

December 10, 2014

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on December 10, 2014 in the middle school library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Attorney Kelley, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Majek, Mr. Voccio, Board of Selectman, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance. Also present Dr. Berry, Superintendent, Mr. Yanku, Middle School Principal. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

Mrs. Johnson arrived at 7:12

Absent: Mr. DonFrancisco

1. Call to Order

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

2. Comments by:

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

3. Finance Director

Dr. Berry introduced Mrs. Holmes, the new Finance Director to the Board of Education members. Mrs. Holmes introduced herself to the members and stated that she is splitting her time between the school and the town offices and is enjoying working with both. She informed that she has had many years of business management experience in schools in Massachusetts as well as Coventry, Thompson and Killingly, Connecticut.

4. Minutes of

- Board Meeting held on November 14, 2014

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 14, 2014:
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

5. Correspondence:

- Killingly High School Honor Roll

The Honor Roll report was included in the Board of Education members' packets. The members were pleased to see so many Brooklyn students achieving academically.

- Woodstock Academy Honor Roll

The Honor Roll report was included in the Board of Education members' packets. The members were pleased to see so many Brooklyn students achieving academically.

6. Consent Agenda

- None

7. Administrative Reports:

- a. Elementary School Principal
Report on Staff Development and School Climate

The report was included in the Board of Education members' packets.

- b. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku presented a PowerPoint presentation. He explained School Messenger, the new communications system. The system allows the schools to communicate with families directly through, email, text message, or phone calls informing them of closings, delays, and upcoming events. The system has been successful.

He also informed that that the high school choice fair was a great success with a large turnout of parents and students.

Mr. Yanku informed the Board of Education members about curriculum updates, and the heavy emphasis on English Language Arts. He also reported the results of the State of Connecticut Department of Education Science CMT 2014 Data Report.

- c. Assistant Principal

Winter Sports will begin on Monday, December 8, 2014.

- d. Special Education Director

- Special Education Enrollment Report

The report was included in the board members' packets.

e. Superintendent

- Payment of Bills

Dr. Berry presented a list of outstanding bills to be paid.

Motion to approve the bills for payment as submitted
(Johnson / Rossi)

Unanimous vote to approve

- Enrollment Report

The Enrollment Report was enclosed in the board members' packets.

- Fire Alarm System

Dr. Berry updated the Board of Education members on the status of the fire alarm system project. She has requested a cost analysis from Hughes. Once received, she will give it to the Capital Committee for their review. From there, a bid will be brought to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Otto asked if the bids would include a complete analysis of the fire alarm system. Dr. Berry informed him that it would.

Mr. Voccio asked if Hughes could give a joint presentation to the Capital Committee and the Board of Finance. Mrs. Lyons stated that it something that can be looked into.

Motion to move the fire alarm system project to the Board of Education Capital Committee

(Johnson / Majek)

Unanimous vote to approve

- ECHIP Report Health Insurance

Motion to take part in the ECHIP
(Rossi / Kelley)

Unanimous vote to accept

- Property Services Position

Dr. Berry informed the board members that there were approximately 40 applicants for the Property Services Manager position. Mr. Anthony Tusia has been selected for the position of Property Services Manager. Mr. Tusia has a great deal of experience in property management and is a state licensed electrician.

Mr. Otto asked if Mr. Tusia was experienced in budgeting, project management and supervision of employees. He was informed that Mr. Tusia is adept in those capacities.

Motion to approve Mr. Anthony Tusia as the Property Services Manager.
(Johnson / Kelley)
Unanimous vote to accept

8. Public Comments

None

9. Committee Reports

a. Budget

Mrs. Lyons stated that the committee has not met yet.

b. Policy – High School Contracts

Attorney Kelley informed that he received a packet of information regarding policy. The information received was generalized changes, not specific policy recommendations. He stated that he is willing to look at the current statutes and see if there are changes / amendments that should be made.

c. Curriculum

Nothing to report at this time.

d. Negotiations

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Local 1303 contract negotiations have been settled. The union has accepted the Board's proposal, and therefore there is no need for arbitration.

e. Capital

At present there are four capital projects that the committee is handling: repairs to the Rose Wing roof, technology updates, the fire alarm system, and security needs. Last year funds for technology updates were approved. Dr. Berry informed the Board of Education members that she received a letter from Mr. Ives informing that improvements must stay within budget, extra funds from one project cannot be used to cover the costs of another, and if costs overrun the budget the committee must notify the first selectman who then goes to the Board of Finance for approval.

f. EastConn

Mrs. Johnson stated that there nothing to report at this time.

g. High School Relations – Woodstock Academy

Attorney Kelley attended the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustee meeting. Most of the meeting was held in executive session. A Brooklyn student received the Headmaster's Award. He will report the students name at the next meeting. Woodstock's Board of Trustees also discussed concerns about building integrity and an ongoing litigation.

h. High School Relations – Killingly High School

Mrs. Johnson informed that the new Athletic Director is Gene Blain.

i. Recreation Committee

Mrs. Lyons informed that Mr. DonFrancisco did not attend the meeting.

i. Board of Selectman Liaison

There is a meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.

k. Board of Finance Liaison

There is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Representatives from the:

PTO – none

BEA – none
BOF – none

10. Old Business

Mrs. Lyons read from the resume of Mr. Tusia. She outlined his credentials and experience.

11. New Business

Brighter Christmas Fund

Dr. Berry informed that the Brighter Christmas Fund has collected over \$1,000 that will be donated to local families in need. The Board of Education members thanked the staff for their generosity.

12. Other

None

13. Public Comments

None

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:47 pm
(Johnson / Majek)
Unanimous vote to accept

Respectfully Submitted
Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary

John DonFrancisco, Secretary