

April 27, 2011

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 23, 2011 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Church, and Mrs. Trivella. Also present were: Mr. Caruso, Mr. Yanku and Mrs. Berry. Mrs. Desabota, representing the BEA, and members of the teaching staff and the community were in the audience.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lyons at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Comments/Comments by Representatives of:

a. BEA – No report

b. Local 1303 – No report

c. PTO – No report

d. Public – Mr. Rossi would like to recognize the Reading Night at the Elementary school. It was a great night.

3. Minutes of Board Meeting:

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 special meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence:

- Mrs. Berry advised the Board that she received a letter from the Killingly Regional Agriculture Committee requesting Armand Auclair to be reappointed to the consultation committee.

Discussion: The Board will invite Mr. Auclair and other members of committee's to speak at a Board meeting regarding their roles and how they represent Brooklyn.

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to reappoint Armand Auclair to the Consultation Committee

4. Correspondence: continued

- Woodstock Academy Minutes – there was not a meeting in April.

5. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku's report included the following:

- **Writing**

The learning curve for utilizing MyAccess has been steep. To assist staff we have conducted several work sessions with a consultant during school and after school. The most recent work session was held after school on Tuesday, April 5th. The direction of the training was based on staff generated questions that were submitted prior to the latest session. The April 5th training seemed to address several key obstacles and provided staff with a clearer connection between success with MyAccess and CMT results.

- **SRBI**

Among the challenges of SRBI and MyRtI is the tracking of student progress and what to do when a student is not making progress. Currently, we administer the DRP for all students and we administer the CT Benchmark Assessments to track academic performance. These assessments are administered three times a year (we have done two so far). We utilize our student information system (Rediker's Administrators Plus) and teacher reports to monitor student behavior. The information/data is used to determine if learning and/or behavioral difficulties might arise so that students who need help are provided appropriate interventions. We also use the information to identify the adequacy and effectiveness of our core curriculum, instruction, and learning environment for all students (Tier I). For those students who are not achieving, we institute Tier I, II, or III interventions.

Our staff meeting on Wednesday, April 6th, focused on SRBI and MyRtI. An EASTCONN consultant facilitated a fishbowl exercise for staff to gain greater understanding of the SRBI process, reveal common struggles, and provide suggestions, model the data team process, and offer solutions for using MyRtI and implementing interventions. Interventions have been

occurring throughout the year and we recognize a need to improve our ability to use the MyRtI program and the SRBI process.

5. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Consequently, our staff development day on the last day in June will focus on student performance, gap analysis, MyRtI, and SRBI. Specifically, each grade level team will meet with the next higher grade level team to analyze student data, identify strengths and gaps, identify students in need of intervention and those in need of enrichment. Following those meetings, each grade level team will formulate plans, interventions, and strategies (including groupings) to address student needs and to close learning gaps. Adjustments will be made in the late summer, following the release of this year's CMT results.

- **Invention Convention**

The sixth grade Invention Convention was held on Thursday, March 31st. Although creativity and ingenuity are showcased at this event, the real work of thinking and organizing thoughts, and writing coherently are critical learning and teaching standards addressed during this challenging integrated project. Two groups of inventions/inventors were selected to represent Brooklyn – one group went to Hartford (14 students) and another group went to UConn (18 students).

- **Report Cards**

Third quarter report cards were issued on Friday, April 8th.

- **Parent Conferences**

Parent Conferences were held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 13th and 14th. The **Book Fair** was held the week prior to and during conference week.

- **Social Events**

The Fifth and sixth Grade Social, sponsored by student council, was held on Thursday, March 24th. Students enjoyed themselves participating in a variety of activities as they rotated between the gym, classroom space, and the cafeteria.

5. Administrative Reports

b. Elementary School Principal

Mr. Caruso reported on the following:

5. Administrative Reports

b. Elementary School Principal continued

- **NAEYC (Nat'l Association for the Education of Young Children)**

Working in conjunction with the PreKindergarten and Kindergarten teachers, and with the help of Debra Stipe, a consultant with the Accreditation Facilitation Project, we are continuing to move forward on our NAEYC Accreditation Renewal.

We recently submitted an ECERS Support Project grant to assist with our renewal efforts and we will submit a SDE/CT Accreditation Fees grant in the near future.

Upcoming tasks include preparing our Classroom and Program Portfolios, completing our Annual Report, submitting our Intent to Renew, and beginning to prepare for submitting our Renewal Materials. (Brooklyn's timeline is attached)

- **TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring)**

The TEAM Coordinating Committee met recently and is in the process of wrapping up this year's efforts. We will submit our TEAM Annual Report in the near future.

We've built good capacity in Brooklyn and have 8 teachers trained as mentors, and 7 teachers trained as Reflection Paper Reviewers.

- **Celebrity Readers' Night**

Celebrity Readers' Night was held on Friday, April 8th. Our event was well attended, and a great time was had by all. The event included not only celebrity readers, but a book swap, a reading challenge, special events, an author, entertainers, and a Spring Book Fair.

- **Talent Show**

The BES Talent Show was held on Friday, April 1st. The event was SRO, the kids did a great job, and it truly was a lot of fun. Super job to everyone involved.

- **Smartboard Update**

The PTO recently held a fundraiser and is planning to purchase one additional Smartboard with the proceeds. A second Smartboard may be purchased later once they close their books for the year.

Our thanks go out to the PTO and all our families for supporting this fundraiser.

5. Administrative Reports

b. Elementary School Principal continued

- **Curriculum Update**

This has been the first year that all grades have fully utilized the Everyday Math program and all its components for the entire year. The same is true for the Storytown Language Arts program. In addition, all teachers received training last year in both programs.

The consensus among the teachers is that they are seeing improvements and gains in what the students are able to do.

- **Benchmark Assessments**

Each year all students are given the benchmark assessments as outlined below. These assessments are utilized to monitor students' progress, determine interventions, determine the effectiveness of the interventions, and determine entrance and exit criteria for remedial services.

BES BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

	BEGINNING	MIDDLE	END
DIBELS	K - 4	K - 4	K - 4
DRP	2 - 4	---	2 - 4

DRA	1 - 4	---	K - 3
EVERYDAY MATH	K - 4	K - 4	K - 4

5. Administrative Reports

b. Elementary School Principal continued

- **Dates**

- Wed. April 27 - Board of Ed. mtg., 7pm
- Thur. April 28 - BES Website Com. mtg., 3:40, BES Library
- Fri. April 29 - PreK Team day
- Mon. May 2 - PTO Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- District Facilitators mtg., EASTCONN, 9:00
- Evaluation Com. mtg., 3:30, BES Book Room
- Tues. May 3 - Staff mtg., 3:30, BES Library
- Wed. May 4 - PTO Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Grade 3 to the New Haven Symphony Orchestra
- Advisory Council mtg., 3:30, BES Library
- Thur. May 5 - PK to Creamery Brook Bison Farm
- PTO Spring Time Plants program
- Professional Development Com. mtg., 3:40, BES Library
- Fri. May 6 - PTO Spring Time Plants program

- Mon. May 9 - Curriculum Com. mtg., 3:30, BMS Library
- Wed. May 11 - PTO mtg., 7pm, PTO Room
- Thur. May 12 - BES Spring Concert, 7pm, BMS Auditorium
- Tues. May 17 - Welcome To Kindergarten Open House, 4 - 5pm
- Wed. May 18 - School Readiness Liaison mtg., 1:30, Newington
- Fri. May 20 - BES Masterpiece Art Show

- **Professional Development 2010 - 2011**

The BES was involved in the following Professional Development workshops and training activities this year:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- LAS Links
- Everyday Math
- Assistive Technology
- NECHEAR training
- MyRTI
- TEAM, Mentoring and Reflection Paper training
- Smartboard
- Differentiated Instruction
- SRBI
- Literacy workshop for paraprofessionals
- NAEYC/Accreditation

5. Administrative Reports

c. Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sweets report is included below:

ERR Report
March 16, 2011 – April 12, 2011
(Time Period #7)

GRADE	Minor Infraction	Major Infraction	Academic	Injury	# Students
	1	2	3	4	5
5	13	0	12	0	8
6	14	2	5	16	7
7	23	3	1	0	13

8	260	7	2	2	10
TOTALS	76	12	20	18	38

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

The above table shows the sixth, 20 day period of ERR this year. Forty-four students have been referred to the program for behavioral issues during this time period. Special Ed. Students have not been separately noted in the above data. The table below shows year-to-date data.

5. Administrative Reports

c. Assistant Principal (continued)

Year-to-Date					
Dates	Minor Infraction	Major Infraction	Academic, ETC.	Injury	# Students
	1	2	3	4	5
8/30/10 - 9/27/10	7	3	15	6	10
9/28/10 - 10/27/10	33	14	50	40	29
10/28/10 - 11/30/10	39	7	32	43	23
12/1/10 - 1/5/11	68	4	38	35	33
1/6/11 - 2/14/11	62	9	21	27	36
2/15/11 - 3/15/11	65	19	33	32	44
3/16/11 - 4/12/11	76	12	20	18	38

d. Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Berry’s report included the following:

- Payment of Bills

A list of bills dated 4/27/11 was presented for Board action.

MOTION: (Johnson/Downs) to approve the payment of bills.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to permit Dr. Berry authority to pay bills without Board action and only inform the Board when unexpected/non-budgeted items are presented for payment.

VOTE: Unanimous

5. Administrative Reports

d. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Berry asked to Board to once again approve a contribution of \$500.00 to the BEA Scholarship Fund in honor of Teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

MOTION: (Downs/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve a contribution of \$500.00 to the BEA Scholarship Fund as has been done in past years.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Dr. Berry advised the Board that she has completed the Special Education Grant Application.

MOTION: (Trivella/Gerardi-Voccio) To approve the submission of the Special Education Grant Application to the State Department of Education.

VOTE: Unanimous

- **Special Education**

Mrs. Berry presented the following report on placement in special education programs: (please see report on following page)

5. Administrative Reports

d. Superintendent's Report continued

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

March 16, 2011

DISABILITY	PK - 8	PK - 8 Breakdown	9 - 12	Outplaced	District %	District %
	March 2011	Grade & # of Students	March 2011	March 2011	Feb. '11	March '11
Autism	7	PK (1)-2(2)- 4(1)-5(1)-6(1)- 7(1)	WA 1	1	6%	5.9%
Dev. Delay	2	PK(2)	0	0	2%	1.3%
Emotional Disturbance	6	4(1)-7(4)-8(1)	WA-1 KHS-1 GR9-1 3	5	8.7%	9.3%
Hearing Impaired	1	.	0	1	1.3%	1.3%
Intellectual Disability	1	.	WA-1	0	1.3%	1.3%
Learning Disabilities	44	1(2)-2(1)-3(4)- 4(11)-5(10)- 6(8)-7(4)-8(4)	WA-11 KHS-6 17	0	41.4%	40.4%
Multiple Disabilities	4	K(1)-2(1)-3(2)	0	2	4%	4%
OHI - ADD/ADHD	7	6(4)-7(1)-8(2)	WA-1 KHS-1 QVHS-1 3	1	6%	7.3%
OHI	3	K(1)-5(1)-6(1)	WA-2 NFA-1 GR9-1 4	1	5.3%	5.3%
Speech & Lang.	33	PK(9)-K(4)- 1(5)-2(1)-3(3)- 4(2)-5(1)-6(4)- 7(4)	WA 2	0	23.3%	23.2%
Visual Impairment	0		WA 1	0	0.7%	0.7%
Totals:(150)	108		32	11	100.0%	100.0%

Referrals to Special Educ: (6)	4		0	0		
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5. Administrative Reports

d. Superintendent's Report continued

- Enrollment Report: The Board asked if in the future enrollment for private schools could be included in this report. Dr. Berry advised that it may be difficult to obtain this information; however every effort will be made to do so.
- Dr. Berry asked the Board for approval of the ed specs for the Wall Committee Building Project.

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) written approval of the ed specs for the 049 form to the State regarding the Gym Wall Project.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Dr. Berry advised the Board that the air conditioning compressor in the auditorium needs replacement. The estimated cost of repair is \$15,000. The school budget cannot handle the cost of the repair. The Board would like Dr. Berry to ask the Board of Finance to approve emergency funding so that the compressor can be replaced immediately. If the air conditioning unit cannot be replaced in time for graduation, alternate locations will be need to be reviewed.
- Dr. Berry presented the modified Woodstock Academy Contract. The approval of the contract will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
- Dr. Berry advised the Board that she has received a copy of the state grant for the Preschool building. She advised the Board that the town has received \$5,587,283.00; 75.7% from state funding.

6. Public Comments

Mr. Rossi would like to see a program where parents and teachers get together to go over the results of the CMT scores. It is difficult to interpret the results of the scores. The Board will look into offering a one evening CMT review.

7. Committee Reports

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) To move item 7a from the agenda to bullet point 8 old business.

VOTE: Unanimous

7. Committee Reports continued

b. Policy – Mrs. Trivella contacted CABA for information on their policy service. She discussed the information with the Board and will investigate our options.

c. Staff Services – Signatures needed on the contract for David Kowolenko. Mrs. Downs would like to know if it would be possible for the negotiation committee to give one page summaries stating length of work year, salary etc. Mrs. Downs gave a copy of the format to Dr. Berry and she will work on the document.

d. Educational Planning – The minutes from February meeting were in the Board packet.

e. Information Committee – Mrs. Trivella showed the Board photos in the paper for Celebrity Reading Night. She also commented on the Invention Convention in Hartford and the wonderful job the students did.

f. High School Relations – no meeting.

g. Recreation Committee – Mrs. Downs stated that Brooklyn Youth Soccer is placing blame on the school for the lower number of children signing up for soccer. Mrs. Humphrey states the school is not willing to send flyers home with students. The school has always sent home flyers with students and feel that students are now choosing other sports to participate in.

8. Old Business

- Dr. Berry discussed the revised copy of the budget. There have been two changes in the budget. A positive change in the 210 account, decreased cost of medical insurance. A negative change in the increased cost of special education outplacements and number of students that have moved into the district with outplacements. We are presently showing a deficit in our budget of -\$39,000.
We have had a reduction in the proposed health insurance premium cost. Our broker started with an 18% increase and as of yesterday we were presented with a proposed increase 9.00% from United Healthcare/Oxford. Today we were presented verbally with a proposed increase of less than

9.00% from another insurance company. The proposed budget shows a 9.00% increase from United Healthcare/Oxford. Dr. Berry suggests holding off on Board approval of the proposed budget until she speaks with our broker one more time.

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) To give Dr. Berry and/or Mrs. Lyons the authority to accept an insurance increase of 9.00% or less.

8. Old Business continued

VOTE: Unanimous

Linda Congdon-Marr asked if the proposed insurance would be presented to the Unions. Dr. Berry advised that if a change in vendor is accepted all information would be presented to the Unions.

- Dr. Berry asked the Board to set the date for graduation.

MOTION: (Downs/Trivella) to set the date for graduation as June 16th.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise A. Geeza,
Recording Secretary