

DRAFT

July 29, 2009

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on July 29, 2009 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio. Also present were: Mrs. Trivella, Jeffrey Otto, Mr. Yanku and Mrs. Berry.

**1. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lyons at 7:10 p.m.**

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Brooklyn Republican Town Committee of Mrs. Joan Trivella to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Michael Moses.

VOTE: Unanimous

Following a welcome to Mrs. Trivella and a reminder that she needed to be sworn in to office by the town clerk before she can assume the responsibilities of Board of Education membership, Mrs. Trivella was asked to join the Board at the table.

**2. Public Comments/Comments by Representatives of:**

- a. BEA - no report
- b. LOCAL 1303 - AFSCME - no report
- c. PTO - no report

**3. Minutes of Board Meetings:**

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Johnson) to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2009 and June 8, 2009 meetings.

Vote: Unanimous

**4. Correspondence:**

Included in Board packets were:

- a. Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees meeting minutes of May 19, 2009 and the agenda for the June 16, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting;
- b. letters from the State Department of Education on: 1) the legislative report for the 2009 Session; 2) approval of Brooklyn's Technology Plan; and 3) dates for negotiations with the BEA;
- c. a letter of retirement from Mrs. Justice;

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to accept Mrs. Justice's resignation.

VOTE: Unanimous

**4. Correspondence (continued)**

- d. a letter of application for employment from Ms. Lazure (laid off in June, 2009 because of budget cut);

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to offer Ms. Lazure the grade four vacancy created by Mrs. Justice's retirement.

VOTE: Unanimous

- e. a letter from the BEA stating that the BEA membership would not support a salary freeze for the 2009-2010 contract year; and
- f. material on the CABA conference in November, 2009.

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated July 29, 2009 was distributed.
- b. Extracurricular - no report
- c. Use of Facilities - no report
- d. Bus Driver approval - no report
- e. Library Books - no report

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

**6. Administrative Reports:**

**a. Middle School Principal**

Mr. Yanku's report included comments on the following:

Sixth Grade Night of Greece

The resourceful energy of the sixth grade was on display on Thursday, June 4th. It was a night of exhibiting creative talent and displaying knowledge gained by our sixth grade students as they participated in a culminating event about Greece.

Band and Chorus

On May 28th both the band and chorus took home medals for their performance at the spring Music Festival and then finished the day at Six Flags.

Quizbowl

Our Quizbowl team won two of three match-ups - losing in the semifinal round of the Quizbowl Superbowl on June 15th.

## 6. Administrative Reports (continued):

### a. Middle School Principal (continued)

#### Eighth Grade Washington D.C. Trip

The 8th grade class trip to the nation's capitol on June 2,3,and 4 was terrific – the class visited the Smithsonian Museums, many of the monuments (Lincoln, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, etc), Arlington National Cemetery, toured the Capitol Building, met with our U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, attended a dinner theater where we saw a production of High School Musical, and on the last day stopped in Philadelphia visiting; National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, Bourse Hall, and the Liberty Bell Pavilion. The trip was a great and memorable experience for our kids thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Hatzberger, who organized the trip and our chaperones. Thank you to our staff and parents, who chaperoned the trip.

#### Eighth Grade Dance

The eighth grade dance was held on Saturday, June 13th. Students, parents and advisors did a marvelous job transforming our cafeteria into a purple and silver themed graduation dance. Our students had a wonderful time dressed in their finest.

#### Eighth Grade Graduation

We proudly graduated one of our largest graduating classes ever on Wednesday, June 17th. It was a celebratory night for many as it represented the end of a great experience at the Brooklyn School for our eighth grade students. This is a memorable group of students who demonstrated a great deal of flexibility and a capacity to accept and adapt to change. They are a wonderful group of kids and we wish them well as they move on to high school.

#### E2T2 Workshop

A group of our teachers, who teach science, participated in a workshop in our library on July 20, 21, and 22 to enhance science instruction utilizing SMARTBoards and Discovery Education streaming.

There are many other great events, activities, and awards on which to write. However, I will just list some of the other major highlights.

Memorial Day Parade

Yearbook Dedicated to Mr. Tom Lazuk

Sixth Grade Trips

Awards Assembly

Climate Survey and a comparison of responses in 2009 versus 2008

Mr. Yanku also reported on the alignment of Brooklyn's Algebra I class with the program at Woodstock Academy, the use of bench marks in Algebra and the plan for Woodstock Academy to give us data on math progress of Brooklyn students at the Academy.

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio commented on the need for grade level teachers to stay together as a team and specifically mentioned the role of the math teacher on such a team.

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio also requested information on the number of middle schools in Connecticut that offer Spanish.

### b. Elementary Principal

Dr. Keefe was not in attendance.

**6. Administrative Reports (continued):**

**c. Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet's ERR report for the Period of May 20, 2009 - June 18, 2009 was included in Board packets

**ERR Report  
May 20, 2009 – June 18, 2009  
(Time Period #9)**

	Minor Infraction 1	Major Infraction 2	Academic, etc. 3	# Students 4
<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>58</b>

- 1 Recess, Lunch, One Class Period +/-
- 2 Full Day ERR
- 3 Make-up Work, Injury, Late to CMTs, etc.
- 4 Only student referred for Categories 1 and 2

The above table shows the ninth, 20 day period of ERR this year. Fifty-eight students have been referred to the program for behavioral issues during this time period. Special Education students have not been separately noted in the above data. The table below shows year-to-date data.

**Year-To-Date**

	Minor Infraction 1	Major Infraction 2	Academic, etc. 3	# Students 4
8/28/08 – 9/ 25 /08	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
9/26/08 – 10/27/08	<b>58</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>41</b>
10/28/08– 11/25/08	<b>64</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>
11/26/08- 1/8/09	<b>70</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>
1/9/09 – 2/9/09	<b>97</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>
2/10/09- 3/13/09	<b>114</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>
3/16/09 – 4/21/09	<b>121</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>
4/22/09-5/19/09	<b>90</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>
5/21/09 – 6/18/09	<b>93</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>58</b>

**d. Director of Student Services**

In Mrs. Muscente's absence, Mrs. Berry reported on the accreditation of the Pre-School Program and the letter of notification from NAEYC.

## 6. Administrative Reports (continued):

### e. Superintendent's Report

The following reports/issues were included in Board packets and Mrs. Berry commented on a number of them:

Title I Grant Application (\$201,819) - Mrs. Berry reported that an application had been submitted to the State Department of Education for a reading program at the elementary building using data analysis to monitor student progress and adapt instructional practices to meet the needs of those students who qualify for Title I services.

Special Education ARRA Grant Application (\$218,306) - This application has been submitted to provide an Alternative Learning Program at the Middle School Level for those students who are presently in out-district placements but will be able to be educated in their home school with appropriate programming.

PreK and K Transportation and Scheduling - Mrs. Berry reported on the efforts to balance class size and reduce transportation costs by transporting from geographic areas rather than allowing attendance based on family choice. This effort is a result of class size variations from 17 to 26 in these classes last year and the concerns of parents and staff on the wide differences in class enrollment.

Following discussion of this issue, the Board of Education took the following action:

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) to maintain the proposed schedule as presented unless there are medical problems which require attendance at a specific time of day as verified by the family physician.

VOTE: Unanimous

Part-time Enrollment at K.H.S. - Mrs. Berry presented a parental request for the enrollment of her daughter in a music class at K.H.S. As this student is home-schooled and Brooklyn does not have an agreement with Killingly on part-time students, the consensus of the Board was not to approve this request.

Killingly High School Tuition Issue - Mrs. Berry reviewed the issue of the lawsuit against the Brooklyn Board of Education concerning a K.H.S. tuition payment charged to Brooklyn for two students who did not attend K.H.S. during the 2007-2008 school year. Attorney Daniel Murphy of Siegel and O'Connor is representing Brooklyn and has requested a continuance of Killingly's action and has also requested that Killingly consider mediation of the issue. Killingly has refused and is suggesting further discussion.

Discussion of this issue included the following comments:

- Brooklyn needs Killingly's truancy policy;
- by the start of the second week of school, Brooklyn should obtain a list of students Killingly considers are enrolled but are not attending - this process should continue each week;
- Brooklyn needs to know the process Killingly uses to track truancy;
- Brooklyn needs to clarify its policy on high school tuition;
- in terms of the lawsuit and/or mediation, if comments will not be allowed on the issues of truancy and absenteeism then Brooklyn should consider settling the lawsuit and paying the tuition bill.

Mrs. Berry stated that she would call Attorney Murphy and share with him the Board's discussion.

**6. Administrative Reports (continued):**

**e. Superintendent's Report (continued):**

Financial Report - 2008-2009 - Mrs. Berry reported that the financial office was closing out the budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year with only a few bills outstanding which we believed could be finalized within the next week. At the present time, it appears that the balance will be \$99,184.57. However, we also need to be cognizant of the bill which Brooklyn may be required to pay for high school tuition as a result of the Killingly lawsuit.

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Gerardi-Voccio) to return the balance in the 2008-2009 school budget to the town with a note concerning the issue of a bill from Killingly for high school tuition.

VOTE: Unanimous

Capital Projects - a copy of the report sent to the town's Capital Improvement Committee on June 9th was included in Board of Education packets.

Other Reports included: Projected Enrollment for 2009-2010 and the Cafeteria Report for May and June, 2009.

**7. Public Comments: none**

**8. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Budget** - no report
- b. **Curriculum** - a tentative meeting is scheduled for the end of September.
- c. **Educational Planning** - no meeting
- d. **Facilities/Capital Improvement** - no meeting
- e. **Policy** - no meeting
- f. **Public Relations** - no meeting
- g. **Special Education** - no meeting
- h. **Staff Negotiations** -no meeting
- i. **Staff Relations** - no meeting
- j. **Technology** - no meeting
- k. **Transportation** - no meeting

**9. Board Representatives to Other Committees:**

- a. **EastConn** - no meeting
- b. **Board of Finance** - no meeting
- c. **Insurance** - the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for August 27, 2009
- d. **Killingly Board of Education** - no report
- e. **PTO** - no report
- f. **Preschool Building Committee** - a meeting will be scheduled to close out this project.
- g. **Recreation Commission** - no report
- h. **School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative** - Mr. Gutierrez reported on the change in the name of this organization to Children First and noted that the next meeting is scheduled on August 12, 2009.
- i. **School Safety Committee** - no meeting
- j. **Woodstock Academy** - no report

**10. Old Business**

- a. **Killingly Tuition Issue** - This issue was discussed during the superintendent's report - Section 6e.

**11. New Business:**

Mrs. Johnson raised the issue of the process used to select the Teacher-of-the-Year and asked for information on Brooklyn's procedure and commented on the need for the committee to be diversified.

Mrs. Johnson also offered to help in the distribution of Board of Education material in order to reduce the amount of time used by the secretary for this task.

Mrs. Lyons commented on the request from Tom Dougherty for information on public education in Brooklyn for the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development which he is completing for submission to the state.

Following discussion on this topic, the following suggestions were offered for inclusion in this report:

- comments on the outlook for the future in terms of enrollment and facilities planning;
- educational goals such as increasing the CMT scores, continuation of inclusion of special needs students into the regular program;
- facility improvements;
- ten year contract with Woodstock Academy;
- need for support in capital improvement of facilities;
- need to address need and cost of administration of education programs; and
- general direction of town in addressing education needs.

With a deadline of August 21st, Mrs. Berry was asked to respond to this request utilizing the Strategic School Profile, the annual budget document and the Board of Education goals.

**12. Other: none**

**13. Adjournment:**

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Gerardi-Voccio) to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

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Ms. Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio, Secretary  
Brooklyn Board of Education