

DRAFT

March 24, 2010

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on March 24, 2010 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Trivella and Mr. McNally. Also present were: Mr. Dionne, Mr. Otto, Mr. Caruso and Mrs. Berry. In the audience were: Mrs. Hardell, representing the BEA, and members of the community.

1. **The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lyons at 7:50 p.m.**
2. **Public Comments/Comments by Representatives of:**
 - a. **BEA** - Mr. Kelleher, president of the BEA, thanked the members of the Board of Education for all their work on the budget.
 - b. **Local 1303 - AFSCME** - no report
 - c. **PTO** - no report

3. **Minutes of Board Meeting:**

MOTION: (Johnson/Downs) to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting with a change in the policy number on page nine and a comment added to Section 8G - High School Relations - concerning the Lighthouse Project at K.H.S.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. **Correspondence:**

Included in Board packets was a letter from the Connecticut Haitian American Organization, Inc. expressing thanks to the Brooklyn School for the support of the Haitian relief effort.
5. **Consent Agenda:**

There were no reports on the consent agenda.
6. **Administrative Reports:**
 - a. **Middle School Principal**

Mr. Yanku's report included the following issues:

CMT

CMTs started on Monday, March 1st. The school-wide testing schedule was March 1st through March 11th. There were 181 make-up tests with the last make-up completed on Thursday, March 18th. Mrs. Sweet dedicated countless hours of planning, organizing, sorting, scheduling, tracking down absentees, proctoring, packing and supervising the make-up tests.

Student Council

The Student Council conducted a St. Patrick's Day spirit day, a Helping Haiti Heal spirit day, a Helping Haiti Heal bracelet sale, and Helping Haiti Heal hat day. Through these efforts Student Council raised a total \$744.

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Math - ACP Math at Woodstock Academy

Woodstock Academy dean of curriculum and instruction, Holly Singleton, informed us that Brooklyn ACP math students are performing quite well. Brooklyn students comprise the largest group of students from the sending towns who complete the ACP Algebra and ACP Geometry sequence by the sophomore year. Brooklyn had 14 students, the other three sending towns combined had 14 students.

Brooklyn was represented by Brenden Gallagher at the Math Counts state competition held at the University of Hartford. Thank you Mrs. Hawes (team advisor), and Mr. Dykstra (our parent volunteer/advisor) for working with our mathletes.

The chart below is based on information from Woodstock Academy's Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, Holly Singleton.

2009-10 Freshman ACP Math



APC Geometry I Semester I

Brooklyn: 1 Student *
Woodstock: 9 Students
Pomfret: 3 Students

ACP Algebra II Semester II

Brooklyn: 1 Student
Woodstock: 1 Student

APC Algebra I Semester I

Brooklyn: 14 Students
Eastford: 2 Students
Pomfret: 7 Students
Woodstock: 9 Students

ACP Geometry Semester II

Brooklyn: 15 Students*
Eastford: 2 Students
Pomfret: 6 Students
Woodstock: 8 Students

Based on the above chart of freshman math students at Woodstock Academy:

- 16 freshmen Brooklyn students have completed ACP Algebra I * (2 students accomplished this as 8th graders at Brooklyn Middle School)
- 1 freshman Brooklyn student has completed ACP Geometry
- 15 freshmen Brooklyn Students are enrolled in ACP Geometry
- 1 freshman Brooklyn Student is enrolled in ACP Algebra II.
- Only 2 freshmen students are enrolled in the ACP Algebra II class (one is a Brooklyn student)
- These numbers are on par with or better than sending towns
- Brooklyn students, who take ACP Algebra I in the first semester at Woodstock Academy, are in position to accelerate to the top levels of the math sequence at Woodstock Academy
- These numbers are on par with or better than sending towns
- Woodstock Academy will continue to track this data

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Music

The Eastern Regional Music Festival was the weekend of March 5th and 6th. Three chorus and one band student represented Brooklyn at Robert Fitch High School in Groton at the festival.

Assemblies

We held an awards assembly on March 11th where we recognized our winter athletes and cheerleaders, the math Counts Team, and Team Brooklyn. Athletes received certificates and cheerleaders, Math Counts and Team Brooklyn members received certificates and T-shirts.

On Monday, March 15th, runner-up on the Biggest Loser and Brooklyn resident, Rudy Pauls, addressed students and staff at a school-wide assembly. Rudy shared his inspirational and motivational story with students – he lost 234 pounds. Thanks go out to Mrs. Geeza for bringing Rudy to BMS.

Reading

Our After-School Reading program concluded on Thursday, February 25th. Teachers feel that the program was very worthwhile and students report that the program not only helped them with reading, but, that it was fun and they were glad to have the opportunity to work in small reading groups.

b. Elementary School Principal

SRBI Update

The BES staff has initiated a pilot Student Intervention Team. The Student Intervention Team (SIT) is a multidisciplinary, student-centered team of professionals helping all students to succeed and reach their full potential. This model promotes a collegial atmosphere in which teachers work together to solve student problems, employs research-based intervention ideas to promote student success, and uses dependable but time-friendly assessment methods to measure the progress of struggling learners. SIT is a cost effective component of the SRBI model to meet student needs in the Least Restrictive Environment. SIT meets on an as needed basis and the members are available as needed for support or consultation.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2010–2011 school year will be held on March 29th, 30th, 31st, and April 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day at the elementary school office.

CMT Update

Grades 3 & 4 have completed this year's CMTs.

Thanks go out to Peg Muscente for her organization and coordination of our testing. Thanks go out also to the BES staff for their flexibility and assistance during this time - especially Sherri Brady who coordinated all of our make-up tests and to Linda Jung, Pam Abel, Joanne Bell, Maryann Sjogren, and Mary Martin who assisted with the make-up tests.

6. Administrative Reports:

b. Elementary School Principal

MyRTI

All of our fall and winter benchmark assessments are now on the MyRTI system. Job well done to Glen Lessig for coordinating this effort and to the staff for their active involvement.

Math Facts Program

A letter and one grade level's benchmark assessments for a Math Facts Program that we have initiated are included below.

Dear Parents,

March, 2010

A student's mastery of math facts is an essential skill in being successful in math. Students need to be able to recall math facts quickly and accurately, and focus most of their thinking on math strategies and concepts. When students get bogged down trying to figure out a math fact, their ability to solve a problem is adversely affected. Conversely, when students have automatic recall of their facts, math problems can be solved much more readily and accurately.

Parents can help their child be more successful in math by helping them practice and learn their math facts. Parents can help their child's teacher spend less class time on rote math fact practice, and more time teaching math concepts, computation strategies, and problem solving skills.

The teachers at each grade level have established a program and guidelines that include school work, a home component, and periodic assessment to help students master their facts. We need your support and your child's commitment to make this program successful. On the reverse side, please find the grade level program for your child. Please read it over, discuss it with your child, and sign your support for this program, as well as your child's commitment to do their best. Your child's teacher will provide you with periodic reports to keep you apprised of your child's progress.

This program will help to make class time more effective and insure that all students master their facts and succeed in math, and even though we are well into the current school year, we want to initiate this program now to begin addressing an important need.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me if we can answer any questions or assist you in any way.

Thank you for your continued support.
Tom Caruso

6. Administrative Reports:

b. Elementary School Principal

2nd Grade Math Benchmarks

Name: _____

Date: _____

	Benchmark	Assessment		Score
1 st quarter	Addition Facts Doubles, plus 1, plus 2	1 minute timing – 25 Facts	Addition	
2 nd quarter	Addition Facts to 10 & Subtraction Facts to 10	1 minute timing – 25 Facts	Addition Subtraction	_____
3 rd quarter	Addition Facts to 15 & Subtraction Facts to 15	2 minute timing for addition 1 minute timing for subtraction	Addition Subtraction	_____
4 th quarter	Addition Facts to 20 & Subtraction Facts to 20	2 minute timing for addition 1 minute timing for subtraction	Addition Subtraction	_____

One Minute Timing Scores

20 - 25 Secure
10 - 19 Developing
0 - 9 Beginning

Two Minute Timing Score

40 – 50 Secure
21 – 39 Developing
0 – 20 Beginning

(Keep for future reference

.....
(Please sign and return)

Math Facts Contract

I support the Math Facts program and will help achieve the benchmark goals.

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____

Teacher/Grade: _____

6. Administrative Reports:

b. Elementary School Principal

The Brooklyn School
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
For the 2010-2011 school year
will be held between 10:00a.m. and 2:00p.m.
March 29th, March 30th, March 31st, April 1st

Children must be five years of age on or before the first day of January 2011 to enroll in Kindergarten.

Parents must bring their child's original birth certificate, current physical exam and immunization records with them on the day of registration and proof of residency (rental agreement or mortgage statement).

Minimum immunization requirements prior to school entry are as follows:

DTaP/DTP: At least 4 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4th birthday.

Polio: At least 3 doses. Last dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday.

MMR: 1 dose on or after the 1st birthday.

Measles: Second dose of measles vaccine or second MMR, given at least 4 weeks after the first dose.

HIB: Children less than 5 yrs of age need 1 dose at 12 months or older.

Hep B: 3 doses.

Varicella: 1 dose on or after the 1st birthday.

Although it is not necessary for children already enrolled in the preschool program to register for kindergarten; parents of children entering kindergarten from the Brooklyn preschool program must submit an updated physical exam and immunization record before the start of school in September 2010.

6. Administrative Reports (continued)

c. Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sweet's reports are included below:

ERR Report - February 9, 2010 – March 12, 2010 - (Time Period #6)

	Minor Infraction 1	Major Infraction 2	Academic, etc. 3	# Students 4
Grade 5	26	0	9	13
Grade 6	30	3	4	18
Grade 7	13	1	15	8
Grade 8	11	9	11	13
Totals	80	13	39	52

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 sixth, 20 day period of ERR this year. Fifty-two 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
8/31/09 – 9/28/09	16	3	31	16
9/29/09 – 10/28/09	37	9	56	27
10/29/09-11/30/09	41	8	52	35
12/1/09- 1/7/10	54	6	37	31
1/8/10 – 2/8/10	71	14	72	49
2/9/10 -3/12/10	80	13	39	52

Spring Sports

Softball Softball sign-ups were the week of 3/15/10 and tryouts are this week. Mr. Bucky Lohbusch is once again coaching the team. He is looking forward to a good season.

Baseball Mr. Josh Jacobson is coaching the baseball team this season. Sign-ups have taken place and tryouts are this week. Mr. Jacobson is quite excited about coaching the team this season.

The softball and baseball teams will travel together to away games. The opening games (weather permitting) are scheduled as away games against Woodstock on April 14, 2010.

Track Once again Mr. Partyka is looking forward to a great track season. Approximately fifty students have signed up for track. Practice will not begin for another few weeks due to a late date for the opening meet.

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

d. Director of Student Services

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT MARCH (18) 2010

BES		BMS		KHS		WA		OUTPLACEMENT	
FEB.-10	MAR.-10	FEB.-10	MAR.-10	FEB.-10	MAR.-10	FEB.-10	MAR.-10	FEB.-10	MAR.-10
GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.
PK 15	PK 16	5 16	5 16	9 2	9 2 \$	9 10©©	9 11©©	PK 0	PK 0
K 7	K 7	6 16	6 16	10 2	10 3	10 2	10 0	K 0	K 0
1 8	1 7	7 7	7 7	11 0	11 0	11 2©	11 2©	1 0	1 0
2 10	2 10	8 19	8 18(1HT)	12 1	12 1	12 5©©	12 5©©	2 0	2 0
3 13	3 13							3 1	3 1
4 11	4 11							4 0	4 0
								5 1	5 1
								6 1	6 1
								7 1	7 1
								8 0	8 0
								9 1	9 1
								10 3 (1H)	10 2 (1H)
								11 3*	11 3*
								12 0	12 0
								Ungraded 1	Ungraded 1
								Total: 12	Total: 11
Total: 64	Total: 64	Total: 58	Total: 57	Total: 5	Total: 6	Total: 19	Total: 18	Grand Total: 156 (March)	

* State Agency Placements

© Capped at Woodstock Academy

\$ Over 50% (High School

DP - Diagnostic Placement

H - Home (N/C)

HT - Home Tutored

(G) - Graduated

d. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Berry's report included the following issues:

- Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated March 24, 2010 was presented at the Board meeting.

MOTION: (Downs/McNally) to approve the payment of bills as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Non-Tenured Teachers

MOTION: (Johnson/McNally) to not renew the employment contracts of non-tenured teachers for the 2010-2011 school year and to direct the Superintendent of Schools to notify the teachers listed below of this action - Carrie Bauch, Eugene Bergenn, Kristin Bove, Joshua Jacobson, Brianna Lazure, Kristen Schaetzle and Willow Therrien.

VOTE: Unanimous

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

c. Superintendent's Report (continued)

- High School Enrollment

The latest enrollment figures for September, 2010 indicates that there are 45 students enrolled at KHS for the 2010-2011 school year, 290 at Woodstock Academy and 5 at NFA.

- Other reports in Board packets included the cafeteria and enrollment reports for February, 2010.

7. Public Comments:

A member of the audience spoke on the cost of a librarian for the middle school library vacancy and noted that there would be no savings in the 2010-2011 budget because most school librarians are at the top of the salary schedule.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Budget** - a meeting of the Budget Committee was held prior to the Board of Education meeting. The minutes of that meeting are included below:

**Minutes of the Budget Sub-committee of the Brooklyn Board of Education
March 24, 2010**

The Budget Sub-committee of the Brooklyn Board of Education met at 6:45 p.m. in the Brooklyn Middle School library.

Present: Mae Lyons, Valerie Downs, John McNally, Joan Trivella, Sheila Johnson, Committee Chair, and Dr. Louise Berry.

A second draft of the proposed budget was distributed and reviewed. The increase in the budget for next year is \$158,494.

Options for reducing the budget were discussed. No action was taken.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 30th at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Johnson
Sub committee Chairperson

8. Committee Reports (continued):

- b. Policy** - Mrs. Downs requested that the Board of Education take action on the proposed policies submitted by the committee at last month's meeting.

MOTION: (Downs/Trivella) to approve policies: 1212; 3524.2; Series 4000; 4118.11; 4218.11; 5145.4; 6114.1; and regulations 1212; 3524.2; 6114.1.

VOTE: Unanimous

- c. Staff Services** - The following contracts were presented by the negotiations committee for review and action:

Property Services Director for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011
Middle School Principal for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012

MOTION: (Downs/Johnson) to approve the contracts as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

- d. Educational Planning** - The agenda of the Curriculum Committee meeting of March 8, 2010 is listed below:

**Curriculum Committee
March 8, 2010 - 3:45 BMS Library**

- **Call to Order** - 3:55 p.m.
- **Present:** Jo Ann Voccio, Tom Caruso, Sharon Loughlin, Glen Lessig, Al Yanku, Trish Dehls, Diane Wimmer.
- **Acceptance of last month's minutes** - change of minutes - Dr. Berry was present at last meeting - motion made by Al Yanku, 2nd by Tom Caruso.
- **Technology Committee Updates** - staff technology committee will meet before the end of the year - large amount of time spent on myRTI and 21st Technology Grant writing composed of updates for MyAccess, Discovery Learning, SmartBoards, planned collaborative with DEP and QBCC. Significant upgrades to BMS technology infrastructure were written into the grant. Proposal readings will occur on 3/10/2010 with decisions announced in the beginning of April.
- **EASTCONN** - no updates
- **Children First/School Readiness Minutes/Updates** - no updates.
- **Indicators of Excellence Sheet** - Board has recommended that this committee modify the form to fit Brooklyn Districts need. Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio will put all we discussed to excel sheet. This will be an on-going project. Work began on this project.

8. Committee Reports (continued):

Curriculum Committee - March 8, 2010 - 3:45 BMS Library - Agenda (continued)

- **Policy Description Regarding Grouping Students** - Policy and regulations of Brooklyn School District presented for discussion. Both documents identify heterogeneous groupings as established learning environments - flexible grouping in place with grades 5 and 6 (differentiated grouping) - it was felt no change would be made with existing policy but continued discussion tabled to next meeting.
- **Approval of Elementary Language Arts Curriculum** - completed BEA LA Curriculum presented by Tom Caruso. It was a result of two years of work by the elementary school - tabled to next meeting for discussion.
- **Edline Feedback from staff from meeting 12/21/09** - tabled to next meeting.
- **Adjournment - 4:45 p.m.**

Next meeting is April 12 at 3:45 p.m. in the Brooklyn Middle School Library.

Recorded by: Trish Dehls

Respectfully Submitted By: Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio, Chairperson

- e. **Information** - Mrs. Trivella commented on articles in the Norwich Bulletin concerning events at the Brooklyn School, specifically: Biggest Loser - Rudy Pauls and the After-school Reading Program.
- f. **High School Relations** - The minutes of the Killingly Board of Education's meetings on February 24th and March 3rd were included in Board packets. The minutes of the February 23rd meeting of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees were distributed at this meeting.

Mrs. Lyons reported on the last meeting of the Trustees and noted that next year's tuition will increase by 2.49%.

- g. **Recreation Commission** - Minutes of the March 8th meeting are included below:

Recreation Commission Meeting Report - March 8, 2010

This document is an unofficial report of the discussions at the Recreation Commission meeting. It is not official and may contain errors or omissions.

- **Meeting minutes approved as presented.**
- **Policy Sub-Committee**
A policy sub-committee was established to review policies and procedures, amend them as needed and create new policies and procedures as needed. Lou Oleksy and Eric Costs will serve on the committee.

8. Committee Reports (continued):

Recreation Commission Meeting Report - March 8, 2010 (continued)

- **Programs**

The program brochure is out and many programs are sold out or filling up well. Summer camp is filling up well.

Upcoming - April 3 - Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast - need volunteers.

- **Budget 2010-2011**

The commission discussed the budget - reflects a 5% decrease (\$9,616.00) from 2009-2010. This includes the reduction of one staffer in the school program, small raises for the camp staff and a restructuring of Randy Brouillard's pay structure - from \$17.00 for 40 hours/week to \$20.56 for 35 hours/week. After extensive discussion and input from committee members and First Selectman Austin Tanner, a vote was taken to send the budget as is to the BOS and BOF.

They asked about the custodial rate, and I told them that I had nothing to report at this time.

- **Other Business**

Riverside Park - There will be a meeting scheduled to discuss the layout of the park fields as soon as the survey is done.

Soccer Fields - The soccer group is objecting to the Rec. Department's plans to take one field off line each season. They will be attending the April meeting to discuss the situation.

- **Public Time**

- **Adjourned - sometime after 9:00ish.**

h. Other

Minutes of the Brooklyn School Gymnasium Wall Building Committee are included below:

Brooklyn School Gymnasium Wall Building Committee Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2010

- **Call to order at 7:08 p.m.**
- **Roll Call:** David Fuss, Michael Keech, Robert LaBossiere, Joe Voccio and Albert Sandholm.
- **Election of Chairman.** Dave Fuss nominated Joe Voccio for Chairman, seconded by Albert Sandholm. Vote - Unanimous in favor of the nomination.
- **Approval of January 13, 2010 meeting minutes.** MM Dave Fuss/seconded Bob LaBossiere. All in favor of adopting the minutes.

8. **Committee Reports (continued):**
Brooklyn School Gymnasium Wall Building Committee
Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2010 (continued)

- **Discussion on Study and Recommendations report.** Topic of discussion - retain existing wall, location of original building plans, group roof visit and hiring an Engineering firm. Roof/Building visit to be scheduled in early March. RFQ and specifications for Engineering Firm to be prepared within the next month or two. David Fuss offered to provide a backhoe and open a small portion of the foundation for a visual inspection.
- **Michael Keech** called Mr. Rick Filloramo of the International Masonry Institute. Mr. Filloramo shared with the committee his observations of present conditions as viewed from the exterior of the Gymnasium.
- **Austin Tanner** joined the meeting at about 7:48 p.m. Austin pointed out the possibility of extensive work to the North parking lot this coming summer. Suggested in the JPI report, lowering the elevation of the parking lot 8" to provide for optimum drainage. Discussion followed concerning the budget. General consensus is there is about \$22,000 to \$24,000 remaining of the original \$30,000 appropriated. \$6,000 to \$8,000 used on previous reports.
- **Next meeting date discussed.** Agreed, March 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Location Brooklyn Town Hall.
- **Motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.**

h. **Other (continued)**

Minutes of the March 15th meeting of the Children First Brooklyn were distributed at the meeting.

9. **Old Business:**

Proposed Budget 2010-2011

The report of the last budget committee meeting is listed in Section 8A - Committee Reports.

10. **New Business:** none

11. **Other:** none

12. **Public Comments:** none

13. **Adjournment:**

MOTION (McNally/Downs) to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Valerie Downs, Secretary