

**BEVERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS**

March 14, 2007

A regular meeting of the Beverly School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, in the City Council Chambers, Beverly City Hall, Beverly, MA.

Members Present: Ms. Brusil, Mr. Manzi, Mr. Manzo, Ms. Decker, Mr. Latter, Ms. Cesa, and Mayor Scanlon

Also in Attendance: Dr. James Hayes, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Marie Galinski, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Joan Liporto, Director of Finance & Operations
Christopher Bougas, Student Representative
Donna Bergeron, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent and School Committee

President Brusil called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Scanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion – Education Topic

No topic is provided for this meeting.

Recognitions – Such Other Matters (Kudos, Congratulations)

At this time Dr. Hayes and Ms. Brusil introduced Dr. Colleen McBride, Principal of the McKeown Elementary School. Dr. Hayes asked Dr. McBride to help them in recognizing a number of individuals from the McKeown School for the great job they have done promoting recycling. Dr. McBride introduced to the Committee the following people: Kurt Anderson, Pauline Boutin and Diane Kwiatek, Grade 5 teachers, Julie DeSilva, PTO President, Chris Rand and David Macaro, maintenance staff and the Fifth Grade Student Green Team. Dr. McBride told the Committee how hard this team has worked and what an amazing job they have done. The Fifth Grade Student Green Team had a small presentation for the Committee led by Mr. Kurt Anderson.

Open Forum for Citizen Input into Non-Agenda-Related Items

Ms. Dawn Hames addressed the Committee to discuss kindergarten entrance age requirements. Ms. Hames presented her thoughts and views stating that "a child who has demonstrated their capabilities by successfully completing an accredited Kindergarten program, should be allowed to enter the first grade even if they are not yet 6 years of age". Ms. Hames thanked the Committee for their time and for allowing her to voice her opinions and concerns.

Opportunity for Citizen Input into Agenda-Related Items

None

Records of Meetings

A motion was made by Ms. Cesa and seconded by Mr. Manzo to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting held on January 10, 2007 with one correction. **So voted.**

A motion was made by Mr. Latter and seconded by Mr. Manzi to approve the minutes of the School Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 30, 2007 with one correction. **So voted.**

Report from Student Representative

Chris Bougas had the following to report: Student Advisory Committee met this evening and discussed the possibility of moving Hurd Stadium to the new high school site and user fees; the girls swim team placed 6th in the State; there is a Blood Drive scheduled for April 26th in the ROTC room sponsored by the National Honor Society; the Arts Festival will be held this week and next week; the Beverly Faculty All-Stars Basketball team vs. the Harlem Rockets takes place Thursday, 3/15 in the BHS field house; the play *Aida* took place March 1st through the 4th and it was outstanding.

Communications

- *Aida* -- all Committee Members gave wonderful reviews. They said it was amazing, incredible, professional, blown away, great job done by all on stage as well as behind the scenes. The public should definitely take advantage -- great family night out.
- Congratulations to both the boys and girls basketball teams and the hockey team
- Concerned call regarding rumors at Beverly High School.
- Hannah PTO sponsoring comedy night Sunday, April 1st.
- Process for the new high school.
- Stand for Children Organization - Ellie Beck addressed the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.
- *Annie* the musical is taking place at North Beverly Elementary School.
- High School athletics: concerns around the gymnastics team potentially moving to the YMCA, how it was communicated and questions regarding the equipment; hockey team; and thefts in the gym.
- Open House at the high school - calls from parents upset with the scheduling.
- Briscoe parent concerned that since they have combined the two middle schools attention is not being paid to academic co-curricular activities - Mr. Poska is addressing this issue.
- Naming of new athletic field - 133 entries the city council Finance & Property sub-committee will be voting soon.
- PTO's -- Briscoe enrichment programs
 - Ayer's PTO purchases - laptop computers, emergency defibrillator
 - McKeown Science Fair
 - St. Patrick's Day luncheon
 - City Wide PTO - Solid Waste Management presentation
- Tour of Chicopee High School
- Attended EEC open house - very impressive
- Encouraging people to become citizen representatives and to attend these meetings.
- Concern from a Briscoe student that they continue to have uneven heat in the building.
- Great article by Julie DeSilva, McKeown PTO President about the many good things happening in our schools.
- Ayer's carnival scheduled for Saturday, 3/17.
- Livingstone Avenue -- need for more crosswalks
- Parents of twins - concern with the cost of preschool tuition.
- Congratulations to the students at the high school who have worked hard to keep the traditional Arts Festival going.
- Centerville School Shamrock Social fundraiser -- March 17 @ Franco-American
- Cove School Annual Action fundraiser -- March 16

Mayor Scanlon took this opportunity to update the Committee on the high school building project. Mayor Scanlon reported that the School Building Committee with five subcommittees: Alternative Energy and Green Building; Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment; Fields and Grounds; Technology; and Alternative Construction Materials will be meeting the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 in Room 164 of the Memorial Building.

Mayor Scanlon reported that the recycling/trash collection is out to bid right now for about two more weeks at which time they will look at weekly vs. bi-weekly recycling to see which is more cost effective.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **Renewable Energy Presentation**

Dr. Hayes introduced Fred Hopps, a representative from Solar Now and former teacher at Beverly High School, who is chairing the Alternative Energy & Green Building subcommittee of the School

Building Committee. Mr. Hopps presented a power point presentation to the Committee on renewable energy and green schools. During this presentation, Mr. Hopps gave his views on why Beverly should build a "Green School". Mr. Hopps said that he had visited two green high schools, Blackstone Valley and Whitman Hanson. Mr. Hopps showed some of the highlights of his visit: the solar panels on the roofs of the buildings; the dehumidification system, which removes humidity in the air keeping the building comfortable in the summer months without air conditioning; the courtyard which allows sunlight into the interior of the building. Mr. Hopps also reported to the Committee some of the monies/grants these buildings have received and monies that are available from state/federal, manufacturer rebates and the DOE. Mr. Hopps concluded his presentation discussing design process, cost effective building, materials and resources, water recovery system and the savings if Beverly were to invest in a Green Building. Dr. Hayes thanked Mr. Hopps for a terrific job presentation.

Evaluation of Cafeteria, Custodial, and Transportation Employees

Dr. Hayes expressed how please he was to be bringing forward to the Committee the remaining three bargaining unit agreements. The Clerical Agreement was already approved at the December meeting. Dr. Hayes explained that these three agreements (Cafeteria, Transportation and Custodians) are being presented tonight for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Cesa and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the Cafeteria, Transportation and Custodial Evaluation Agreement. **So voted.**

Evaluation of Paraprofessional Personnel

Dr. Hayes told the Committee he was also bringing forward, for approval, the Unit C, Paraprofessionals Evaluation Agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Latter and seconded by Ms. Decker to approve the Unit C, Paraprofessionals Evaluation Agreement. **So voted**

2007-08 School Calendar

Dr. Hayes told the Committee that the revised calendar for the 2007-2008 school year is included in their packets. Dr. Hayes reported that the correction had been made (181 days to 180 days) and also that the Presidential Primary day in March is still shown as a school day. Dr. Hayes said that voter turnout is considerably low (18% turnout last time) for these primaries, as reported by City Hall and therefore the parking and school security is not as much an issue as on state/local elections.

That being said, there was some discussion and some of the members still felt uneasy about the parking situations, particularly at some of the elementary schools. Mr. Manzo proposed that we amend the 2007-2008 School Calendar to reflect March 4th, 2007 as a no school day for the Presidential Primary and add one day to the end of the school year. A motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Mayor Scanlon for school to be closed on March 4, 2007 (Presidential Primary Election Day) and to add an extra day to the end of the school year. Vote 3 Yes - 4 No:
Motion fails.

A motion was made by Ms. Decker and seconded by Mr. Latter to accept the 2007-2008 School Calendar as presented. 6 Yes, 2 No: **So Voted.**

BHS Construction Project Update

Dr. Hayes reported that there have been regular meetings with the Designers of Mount Vernon Group, representatives from central office and the high school. They have also met, for the first time, with department heads from the high school. They have discussed identifying spaces, square footage, number of classrooms in which to conduct courses with the number of students attending. Dr. Hayes feels these meetings have been very productive. Dr. Hayes reported that at the next meeting they hope to finalize the determination of spaces and square footage. Dr. Hayes said we need to be aggressive to hit the mid April target.

Progress Report – Superintendent’s Goals

Dr. Hayes reported to the Committee his "Superintendent Performance Goals", a copy of which is included in the packets. This update outlined the four goals that had been established by the

Committee for this year. Dr. Hayes went over the goals listed below and summarized the status of each:

1. Student Achievement
2. Long-Range Planning
3. High School Design Planning
4. Improved Communications

In conclusion, Dr. Hayes said that he feels pleased with the progress so far and hopes to continue to make more progress through the next three months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities:

Paul Manzo, Chairperson

Mr. Manzo reported at the last two Finance and Facilities meetings they reviewed the FY'07 budget revenues and expense - it appears fairly healthy. The Committee also discussed the possibility of a budget surplus from snow removal, utilities, and unanticipated reduction in the unemployment costs and if that be the case, ways in which to use it ~ technology, buildings & grounds and maintenance; they were given an update on the enrollment figures and the different programs running in our schools; Chris Rand, Director of Buildings and Grounds provided them with an update on secondary improvements at Beverly High School and Briscoe; the high school computer lab renovations (electrical) as request by NEASC, have been completed; at the Memorial Building renovations were completed to a recently rented space; discussed specs for Briscoe and Memorial conversion from oil to gas; hot water tank being replaced at the Centerville School (still under warranty) they believe that these tanks may have been bad/defective equipment and there is the possibility that the ones at Ayers and McKeown may need replacing also. Chris Rand and Mike Bergeron, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Finance & Facilities have prepared a Facilities and Maintenance Plan, some of the items included in this plan were improvements to be made; 100 windows replaced at Briscoe; additions to Ayers faculty parking; and preventive maintenance to roofs at Ayers and McKeown. The next scheduled Finance and Facilities meeting will be held Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities a motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Ms. Cesa to approve the attached policy regarding "Fiscal Management Goals". **So Voted**

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities a motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Ms. Decker to approve the attached policy regarding "Communication of Budget Recommendations". **So voted.**

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities a motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Ms. Decker to approve the attached policy regarding "Facilities Development Goals". **So voted.**

Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Life:

Annemarie Cesa, Chairperson

Ms. Cesa reported at their last two meetings the following was discussed: Mass Cultural Grant and the link between Science and the Arts; guidelines for elementary homework; update in AYP determination; Virtual High School - 18 students taking classes this semester, the Virtual High School offers courses that we are not able to offer at the high school; received information on English Language Learners, there are 51 students that speak mainly Spanish and Portuguese, 14 in our kindergarten; the Summer Academy flyers have been sent home; promotion policies were discussed to make sure appropriate notice is given to students and parents; research projects being done by Endicott College students, include drop out rate survey and a survey of foreign languages that might be considered at the elementary level; Matt Poska, Principal of the Briscoe Middle School, presented

his reconfiguration of the Briscoe schedule to a 6 period 60 minute schedule; this would involve an increase in staffing, one thought was maybe they look at 6th grade only.

The Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Life recommends the attached policy regarding "Elementary Redistricting" (Section F: Facilities Development) for a first reading. The second reading, which will take place at our April 11th meeting and will require a formal (2/3) vote of approval by the School Committee.

The Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Life recommends the attached policy regarding "Student Eligibility for participation in Athletics and Co curricular Activities" (Section J: Students) for a first reading. The second reading, which will take place at our April 11th meeting and will require a formal (2/3) vote of approval by the School Committee. Information provided in the third bullet was not part of the policy recommended by the subcommittee. It was added to the policy later by the administration when it was recognized that the language was contained in our student handbook, which had received previous School Committee approval.

Committee of the Whole:
Nancy Brusil, President

Ms. Brusil reported that the Committee is looking at the FY'08 budget and the final meeting will take place on March 21st before the Public Hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beverly High School Auditorium

New Business
None

Opportunity for Questions from the Press

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Maria Decker
Secretary