

January 27, 2016

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on January 27, 2016, in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Atchinson, and Mrs. Coddling. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mrs. Nault, Acting Elementary School Principal, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance and Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman, were in attendance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mrs. Lyons arrived at 7:12

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Genna called the to meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Comments by:

- a. BEA - none
- b. Local 1303 - none
- c. PTO – none
- d. PAC – Mrs. Sallum reported that one member of the committee has moved. Therefore, the committee is looking for a new member. They are in the process of forming a committee to help with the parent pick-up procedures at the elementary school and middle school. She also stated that they have had their first meeting with Mrs. Nault.
- e. Public – none

3. Minutes of

- December 1, 2015 Board Minutes

Page 1, Section 1, change payable to payable

- December 15, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
- January 19, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to amend the minutes of December 1, 2015 as stated and approve the minutes of December 15, 2015, January 11, 2016 and January 19, 2016.

(Coddling / Anderson)
Unanimous vote to approve

4. Administrative Reports:

a. Elementary School Principal:

Mrs. Nault stated that she has been acting principal at the Brooklyn Elementary School for the past 16 days. She noted that there has been a lot to do. Mr. Carolan left things in good order and she is picking up where he left off. Her focus is on the children. She has been very visible throughout the school day, getting to know the student body. She stated that the staff is amazing and she is getting to know both the teachers and paraprofessionals better as well. She has also been communicating with the PTO and PAC, and is addressing issues as they come up.

Mrs. Nault informed that each grade level participates in the assemblies. There is a reading day scheduled in March.

The professional development days in January focused on curriculum. They are working on creating a standards based report card.

Mrs. Nault read a letter from the Morton Foundation stating that Brooklyn Elementary School's Mr. Maloney was the recipient of \$12,500.00. The funds are to be used to purchase additional chrome books and develop creative learning.

Mrs. Genna invited Mr. Maloney to next month's meeting to discuss the same.

b. Middle School Principal:

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

c. Assistant Principal:

- Report on Winter Sports

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

d. Special Education Director:

- Special Education Enrollment Report

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

e. Superintendent:

- Payment of Bills

Dr. Berry informed that East River Energy is the provider for heating oil in both the elementary and middle school buildings.

Mrs. Coddling asked if the Killingly High School bill was through January. Dr. Berry stated that Killingly High School is usually behind in their billing process and it is probably an outstanding bill. It is the first bill received this year from Killingly High School.

Mrs. Coddling asked who Curtain Livery is. Dr. Berry explained that it is a transportation service for outplaced special education students.

Mr. Atchinson asked for clarification on bills from two law firms. Dr. Berry informed that the Board of Education uses Shipman & Goodwin, however, they have contacted other law firms for consult based on the need and the particular issue.

Motion to pay the bills as presented

(Lyons / Coddling)
Unanimous vote to approve

- Enrollment Report

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

The current enrollment report reflects a loss of 7 students.

Dr. Berry stated that currently there is a decline in enrollment in northeastern states.

Mrs. Genna suggested conducting a student exit interview. She recommended partnering with PAC to form a questionnaire to find out the reason for student withdrawal from the Brooklyn School District.

The PAC meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.

- Budget Report

The current financial standing was examined, and noted the numbers are not final for the 2015-2016 school year.

The next Board of Education budget meeting will be February 3, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Brooklyn Middle School. The Board of Education will present their proposed budget to the Board of Finance on March 16, 2016. The next monthly Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 and they can revise the budget document at that time.

A meeting of the Board of Finance is scheduled for February 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Dr. Berry urged the Board of Education members to attend the meeting with suggestions concerning the 2016-2017 school budget.

5. Public Comments:

None

6. Committee Reports:

a. Budget

All of the Board of Education members will be working on the 2016 – 2017 school budget.

b. Curriculum

Reports from the school principals included updated curriculum information.

c. Policy

All of the Board of Education members will be working on updating policies. Mrs. Genna handed out packets of information concerning policies, which need to be adopted and / or revised. The members will review the packet and discuss at the next meeting.

d. Communications

Mr. Atchinson stated that he is working to increase communication. The Board of Education packets will be posted on Brooklyn Matters. He is working on getting a better microphone system, and video taping the meetings.

e. Capital / Facilities

The committee did not meet.

Mr. Voccio stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm. The Board of Education is welcome to present their budget to the Capital Committee at that time.

f. EASTCONN

Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to meet with Dr. Berry and ask how EastConn has been utilized in the past.

Mrs. Lyons urged him to reach out to Mrs. Johnson, who is has been very active with EastConn.

g. High School Relations – WA

Mrs. Coddington informed that she has been in touch with Woodstock Academy and has submitted her application for the Board of Trustees and is waiting to hear if she has been approved.

h. High School Relations – KHS

Mr. Atchinson informed that he emailed Greg Bugbee and is awaiting a response. He received a response from Mr. Marcoux and was invited to attend some of Killingly High School's functions.

i. Recreation Committee

Mrs. Lyons stated that she spoke to Bucky today.

j. Transportation

Mrs. Lyons and Mr. Otto have made some changes and put a draft together. They will meet again before the end of January and the proposals will be going out to bid within the next week or two.

k. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Mr. Anderson stated that he has not spoken to the Board of Selectman yet. They are meeting at 6:30 tomorrow.

I. Board of Finance Liaison

Mrs. Genna attended the Board of Finance meeting. They discussed the budget, an issue with a truck, and an audit. They are in the process of putting together next year's budget.

Representatives from PTO, BEA, BOF, and other committees that have issues to bring to the Board will be asked to present these issues to the Board of Education or appropriate committee as necessary.

PTO – none

BEA – none

BOF – none

7. Old Business:

Mrs. Coddington inquired about the odor that was problematic in the elementary school office area.

Mr. Anderson informed that the issue has been resolved. Mr. Tusia found a disconnected pipe that was causing the odor. The pipe has been capped and the odor is no longer a problem.

8. New Business:

Recommendations / Election of New BOE Member

Mrs. Genna explained that there is an empty seat on the Board of Education. She asked if there were any interested parties in the audience.

Pat Morrison expressed interest in being nominated for the position. She handed out a resume to the Board of Education members and explained that she was recommended by the Democratic Town Committee, has resided in Brooklyn for 43 years, and was a member of The Rose Building Committee. She was a first grade and remedial teacher in Plainfield for 34 years and is a member of the BEST Program. She has a Masters of Education from Eastern Connecticut State University, is a member of the Who's Who of American Universities, and was Moosup Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. She stated that she would like to improve the quality of education for her grandchildren.

Joan Trivella expressed interest in being nominated for the position. She stated that she has been a resident of Brooklyn since 1993, has two 17 year-old daughters, has been married for 25 years, and has 12 years experience with the Brooklyn School system while her children attended. She has served on the PTO, as member and president, and on the Board of Education for 4 ½ years, serving as vice-chair for 2 years. She has worked at various banks in the lending department, and was an adjunct at Quinebaug Valley Community College for 3 years. She is currently enrolled in radiology school. She stated that she knows the commitment it takes to be an effective Board of Education member.

Mrs. Lyons nominated Pat Morrison

Mr. Atchinson nominated Joan Trivella

The results of the vote are:

Mr. Atchinson voted for Joan Trivella

Mrs. Lyons voted for Pat Morrison

Mr. Anderson voted for Joan Trivella

Mrs. Coddington voted for Joan Trivella

Mrs. Genna voted for Joan Trivella

Mrs. Trivella was elected as Board of Education member, and sworn in.

Policies and Regulations to be presented to entire board for first read through (January 27, 2013 re-approval, to be listed by numbers and fall 2015)

The following policies and regulations from January 27, 2013 were distributed at the meeting.

- 0521 (a, b) - Non-Discrimination
- 3542.1 (a, b) - Food Services
- 3542.33 (a, b, c) - Food Services
- 4111 (a, b) - Personnel - Hiring, Records, Finger Printing
- 4111.1
- 4112.5 (a, b)
- 4112.6
- 4115 (a, b, c, d) - Personnel - Certified
- 4117.4 - Personnel - Non-renewal
- 5111 (a, b, c) - Student - Admission/Placement
- 5113 (a, b, c) - Student - Attendance
- 5113.2 (a, b, c, d) - Student - Absence and truancy
- 5114 (a to r) - Student - Suspension
- 5124 - Reporting to Parents
- 5131.911 (a - i) - Bullying

5141 (a - h) - Student Health Services
5141.21 (a - j) - Student Health Services Medications
5141.3 (a - i) - Medications/Immunizations
5141.4 (a - c) - Reporting Child Abuse
5144.1 (a - f) - Physical Restraint
5145 (a - k) - Civil / Legal Rights - 504
5145 (form and appendix) - 504 Rights
5145.15 (a-b) - Directory Information
6146 (a-b) - Graduation Requirements
9012 (a-b) Responsibilities of board
9321 - Meetings of the Board
9330 (a-d) - Board / School Records
6142.101 (a-m) - Student Nutrition (had been reviewed by our Food Services Director)

The following policies and regulations from fall 2015 were distributed at the meeting.

4111 - Recruitment and Selection
5118.1 - Homeless Students regulation
5118.1 - Homeless Students policy
5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment
6141.312 Migrant Students
6146.1 Grading/Assessment Systems
6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program

- Discussion of NFA proposal – NFA meeting on February 2nd

Mrs. Genna informed that NFA has sent a proposal to the residents of Brooklyn proposing 2 years of free transportation for Brooklyn students. The two free years will be for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

There is a public meeting with representatives from NFA on February 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Church to answer questions and concerns.

Mr. Anderson suggested polling the residents to see how many are interested in NFA. He also expressed concern about the social impact and effect on Brooklyn students.

Discussion regarding transportation to NFA ensued.

Mrs. Genna stated that Mr. Ives said a designated high school survey could be funded by capital.

Mr. Otto stated that social implications should be strongly considered. While there is greater exposure at NFA, there is also greater competition. Careful thought needs to be given to this matter.

The Board of Education members will attend the presentation by NFA at Trinity Church at 7:00 pm on February 2, 2016.

- Board of Selectman Proposal – altered election language to replace Special Act

Mrs. Genna informed that Mr. Ives presented a proposal asking the Board of Education to change the Special Act and replace it with more generalized election language, including staggering terms, length of terms, and the possibility of adding a 7th member to the Board of Education. Mrs. Genna stated that she would tell Mr. Ives to move forward with this.

- Any matter the chair wishes to present

9. Other

10. Public Comments

Pam Bowden-Nichols requested the microphone issue be resolved in that people sitting and standing in the back cannot hear. She stated that most 8th grade students have already made their high school choice. When considering NFA, a comparison of curriculums should be conducted. She also stated that the tuition rates are a variable number due to the changing budgets of the designated schools. She suggested the Board of Education look at more than just academics. Students from Brooklyn are separated when they attend high school and adding another choice will cause a greater divide. She also expressed concern about the continued problems receiving the tuition bill from Killingly High School.

Mrs. Genna explained that the new Board of Education members would work on the billing issues.

Mrs. Sallum asked for clarification on the responsibility of the PAC in generating a questionnaire for the exit interview process for withdrawn students. She will email questions to the Board of Education members for their review.

Mrs. Lyons stated that exit interviews should be done with an administrator due to confidentiality issues.

The PAC will help formulate the questions, but will not conduct any exit interviews.

Tiffany Rosen stated she would like to see a survey conducted regarding the interest in NFA. She feels there are a large number of parents that are interested in NFA, and parents of 7th grade students should be included in the survey.

Linda Congdon-Marr asked if one of the current designated high schools has the capacity to support the entire Brooklyn student body.

Mrs. Lyons stated that both Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School do not have the capacity to support the entire Brooklyn student body.

Diane Wimmer commented that we are in an age of technological advances and kids are better able to stay connected through social media and various applications.

Aaron Kerouac expressed concern that NFA is presenting to the community without the Board of Education members. He suggested that the Board of Education ask for 3 years of free transportation, and open up the survey to all Brooklyn parents and not just the parents of current 7th and 8th grade students.

Kate Bisson stated that NFA may be desperate for enrollment and Brooklyn would have some bargaining power.

Doug Henault, a parent of students currently attending NFA, recommended taking a more in depth look at the cost analysis to send students to NFA compared to the designated high schools. The money saved in tuition costs could offset future transportation costs. He stated that the Board of Education should keep an open and ongoing communication with NFA. He informed that the school has a lot to offer, and attending NFA has been a great experience for his children.

Lorraine Dooley, a teacher at NFA, stated that NFA has wanted Brooklyn students to attend NFA for years. They encourage keeping the communication open, and encouraged parents to keep an open mind. She said any parent or Board of Education member should feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns.

11. Discussion concerning the contract of public employee (school principal)

Mrs. Genna and Mr. Anderson stated that they have no final documentation to be able to discuss this matter at present.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm.
(Coddington / Lyons)
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully submitted

Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary