

April 28, 2010

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on April 28, 2010 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Downs (8:15 p.m.), Mrs. Trivella and Mr. McNally (7:35 p.m.). Also present were: Mr. Dionne, Mr. Otto, Mr. Caruso, Mr. Yanku and Mrs. Berry. In the audience were: Mrs. Hardell, representing the BEA, Mr. Tanner, First Selectman, Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Heroux.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lyons at 7:25 p.m.

2. Public Comments/Comments by Representatives of:

- a. **BEA** - Mrs. Hardell commented on the Masterpiece Art Show which will be held at the Elementary Building on May 14th.
- b. **Local 1303** - no report
- c. **PTO** - no report
- d. **Public** - Mrs. Humphrey presented her concerns about the actions of a paraprofessional in disciplining her son and commented on her meetings with the building principal and the superintendent which she stated were unsatisfactory. She also stated that her son's classroom placement was changed and she agreed with that decision.

3. Minutes of Board Meeting:

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the minutes, as corrected,
of the March 24, 2010 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2010
meeting. VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to review.

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:

Invention Convention

The always-impressive sixth grade Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, March 31st. The creativity and ingenuity displayed this year were truly remarkable. It was evident that teachers, students, and families devoted a great deal of time, energy, and brainpower to this project. Two groups of inventions/inventors were selected to represent Brooklyn – one group went to Hartford and another group will be at UConn.

Field Trips, Activities, and Social Events

- Barber of Seville - 5th Grade on March 29th
- The Fifth and Sixth Grade Social, sponsored by student council, was held on Tuesday, April 6th. Students enjoyed themselves participating in a variety of activities as they rotated between the gym, library, and cafeteria.
- Multiply your Options – Selected 8th grade girls attended the program at UCONN on April 8th.
- The PTO sponsored Talent Show was held on Friday, April 16th.

Report Cards

Third quarter report cards were issued on Friday, April 9th.

Relay for Life

Student Council kicked off the annual Relay for Life with an assembly on April 12th. Students viewed an inspiring side presentation of images of students (cancer patients and cancer survivors) enjoying themselves at camp. The presentation gave Brooklyn students tangible evidence of the good things that come about due to the volunteerism and donations made by Brooklyn students.

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences were held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 14th and 15th. The Book Fair was held during conference week.

21st Century Learning Environments Grant

We received word on Thursday, April 15th, that the Brooklyn Middle School was awarded a \$100,000 21st Century Learning Environment Grant. The grant funds will purchase SMARTBoards, a Laptop Cart, infrastructure upgrades, software, and professional training.

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

b. Elementary School Principal

Mr. Caruso's report included the following issues:

BES Talent Show

On Friday, April 9th approximately four dozen BES students displayed their many talents to the delight of a capacity audience at the BMS auditorium. Students performed various acts of comedy, song, and dance, and everyone had a good time. Job well done to Frankie Piela, Sheila Frost, and a large number of volunteers who helped to make this event a success. Special thanks to Kevin Collins for serving as our Master of Ceremonies.

SIT Update

The BES staff is piloting a Student Intervention Team. The Student Intervention Team has begun meeting and is focusing on assisting teachers as they implement interventions to meet the needs of at-risk students. SIT members include: Linda Jung, Mary Martin, Joanne Bell, Sherri Brady, Jo-Ann Wendoloski, Patricia Ryan, and Denise Nault, who is serving as a coordinator for the team.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2010 – 2011 school year was held on March 29th, 30th, 31st, and April 1st. At this time, we have 88 identified preschool students who we anticipate will be moving on to our Kindergarten program, 2 potential retainees, and 12 recent registrations. This brings our tentative total for Kindergarten to 100. Of course, this number is subject to change with move-ins, move-outs, retention decisions, and additional Brooklyn resident registrations.

MyRTI

Spring benchmark assessments will be conducted in May and will complete the three benchmarks for the year. CMT and progress monitoring assessments are also being added to each student's profile.

Teachers and administration will be able to sort data in a variety of manners, be able to track individual student's progress, and use this data to drive instruction. We are making good progress on the SRBI/MyRTI/SIT front and will make this a major focus of our efforts next year.

BES PTO Garden

Last fall, the PTO funded the purchase of over 600 spring flowering bulbs for BES. Each student in the school was able to plant at least one bulb. Our spring garden has now bloomed nicely and the students were eager and delighted to see their bulbs flower. Thank you to the PTO for funding this activity.

Parent Teacher Conferences

On April 15th we conducted our spring Parent Teacher conferences. This was the second formal, regularly scheduled set of conferences for parents.

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

b. Elementary School Principal (continued)

PTO Mother's Day Project

On Friday, May 7th the PTO will be sponsoring a Mother's Day flower project for all our students. Each student will be able to assemble a potted flowering plant as a gift for mom.

Kindergarten Orientation

As part of our entry process for students and their parents, we will be holding a Kindergarten orientation on May 19th.

c. Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sweet's reports are included below:

ERR Report - March 15, 2010 – April 12, 2010 - (Time Period #7)

	Minor Infraction 1	Major Infraction 2	Academic, etc. 3	# Students 4
Grade 5	20	0	20	10
Grade 6	19	1	2	9
Grade 7	22	5	2	10
Grade 8	27	4	14	16
Totals	88	10	38	45

- 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 seventh, 20 day period of ERR this year. Forty-five 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
3/15/10-4/12/10	88	10	38	45

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

c. Assistant School Principal (continued)

Spring Sports

- Softball - The softball team had a great opening win in an away game against Woodstock on April 14, 2010. Coach Lohbusch is pleased with the caliber of the players this season. He is looking forward to a good season. The second game will be played on Friday, April 16, 2010. Then games will resume after April vacation week.
- Baseball - Mr. Jacobson was pleased with how the boys came together after the 4th inning in their opener against Woodstock on April 14th. The boys lost. However, they were encouraged by a late game rally. They will also play their second game on Friday, April 16, 2010 and continue play after vacation.

Mr. Chenail and Mr. Kowolenko are keeping a close watch on the conditions of the fields (due to the rain we have had).

- Track - The early practices for the team have begun and the team looks promising. Approximately 45 students are participating in the various events. Mr. Partyka has enlisted the help of Mr. Lazuk and Mr. Quevillon this season. The first meet will be in late April.

d. Director of Students Services:

Mrs. Muscente's report included the following enrollment placement:

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT APRIL (19) 2010

BES		BMS		KHS		WA		OUTPLACEMENT	
MAR.-10 GR./NO.	APR.-10 GR./NO.	MAR.-10 GR./NO.	APR.-10 GR./NO.	MAR.-10 GR./NO.	APR.-10 GR./NO.	MAR.-10 GR./NO.	APR.-10 GR./NO.	MAR.-10 GR./NO.	APR.-10 GR./NO.
PK 16	PK 14	5 16	5 17	9 2\$	9 2 \$	9 11©©	9 11©©	PK 0	PK 0
K 7	K 7	6 16	6 15	10 3	10 3	10 0	10 0	K 0	K 0
1 7	1 7	7 7	7 7	11 0	11 0	11 2©	11 2©	1 0	1 0
2 10	2 11	8 18(1HT)	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 2 (1H)	10 2 (1H)
								11 3*	11 3*
								12 0	12 0
								Ungraded 1	Ungraded 1
								Total: 11	Total: 11
Total: 64	Total: 63	Total: 57	Total: 57	Total: 6	Total: 6	Total: 18	Total: 18	Grand Total: 155 (April)	

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

d. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Berry's report included the following issues:

Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated April 28, 2010 was presented at the Board meeting.

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the payment of bills as presented. VOTE: Unanimous

Teacher Appreciation Week

MOTION: (Johnson/Trivella) to contribute \$500 to the BEA Scholarship Fund in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week. VOTE: Unanimous

Audit Report - The audit report for fiscal year 2009 prepared by Marian and Company was distributed to Board members.

School Calendar - 2010-2011

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the calendar for 2010-2011 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous

Graduation - 2009-2010 School Year

MOTION: (McNally/Trivella) to hold graduation on Wednesday, June 16, 2010. VOTE: Unanimous

Proposed 2010-2011 Budget - Mrs. Berry informed the Board of Education that she had received an email from the Killingly financial office informing us that the capital costs to Brooklyn for the 2010-2011 school year **would not include** a charge for Brooklyn students enrolled in Vo-Ag and thus the projected charge would be \$1,652 per student in regular education, or a total of \$75,992 - a savings of \$16,520.

Following a discussion on the use of this savings - reduction in the budget total versus use of this money to increase a staff position from part time to full time - a motion to reduce the total budget by \$16,520 failed for lack of a second to the motion. Further discussion on the issue resulted in the motion listed below:

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to reduce the total budget by \$14,849 thereby finalizing the budget to be presented at the town hearing on May 12, 2010 at \$15,556,839 an increase over the current year of \$43,254 or 0.28%.

Vote in favor - Johnson, Gerardi-Voccio, Lyons
Against - Downs, Trivella
Abstention - McNally

6. Administrative Reports (continued):

d. Superintendent's Report

Other reports included in Board packets were:

- Class Size Projection for 2010-2011
- Cafeteria Report - March, 2010
- Enrollment - April, 2010

7. Public Comments:

Mrs. Heroux, a member of the audience, spoke on a number of topics and requested information on:

- school bus transportation and the cost of contracted services versus local ownership of buses;
- high school tuition and the capital costs in addition to tuition;
- prior year budgets and the need for additional information to understand the increases year to year; and
- the early childhood program.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Budget** - The budget was discussed in the superintendent's report (see Section 6).
- b. Policy** - Mrs. Downs noted that a meeting of the Policy Committee will be held immediately following tonight's meeting.
- c. Staff Services** - Mrs. Lyons reported on the conclusion of negotiations with the school nurses.

MOTION: (Downs/Johnson) to approve the 2010-2013 contracts for the school nurses.

VOTE: Unanimous

- d. Educational Planning** - no meeting
- e. Information** - no report

8. Committee Reports (continued)

- f. High School Relations** - The minutes of the March 23, 2010 Woodstock Board of Trustees and the April 14, 2010 minutes from Killingly Board of Education were distributed at the Board meeting.

Mr. Otto thanked Mrs. Lyons and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio for their comments at the March 23rd meeting of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees and commented on the need for a thorough airing of the Woodstock Academy tuition for 2010-2011 and the number of Brooklyn students scheduled to attend the Academy in September 2010, as projected by Woodstock Academy's administration. He also requested that the Brooklyn Board of Education request again, from the headmaster, information on both the number of Brooklyn students that the Academy is using to determine tuition and also the reasons why Brooklyn students are withdrawing from the Academy.

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio commented on last night's meeting of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, specifically: the realignment of the administrative structure; staff changes; and additional courses in the Early College Experience program.

- g. Recreation** - Mrs. Downs reported on the April 12th meeting of the Recreation Commission and copies of these minutes were distributed to Board of Education members.

9. Old Business:

- Negotiations with Local 1303 - Mrs. Berry was asked to call Attorney Ann Littlefield and reschedule the next negotiations meeting with Local 1303 because of the conflict with the town budget hearing scheduled for May 12, 2010.

10. New Business: none

11. Other: none

12. Public Comments: Mr. Tanner commended the Board of Education for striving to reach a zero based increase in the 2010-2011 budget.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: (McNally/Downs) to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Valerie Downs, Secretary