

**BEVERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS**

November 8, 2006

A regular meeting of the Beverly School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, in the City Council Chambers, Beverly City Hall, Beverly, MA.

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

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

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

Mr. Manzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion – Education Topic**

In lieu of the regular Education Topic Ms. Brusil said that Dr. Scuzzarella would be addressing the Committee about block scheduling at the High School, the way the schedule looks now, and, if there was a need to change the current schedule. Dr. Scuzzarella had included schedules from North Andover and Lincoln-Sudbury as possible alternatives. Dr. Scuzzarella pointed out that the double periods, over the years, have proven to reduce failure rates. Dr. Scuzzarella reported what the high school would be at risk of losing if it were to go back to the traditional type of schedule: the ability to repeat a course immediately the next semester should the student fail; flexibility for students to double up on courses; AP languages; students would be limited to one AP Science course where now many seniors are in two science courses. Also, Dr. Scuzzarella said she felt this could have a negative impact on the how the NEASC would view the change. There was a short question and comment period that followed.

**Recognitions – Such Other Matters (Kudos, Congratulations)**

Dr. Hayes and Ms. Brusil asked Rob McCausland, former Executive Director of BevCam, to join them so they could extend their appreciation and recognize him for his dedicated service to the Beverly School Committee and Beverly community.

Dr. Scuzzarella introduced Amanda Lozada and Jacqueline Willwerth, seniors at Beverly High School. Amanda and Jacqueline were recognized for being named Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

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

None

**Opportunity for Citizen Input into Agenda-Related Items**

None

**Records of Meetings**

A motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Ms. Cesa to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting held on October 11, 2006. **So voted.**

**Report from Student Representative**

Chris Bougas reported that tonight was the first Student Advisory meeting and it went very well. Bridging the Gap a very popular and successful program with Salem High School, will be held on Monday, November 20. The Halloween dance was a success, thank you to the Administration for doing a great job. The Junior Class held its first Elementary Fun Day fundraiser on the no-school, professional day on Election Day, November 7; it went very well and there was a great turnout.

**Communications:**

- Mayor Scanlon updated the Committee on the Designer Selection process: Of the 12 respondents, the Committee members: Ms. Brusil, School Committee President, Dr. Hayes, Superintendent, Ms. Gooding and Kevin Hobin, City Councilors, Ray Bouchard, Building Commission Chair, Thaddeus Simasko, local architect, Phil Mahoney, local engineer, John Dunn, City Finance Director and Mike Collins, Director of Public Services, narrowed the list down to five. They held three Designer Selection interviews, publicly, for

the remaining candidates and the Committee will be meeting next week to go over their findings and then present a list to the Mayor in descending order.

- The Mayor said that the City is in the process of meeting with members of the School Department to compile total school employee head counts from the School's payroll data. The Mayor hopes to have definite numbers/information to the Committee for the December meeting.
- The Pumpkin Fair at the McKeown School was a great success and well attended.
- Thank you to all PTO's for the wonderful work they do raising money for all of our schools.
- The Health Advisory meeting held at Beverly High School was very informative. There was a discussion about forming a subcommittee to look at some of the more concerning issues.
- A former McKay school parent had inquired as to where the time capsule had been buried.
- Eighth grade parents will be visiting Beverly High School next Thursday for the Open House Evening.
- Block Scheduling at the high school – concerns from parents, students, and staff members.
- EEC Program
- A call as to why a new academic wing is being built instead of renovating the high school.
- Attended Recovery High School's open house met some of the students and the principal.
- Tour of Design Lab in the Memorial Building where the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade engineering students meet after school.
- Consolidation Committee is in the final stages of gathering data from other communities and from our internal departments and will be meeting again next week.
- Following an Educational Specification meeting there was concern from a parent about security and how it will be looked at with the new design project.
- Elementary parents are happy that the reconfiguration of the elementary schools has been put off for now.
- Inquiries about an Early Childhood Center.
- Keeping/retaining neighborhood school model.
- Ayers – computers and technology from PTO has been installed.
- Cove – boiler replacement issue
  - New Cove PTO website
  - Parents requesting an open house at Briscoe for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents.
- The Literacy Presentation by Sally Grimes was fantastic!
- Everyday Math program for parents was well worth attending!
- BHS – teacher concerned with the make-up of the Design Committee.
- Number of concerns with the drop off and pickup at Ayers.
- Calls regarding the wrestling proposal.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **School Committee Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Hayes reviewed the attached Spring School Committee Schedule pointing out that he has included Committee of the Whole meetings as well as the Public Hearing meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Decker and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the Spring School Committee schedule with one date change and the addition of three, Student Advisory Meetings. **So voted.**

### **Superintendent's Goals**

Dr. Hayes reported that he has attached his goals for 2006-2007 for approval. These goals become part of his evaluation. There were a few comments and suggestions from the Committee members to Dr. Hayes. A motion was made by Ms. Cesa and seconded by Ms. Decker to approve the Superintendent's goals for 2006-07. **So voted.**

### **Technology Improvements**

Judy Miller, Director of Technology, and Paul Cohen, Technology Operations Manager, addressed the Committee to bring them up to date on progress that is being made with regards to technology. Ms. Miller summarized the source of the funding and budget plan she had outlined in her handout for these projects.

### **NOAA Public Alert Radios**

Dr. Hayes reported that the US Department of Education has joined with the Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security to provide all public schools in the country with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Public Alert Radios to assist in emergencies. Our schools have received these radios and are waiting for them to be installed. Once they are installed they will be left on 24/7. Dr. Hayes reported that the radio is designed to signal different types of alerts ranging from weather emergencies to child abductions and other law enforcement emergencies.

### **Beverly High School Accreditation**

A letter was included in the packet from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In this letter it informed us that the High School's accreditation has been continued.

### **Open Meeting Law Workshop**

Dr. Hayes reminded the Committee that the Essex County District Attorney's Office is hosting a workshop on the Open Meeting Law for public officials. It will take place on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at Endicott College.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities**

##### **Paul Manzo, Chairperson**

At a recent meeting of the Finance and Facilities the following two recommendations were made:

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities a motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the creation of a new Intensive Preschool Classroom at the Cove Elementary School at a total cost of \$58,581 (one full-time teacher, \$38,165; one full-time aide, \$12,303; and one part-time (0.4 COTA, \$8,113). **So voted.**

Mr. Longley, Athletic Director, along with Mark Thomas, were on hand to answer questions from the Committee regarding the proposed wrestling program. (A three-year financial analysis was included in this packet). Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance & Facilities a motion was made by Mr. Manzo and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the creation of a wrestling program at Beverly High School. **So voted.**

The next Finance and Facilities meeting will be Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Building.

#### **Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Life**

##### **Annemarie Cesa, Chairperson**

Ms. Cesa said that the Committee had met last Wednesday when they had reports on the mid-cycle School Improvement Plans from Centerville, Cove, Hannah, McKeown and the High School. They will hear from North Beverly next month. Also Ms. Cesa said they looked at foreign language choices and decided to retain the five languages that are offered now.

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life the following three policies: "Drug Free Schools", "Student Policies Goals", and "Equal Educational Opportunities" are recommended for a first reading. The second reading, will take place at our December meeting, and, will require a formal (2/3) vote of approval by the School Committee.

#### **Policy Review Committee**

##### **Maria Decker, Chairperson**

The Policy Review Committee met on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's office. Ms. Decker said that there were 13 policies that were up for review and they will be brought before the Committee next month.

#### **Committee of the Whole**

##### **Nancy Brusil, President**

Ms. Brusil said that at last month's meeting they went over reconfiguration of the elementary schools. In re-thinking about this issue, Ms. Brusil said she intends to speak to the Committee and ask that they reconsider looking at reconfiguration again and Ms. Brusil requested more data from Superintendent Hayes. Also to be addressed will be the high school scheduling.

#### **New Business**

Mayor Scanlon talked about a recent seminar that ran on drug and alcohol abuse. He said that there is a possibility that they many run this again and was looking for input on how to reach parents and get the attendance up.

#### **Opportunity for Questions from the Press**

None

**Consider Executive Session**

A motion was made by Ms. Decker and seconded by Mr. Latter to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and not to return to open session.

Roll Call:

Yes: Ms. Brusil, Ms. Cesa, Ms. Decker, Mr. Latter, Mr. Manzo, Mr. Manzi, Mayor Scanlon

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Maria Decker  
Secretary