

October 28, 2015

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on October 28, 2015 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Majek, Mrs. Genna; Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, and Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal, and Mr. Carolyn, Elementary School Interim Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mr. DonFrancisco arrived at 7:27 pm

Absent:

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA – none
- b. Local 1303 - AFSCME – none
- c. PTO – Mrs. Landis stated that there were new people who attended the recent meeting. They are currently in the process of planning the Halloween Bash and the Holiday Event / Pancake Breakfast scheduled for December 5, 2015
- d. Public – Mrs. Arrends requested that an additional public comment be added to the agenda. She stated that climate surveys have been done with students at the middle school and asked that the same model be implemented for parents and teachers.

Ms. Goodwin, a member of the Parent Advisory Committee, stated the committee has met and will continue to have monthly meetings. They are working on pathways of communication between school and home to meet the needs of the students. They are currently working on improving parent pick up, and will present new information at the next Board of Education meeting. She requested that the Parent Advisory Committee speak each month during public comments or have the committee added permanently to the committee's portion of the agenda.

3. Minutes of September 23, 2015

- Board Meeting held on September 23, 2015

Correct the spelling to Landis on page 1 and page 10.
Amend the PTO report to reflect that no Board of Education members helped at the back to school barbeque.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended
(Johnson / Rossi)
Unanimous vote to accept

4. Administrative Reports:

Dr. Berry introduced the new elementary school interim principal, Mr. Paul Carolyn.

a. Elementary School Principal

Mr. Carolyn informed that he has been filling in as elementary principal for the last 5 weeks. He commended the staff and teachers, and stated that the meet and greet for parents was a success. He also stated that he is committed to the Brooklyn Elementary School through December, 2015, but would be happy to advise, or help in a smaller capacity after December, 2015.

He has been working collaboratively with the Parent Advisory Committee on such issues as parent pick-up, and home / school communication.

b. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku gave an update on curriculum, and informed that Jane Cook is continuing to help teacher write curriculum that support Common Core standards. Both the elementary and middle schools have been working collaboratively on curriculum that supports Common Core standards.

School Safety

Mr. Yanku informed that the phone, camera and door access system projects are complete and operational.

c. Assistant Principal

Report on Fall Sports

Mrs. Sweet's report was included in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

c. Special Education Director

Special Education Enrollment

The Special Education Report was included in the Board of Education members' packets. The report reflected a change from 148 special education students in June, 2015 to 146 special education students at present.

e. Superintendent

- Payment of Bills

Motion to accept the bills for payment as presented
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

- Enrollment Report

The Enrollment Report was included in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

- Update on Speech Pathologist

A speech pathologist has been offered the position. A contract has not yet been signed. There is a tentative start date of Monday, November 2, 2015, in a full-time capacity.

- Bus Contract Renewal

Dr. Berry stated that a committee would form to discuss a new contract with the buses and concerns related to the same.

- CABA Convention

Motion to send one person to the CABA Convention as a representative of the Brooklyn Board of Education
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

- State Funding

Dr. Berry informed that the State of Connecticut has suggested that schools look to cut at least 5% from their budgets.

- Update on Interim Principal

See above

- Director of Property Services – *Update on projects*

A report from Mr. Tusia regarding the status of projects was included in the Board of Education members' packets for their review.

As of this time, all projects are projected to be complete by November 20, 2015.

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss parent pick-up at this time.

(Johnson / Majek)

Unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Carolyn informed that there have been two meetings with parents and staff. Their discussions centered around the priority of school security and safety. They have decided that the flow of traffic for parent pick-up will reverse the location of where cars enter and exit. These areas will be the same for both elementary and middle school drop-offs and pick-ups. He will send out information to parents through an e-blast / School Messenger. Flyers will be handed out on Monday, and the new traffic pattern and pick-up locations will begin Wednesday.

Mr. Yanku stated that they are going to ask elementary parents who are picking up students, not arrive before a designated time. There needs to be time for middle school parent pick-up and staff to exit the premises safely. Traffic flow needs to remain slow to ensure the safety of staff when walking to their vehicles in the back parking lot. He stated that safety and security are of the utmost importance followed by workability and convenience.

Mr. Carolyn stated that identification would be checked for every person picking up everyday.

Mrs. Johnson suggested a delayed pick-up time for parent pick-up.

A discussion ensued regarding having students ride the bus verses being picked up daily.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Budget – nothing to report at this time
- b. Policy – Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Majek and Mrs. Genna met to review current policies. They will be bringing new policy suggestions to the Board of Education members.
- c. Curriculum – already discussed – see Mr. Yanku’s report
- d. Capital – no meeting to report on
- e. EASTCONN – Mrs. Johnson stated that the federal government is clamping down on the services given for Birth to 3. In the near future, schools will be seeing pre-school children with no interventions prior to age 3.
- f. High School Relations – WA – The school was on lock down for most of day today due to a suspicious note.

Many Brooklyn students were recognized at the Academic Convocation.

- g. High School Relations – KHS – The homecoming queen was a former Brooklyn student.

The Killingly High School is currently down 1 administrator due to Mr. Vose’s recent departure.

- h. Recreation Committee – no meeting to report on
- i. Board of Selectman Liaison – Mrs. Lyons did not attend the meeting
- j. Board of Finance Liaison – Mrs. Lyons attended the meeting in which questions were answered concerning pension contributions. Mrs. Holmes, Financial Director, was present and stated that she is working to rectify the deficit.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none
BEA – none
BOF – none

6. Old Business

Update on Parent Pick-Up

Already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Board Self Evaluation Form

Mrs. Lyons stated that she would have the Board of Education Self Evaluation forms for review at the next monthly meeting.

Any other old business - none

7. New Business

Recreation admission into building

Mrs. Lyons stated that she would speak to Mr. Carolyn and discuss this matter at the next monthly meeting.

Any matter the chair wishes to present

Mrs. Lyons informed that the Town of Brooklyn was rated #2 out of 42 towns in Connecticut by Connecticut Magazine.

8. Other

Mrs. Johnson thanked Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Majek and Mr. DonFrancisco for their service as Board of Education members.

9. Public Comments

A member of the public asked if Mr. Carolyn is working with the highway department concerning the traffic flow.

Mrs. Arrends thanked the Board of Education for posting the information included in the board packets.

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Board of Education would wait until after elections to discuss date changes for Board of Education meetings in November and December.

Mrs. Coddling asked for clarification concerning the credentials of the new speech pathologist.

Mrs. Coddling asked if a hiring committee would be formed to begin the process of selecting a new elementary principal.

Mrs. Johnson stated that a committee is usually formed and handles the selection process then makes a recommendation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent then makes the recommendation to the Board of Education.

Mrs. Lyons stated that Mrs. King is still a member of the administrative staff. The Board of Education has not received a resignation from Mrs. King. Therefore, the process of putting together a hiring committee cannot be started at this time.

Amy Lyons stated that she contacted Dr. Berry concerning a staff member who posted privileged information on social media.

Dr. Berry stated that she has been in contact with the Board of Education's attorney and is awaiting a response.

A member of the public stated that she wrote 2 letters and did not receive a response from Dr. Berry. She asked what the protocol for responses is. She did state that she had gotten a response from the building administrator.

Dr. Berry stated that she receives hundreds of letters, and at times, it is impossible to respond to all of them.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 pm
(Johnson / DonFrancisco)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary

