating the pension contributions. The school is \$165,000 short of the last 4 years, while the town is \$38,000 ahead currently and \$83,000 ahead of the last 8 years. He also expressed concern over the special education budget in that

the budgeted amount is higher this year than it was last year.
However, last year funds were returned to the town.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

9. Old Business

Bus Issues

Have been resolved

FOI Request

Has been withdrawn

Traffic Pattern

Mrs. Genna asked how the back up due to the new traffic pattern is going to be handled.

Mrs. Lyons stated that if there are problems with the new traffic pattern, it could be amended. However, at this time, the new traffic pattern must be enforced for safety reasons.

Mrs. Genna asked if the sign out procedure would remain the same.

Mrs. King stated that the sign out procedure would remain the same.

Snow Removal

The Board of Education members continue to identify who will be responsible for snow removal in various areas of the school grounds.

Any other old business

Mrs. Johnson reminded Mrs. Lyons to get emails.

10. New Business:

Board Self Evaluation Form

The members of the Board of Education had self-evaluation forms in their packets. They will complete and discuss them at the next meeting.

Any matter the chair wishes to present

Motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Lindsey Exarhoulias
(Rossi / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

11. Other

New staff members for the 2015 / 2016 school year are:

Jonathan March – elementary music
Ariel Zadora – 3rd grade teacher
Mary Blaine – 8th grade language arts teacher

Dr. Berry stated that a second grade teaching position was posted internally. A faculty member expressed interest in, and was given the second grade position. Subsequently opening up a third grade teaching position.

Mrs. Genna asked if the third grade teaching position was posted.

Dr. Berry stated that the position was posted for a short time.

12. Public Comments

Siobhan Curran asked if pre-k and kindergarten drop off could be the same as last year to cut down on traffic in other areas.

Amy Anderson stated that there were problems when the new circle of traffic was opened up because the buses used that route also. The buses are now dropping off and picking up in a different area.

Kelly Coddling stated that she is not comfortable sending her children on the bus. Parents want to bring their children in to school for the first few weeks. She asked if there is a plan for kindergarten and preschool parents who want to bring their children in the building.

Mrs. Lyons stated that the new traffic pattern should be followed. It can be amended as needed. Parents can use the back parking lot for the first day.

Lisa Arrends suggested parent involvement in designing the new traffic pattern because parents are the ones who utilize it.

Mr. Rossi informed that this traffic pattern is a temporary solution to a problem. The long-range plan is get a capital campaign to approve a safe method traffic designed by traffic engineers.

Lisa Arrends suggested that all reports and information in the Board of Education packets be posted online for the public to review. She also suggested that a digital recorder and microphone be used at Board of Education meetings.

Sharon Loughlin suggested composing a parent committee to compile data as to how many parents drop off and pick up their children and how often they do so.

Mrs. Johnson thanked all the teachers for what they do everyday. She thanked the teachers for coming to the meeting and wished them a terrific school year.

Jennifer Atchinson asked if the school had a policy on conducting exit interviews when someone resigns.

Dr. Berry informed that there is no formal exit interview process. The resignee has always been willing to meet with her concerning their resignation.

Mrs. Majek suggested that a policy be put in place for an exit interview process to collect and track data.

Heather Mumford asked if letters would go home stating what teacher has been assigned to elementary students.

Mrs. King stated that teachers typically send letters home. She will find out which teachers have not sent letters and make sure they do so.

She was told that she can call the school and speak to the building principal to find out which teacher her child has been assigned to.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm.
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted
Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary