

**BEVERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS**

October 11, 2006

A regular meeting of the Beverly School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 11, 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 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Latter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion – Education Topic**

The education topic for this month was “Technology in Schools: What the Research Says” by Cisco Systems & Metiri Group followed by a brief discussion and comment period.

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

Dr. Hayes and Ms. Brusil recognized Meaghan Lyons and Vanessa Hill, seniors at Beverly High School, who rank number one and two in their class. They were presented with a “Certificate of Academic Excellence” from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

**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 Ms. Cesa and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting held on September 13, 2006 with one correction. **So voted.**

**Report from Student Representative**

Chris Bougas reported that 93 seniors were recently awarded the Abigail and John Adams Scholarship for outstanding scores on the MCAS. This scholarship affords the student eight semester’s tuition free at any state college or university. Freshman elections were held today. The fall play is “The Man Who Came to Dinner”. There have been a series of articles in the Salem News with regard to boys on girl’s field hockey teams and the risk they may pose to the other players.

**Communications:**

- ROTC – Mr. Latter expressed his support for this program. He has received many calls from concerned students, parents, teachers, and veterans. He acknowledged many positive effects that this program has on our students.
- Open house at the high school. Comments regarding a teacher who had not prepared for the event.
- Fundraising ideas.
- The Golf Tournament was a huge success! They raised \$29,000 and was enjoyed by all!
- Overlapping calendar issues.
- Calls regarding the BHS summer reading program and the possibility of updating the book list.
- Class sizes in the honors classes at BHS.
- Concern over the possible elimination of block scheduling.
- There was a Consolidation Meeting held last week at city hall. Kathy Griffin spoke to the members about the recommendations concerning potential consolidation of the business and finance functions. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.
- Calls regarding what the District is doing about Student Safety in light of recent national events.
- Appeal for Briscoe Library volunteers.
- PTO Meetings: Hannah discussing the possibility of an alternative lunch menu

McKeown – recycling programs into schools  
High School – block scheduling  
Cove – a few safety concerns with a.m. drop off

- Mom's softball game – a lot of fun!
- Crossing Guards
- Article in the Salem News with regard to the Youth Risk Survey.
- Ayers PTO meeting – discussion about the MCAS scores  
– safety issues during drop off and pick up
- Designer Interviews – Twelve respondents have been narrowed down to five and they will be presenting their proposals at the high school on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will be held in the High School Library (10/23<sup>rd</sup> & 10/30<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; on the 10/26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
- Concerns were expressed with regard to the school calendar and the number of days the children have off especially in the beginning of the school year. This presents a problem for working parents and it is disruptive for elementary age children.
- Ms. Brusil stated that she is not in favor of having primary and election days off. Dr. Hayes explained that contractually there are a certain number of professional development days that have to be scheduled. There was further discussion suggesting that maybe these professional development days could be planned before the opening of school. It was decided that this issue would be revisited when setting up next year's calendar.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Overnight Field Trip Proposal – Model UN**

Ms. Ronan, Social Studies teacher at Beverly High School addressed the committee on the upcoming overnight field trip to Brown University on November 10 - 12. Her co-advisor, Ms. Brotherton, will be accompanying her on the trip. Ms. Decker stated she would not participate in the discussion or vote because her daughter was going on the trip.

Ms. Ronan reported that they would be traveling by school bus to Providence with approximately 10 to 12 students. The Countries for the Model UN Conference are Ireland and Tanzania. Ms. Ronan reported that the cost of the trip is approximately \$300/per student. Ms. Ronan acknowledged that this is an expensive trip and the students have started their fundraising by selling flip-flops. Financial aid is available to any student who needs it. A motion was made by Ms. Cesa and seconded by Mr. Latter to approve the overnight field trip to Brown University. **So voted.**

#### **Overnight Field Trip Proposal – Nature's Classroom**

Mr. Goncalves, Assistant Principal at Briscoe, along with Ms. Jenko, Associate Principal, reviewed the plans for the Nature's Classroom field trips. Mr. Goncalves reported that they have planned the trip for April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. As it was last year, the class will be in three groups going to three different sites, i.e. 6B – Charlton, MA (Hilltop), 6C – Charlton, MA (Pondside) and 6A – Freedom, NH. The cost per pupil is approximately \$350. The students have begun fundraising by selling sweatshirts and they are planning a Briscoe Family Movie Night for October 27th. They also received a very generous donation from the PTO.

Mr. Goncalves and Ms. Jenko stated that they would accompany the teachers and students. A letter will also be going home soon asking for interested parent's who are able to chaperone. A motion was made by Ms. Decker and seconded by Mr. Manzo to approve the overnight field trip to Nature's Classroom. **So voted.**

#### **School Security**

Dr. Hayes reviewed the attached School Security handout in light of the recent events in the nation. Dr. Hayes acknowledged that the safety of our students is paramount. He stated that all of our school doors, with the exception of arrival and dismissal times, are locked. At all of our schools, with the exception of Centerville, visitors have to be buzzed into the building and must report to the main office, where they sign in and are given a visitors badge. The High School has campus monitors and staff monitoring the main entrance and outside lots.

Dr. Hayes reported that the Second Step Program has been a wonderful training tool for K through 8 students, training students in violence prevention and good decision-making. Lastly, Dr. Hayes stated that the high school project needs to be designed with state of the art security. One of his goals is to create a Capitol Improvement Plan to look at such issues for the future.

**Pothole Grant**

Dr. Hayes reported that we were awarded a Pothole Grant, which Joan Liporto, Director of Finance and Operations, had applied for. Dr. Hayes acknowledged that this revenue (\$69,000) could be allocated for any purpose as we see fit

**SAT and AP at Beverly High School**

Dr. Marie Galinski presented a summary of the results, over the last five years, of the standardized testing taken by Beverly High School students. Charts reflected how well the students are performing on the SAT and Advanced Placement exams.

**October 1 Enrollments:**

Dr. Hayes reported that the enclosed October 1, 2006 enrollment figures are official figures that are sent to the Department of Education. These numbers are used to determine funding for the schools, both in grants and Chapter 70. Dr. Hayes reported that the total enrollment for the District is 4578; this number includes: tuition-out, home schooled, and hospital/home instruction.

**Superintendent Goals:**

Dr. Hayes reported that he included a draft of his goals for the Committee to review. Dr. Hayes briefly summarized the goals listed below.

1. Student Achievement
2. Long Range Planning
3. High School Design Plan
4. Improved Community Relations

Ms. Brusil asked that discussions regarding Dr. Hayes' goals be scheduled for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Policy Development:**

Dr. Hayes stated that he has reviewed the Policy Handbook and has scheduled, with the appropriate sub committees, a number of the policies that need updating. There are a total of 35 policies to be reviewed.

**Health and Education Services Report:**

Dr. Hayes stated that the report included in this packet, from Health and Education Services, reflects the free care hours they have provided to Beverly as well as surrounding towns in the past year. Beverly has been the recipient of 770 hours of service.

**ROTC**

Dr. Hayes reported that we have hired a substitute for the ROTC position; he is a retired military officer. Dr. Hayes acknowledged that he has heard from many veteran groups who have offered their services should we need further assistance. Due to the qualifications required for this position all are in agreement that it may take some time to find a qualified replacement. However, Dr. Hayes said that we are not going to pull the plug on this program and will work hard to find the right person for this position.

**Global Child**

Dr. Hayes reviewed the information on the Global Child Program. This program will be operational at Ayers, Cove, and Hannah and is open to all of our children (K through 5). They are offering classes in Spanish and French, after school.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Standing Committee on Finance and Facilities: Paul Manzo, Chairperson**

Mr. Manzo reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee met on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Joan Liporto, Director of Finance and Operations was in attendance along with her assistant, Michael Bergeron.

Mr. Manzo reported they reviewed the FY06 budget carryovers, Dr. Hayes updated the Committee on enrollment numbers, and, Dr. Galinski updated the Committee on kindergarten numbers. They discussed the advantages/disadvantages of a full day – full year kindergarten and costs. Mr. Manzo said that they discussed use of facilities and fees and that is ongoing. The next Finance and Facilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Life: Annemarie Cesa, Chairperson**

Ms. Cesa reported that the Committee had reviewed a lot of data on testing: schedules, grade levels, and type of testing being conducted. They have received the new guidelines for School Councils. These guidelines have been revised and are now two-year school improvement plans instead of one year. Ms. Cesa reported that 80% of Beverly High School students are taking the SAT's. Beverly's SAT scores went up as well as our MCAS scores.

**Policy Review Committee: Maria Decker, Chairperson**

Ms. Decker reported that the Policy Review Committee is meeting on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in the Superintendent's Office.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Brusil stated that the Committee of the Whole will be meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. They have requested more information on parings of the elementary schools and modifying elementary school district boundaries. Ms. Brusil summarized the ideas and previous discussions.

Ms. Brusil requested an update on the elementary music program and some feedback on study halls at Beverly High School.

Mr. Manzo stated that while we will be gathering information with regard to long term planning, i.e. reconfiguration of schools and foreign languages, the Committee welcomes any input from interested parents and/or members of the community.

**New Business**

None

**Opportunity for Questions from the Press**

None

**Consider Executive Session**

A motion was made by Ms. Brusil and seconded by Ms. Cesa 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. Cesa, Ms. Decker, Mr. Manzo, Mr. Manzi, Mayor Scanlon, Mr. Latter, Ms. Brusil

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Maria Decker  
Secretary