

DRAFT

May 27, 2009

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on May 27, 2009 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Downs, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio. Also present were: Jeffrey Otto, George Meehan, Mr. Yanku, Mrs. Muscente, Dr. Keefe and Mrs. Berry. In the audience were: Mr. & Mrs. St. George, Mr. Tanner, Mrs. Hardell and Mrs. Wimmer.

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

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) to amend the agenda to include in Section 13. Other, the following issues:

- a. Transfer of funds (action needed)
To empower the Board chairperson to approve line item transfers and payment of remaining bills for fiscal year 2008-2009.
- b. Participation in 2009-2010 National School Breakfast and Lunch Program with Mrs. Berry designated to sign all necessary forms.(action needed).
- c. Approval of Health Food Certification Statement (action needed).

VOTE: Unanimous

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

- a. **BEA** - Mrs. Hardell commented on the support Mrs. Tedeshi provided at the Masterpiece Art Show recently held at the elementary building and also spoke of the contributions of water and chips by Frito Lay for the Fun Day Program to be held on June 12th.

Mrs. Wimmer displayed a poster with the signatures of every student and staff member which will be digitalized and carried into space on the next space shuttle mission as part of the Students Signatures in Space Program. Board members also signed this poster.

- b. **LOCAL 1303 - AFSCME** - no report
- c. **PTO** - no report

3. **Minutes of Board Meetings:**

MOTION: (Johnson/Gutierrez) to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2009 meetings.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Presentation:

Mr. Martin Guyer and Mrs. Lyn Gurham of MDG Associates presented comments on the health insurance coverage for the Brooklyn School staff. Issues reviewed were: cost; projected increase in premium for 2009-2010; experience rating of group; plan design; wellness plan; review of BC/BS Century Preferred Plan versus Health Savings Account; health care trends; changes in dependent coverage; legislative changes in COBRA coverage; health care reform; the need to meet with the BEA members to review the Health Savings Plan; and the activity of the town/school insurance committee established to reduce the cost of this benefit.

Following this presentation and discussion on health insurance as well as the increase in the cost of the premium, the consensus was to ask the School's Wellness Committee to meet with Mr. Guyer to discuss an emphasis on wellness education and activities for staff members in an attempt to lower the cost of health insurance.

5. Correspondence:

Included in Board of Education packets were:

- a. Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees meeting minutes of April 3, 2009 and April 21, 2009 and the agenda for the May 19, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting.
- b. A letter from the BEA thanking the Board of Education members for their contribution to the BEA Scholarship Fund.
- c. A letter from the Brooklyn Historical Society to the Board of Education thanking the members for the use of the auditorium on April 9th.
- d. A letter from CABA to Mrs. Lyons concerning the services of the state organization to Boards of Education.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated May 27, 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: (Downs/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

7. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

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

- PTO Activities during Teacher Appreciation Week;
- Students Signatures in Space Program;
- Art PACE - field trip to Wadsworth Athenaeum on April 24th;
- The PTO Talent Show held on April 24th;
- The Spring Band Concert on April 28th;
- The Honors Assembly on May 5th when honor roll students were recognized and Lions Club Awards were presented;
- The PTO Art Showcase on May 8th;
- Assemblies by the visiting Mandarin Teacher at Woodstock Academy who presented a program for all grades in the middle school;
- Mrs. Dumaine-Savage's fifth grade class performances of Rowdy Cate (The Taming of the Shrew, Western Style) during the week of May 12th;
- Fifth grade trip to Plimoth Plantation on May 15th;
- A seventh and eighth grade dance on May 15th;
- The Student Council Penny Wars competition, as part of our fundraising effort, which culminated in our participation in the Relay for Life at the Woodstock Fairgrounds;
- An informational parent meeting regarding the DC trip on May 19th;
- The fifth and sixth graders social sponsored by the student council on May 20th.
- Honors night held on May 21st. It was an outstanding evening with many highlights. Our National Junior Honor Society members were recognized along with students who earned honors and high honor status. The program organized by our NJHS advisors, Trish Dehls and Jane Hatzberger, was run smoothly by our very prepared 8th grade NJHS members. Mrs. Green, Brooklyn's Teacher-of-the-Year gave a very inspiring speech. There were many who helped make the evening a success - Mrs. Sweet, Mrs. Corvello, Ms. Bashaw, Mrs. Geeza, Mrs. Lowell, Mrs. Wimmer, and of course, Dr. Berry.

Mr. Gutierrez asked about the bullying program and a survey of this program.

Mr. Yanku stated that the survey will be conducted during the week of June 8th.

b. Elementary Principal

Dr. Keefe's report included comments on:

- Art Show held on May 8th;
- Book Fair on May 12th;
- Field trips during May to Hyde Cultural Center, Bluff Point, State Capitol and Children's Museum;
- Book Character Day and Parade on May 29th;
- Activities of the Student Council;
- Senior Tea with Grade 2 on May 22nd;
- Grade 4 orientation and visitation to the Middle School to be held next week;
- Volunteer Breakfast on June 11th;
- Fun Day on June 12;

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

b. **Elementary Principal (continued)**

- End-of-the-Year Student Assessment for all students in Reading, Math and Writing;
- Teacher Appreciation Week;
- Several of our parents donated flowers, containers and soil for all of our students in order that they might have a Mother's Day gift for their Mom or a special person in their life;
- Mrs. Guimont and Mrs. St. George's classes presented a wonderful musical, "Lighten Up" for all of our students in Grades 1-4 and an evening performance for our families.

c. **Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet's ERR report for the period of April 22, 2009 - May 19, 2009 was included in Board packets:

**ERR Report
April 22, 2009 – May 19,2009 (Time Period #8)**

	Minor Infraction 1	Major Infraction 2	Academic, etc. 3	# Students 4
Grade 5	20	9	13	16
Grade 6	17	5	4	6
Grade 7	34	4	11	17
Grade 8	19	3	5	12
Totals	90	21	33	51

- 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 eighth, 20 day period of ERR this year. Fifty-one 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	18	8	12	17
9/26/08 – 10/27/08	58	10	60	41
10/28/08– 11/25/08	64	10	31	45
11/26/08- 1/8/09	70	9	38	44
1/9/09 – 2/9/09	97	4	50	45
2/10/09- 3/13/09	114	17	51	48
3/16/09 – 4/21/09	121	15	43	52
4/22/09-5/19/09	90	21	33	51

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

c. **Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet also submitted the following report on spring sports:

Softball - The girls completed their season on Friday, May 22, 2009. Their record this season was 1 win and 9 losses. Coach Lohbusch reported that the girls enjoyed the season. Their end of the season pizza party is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009.

Baseball - Coach Larrow reported that the boys played hard all season. They also played their last game of the season on Friday, May 22, 2009. Their record was 3 wins and 7 losses. They will join the softball team at the pizza party on May 28th.

Track - Mr. Partyka reported that 44 of the original 50 students successfully completed track season this year. We took a number of firsts for boys and girls and first through third in the boys' discus at the last regular meet of the season.

Our runners had a good season. The boys improved weekly. Matt McMerriman and Sam Dauphinais ran the 1600 in under six minutes. The girls were quite strong this year. Ana Savvidis was unbeaten in the 400 and Amanda Slater was unbeaten in the 800. The girls 4x400 team (Ana Savvidis, Amanda Slater, Madison Hadley and Mackenzie Papuga) has been dominant. The girls' 4x100 team, (Ana Savvidis, Madison Hadley, Paige Carito and Sarah Hoyt) has posted the fastest time in the conference this year.

Brooklyn is the only QVJC team to compete in the state middle school championship. We will bring track members to Manchester on Saturday, May 30th.

Mr. Partyka would like to thank Tracy Clang, Tom Lazuk and Marc Quevillon for their help this season.

d. **Director of Student Services**

Mrs. Muscente's report included a review of the May, 2009 enrollment in the special education program (161) with (127) in attendance at the Brooklyn School; (18) attending our designated high schools; and (16) placed out of the district.

e. **Superintendent's Report**

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

Grant Applications - Special Education (\$229,815) and School Readiness (\$107,000) grant applications for 2009-2010.

MOTION: (Downs/Voccio) to approve the submission of these applications to the State Department of Education for review and approval for the next school year.

VOTE: Unanimous

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

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

Elementary Principal's Vacancy - Included in Board packets was a summary of the number of applications received. Mrs. Berry commented on the screening process and the staff/parent committee which has been appointed to participate in interviewing candidates.

Teacher Retirement - Mrs. Berry presented a letter from Donna Jackson, Spanish teacher at the Middle School, which states that she is retiring as of June 30, 2009.

MOTION: (Downs/Johnson) to accept Mrs. Jackson's resignation.

VOTE: Unanimous

Graduation Award - \$100 Savings Bond

MOTION: (Downs/Gutierrez) to approve the cost of this bond (\$50) as has been the practice in previous years.

VOTE: Unanimous

Boundless Playground Update - Elementary - Mrs. Berry commented on the completion of this project recognizing Nathan Ives for his leadership in raising the funds for this playground. She also commented on the donation of labor and equipment by Clifford Green & Sons Construction Company for the site work on this playground.

Job Sharing - Elementary Art - Mrs. Berry requested that Board of Education members approve the continuation of this very successful program.

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to continue the job sharing program in art with Mrs. Hardell and Mrs. Dougal.

VOTE: Unanimous

Killingly High School Tuition Issue - 2007-2008 - Mrs. Berry informed the Board members that she had received a summons issued on behalf of the Killingly Board of Education stating that Brooklyn had failed to pay Killingly the tuition payment for students (2) enrolled at K.H.S., and claimed that this breach of contract has resulted in Killingly suffering damages and losses.

Following a review and discussion of the two students in question who did not attend K.H.S. for the 2007-2008 school year, according to records from Killingly High School, Board members asked Mrs. Berry to contact Shipman and Goodwin and ask Attorney Littlefield to represent us in this suit or to recommend another attorney to represent Brooklyn.

Other Reports - included: the cafeteria report for April, 2009; and the enrollment report for May, 2009.

8. **Public Comments:** none

9. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Budget** - no report
- b. **Curriculum** - a meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
- c. **Educational Planning** - no meeting
- d. **Facilities/Capital Improvement** - no meeting; the Town's Capital Improvement Committee requests a three year projection of capital projects no later than June 15, 2009.
- e. **Policy** - no meeting
- f. **Public Relations** - no meeting
- g. **Special Education** - no meeting
- h. **Staff Negotiations** - no meeting; a meeting is needed to negotiate four administrators' salaries.
- i. **Staff Relations** - no meeting
- j. **Technology** - no meeting
- k. **Transportation** - no meeting

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

- a. **EastConn** - The next meeting of the EastConn Board is scheduled for April 28th.
- b. **Board of Finance** - Mr. Otto requested information on leasing versus purchase of computers. Mrs. Berry will provide information on this issue for Board of Education and Board of Finance members and have it available for the town budget meeting.
- c. **Insurance** - Mr. Guyer of MDG Associates spoke to this issue earlier in the meeting.
- d. **Killingly Board of Education** - no report
- e. **PTO** - no report
- f. **Preschool Building Committee** - A meeting is scheduled for next week.
- g. **Recreation Commission** - Mrs. Downs reported on the following activities:
 - Brooklyn Days - EDC Chair Lyn LaCharite
 - 2009/2010 Parks & Recreation Budget
 - Prince Hill Basketball Courts (update)
 - Park Maintenance Update
- h. **School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative** - Mr. Gutierrez reported on the May 5th Program on Bullying and the end of the year activity on May 22nd in East Brooklyn. He also commented on the revision of the bylaws which is presently underway.
- i. **School Safety Committee** - no meeting
- j. **Woodstock Academy** - Ms. Gerardi-Voccio reported on the last meeting of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, specifically, the Level II Project designation for the Bentley Field renovation by the Army Corps of Engineers.

11. **Old Business:**

- **Woodstock Academy Contract**

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Downs) to table this issue until the next meeting of the Board of Education.

VOTE: Unanimous

13. New Business: none

14. Other

a. Transfer of funds

MOTION: (Downs/Johnson) to empower the Board chairperson to approve line item transfers of remaining bills for fiscal year 2008-2009.

VOTE: Unanimous

b. Participation in the 2009-2010 National School Breakfast and Lunch Program

MOTION: (Johnson/Downs) to participate in the 2009-2010 National School Breakfast and Lunch Program with Mrs. Berry designated to sign all necessary forms.

VOTE: Unanimous

c. Approval of Healthy Food Certification Statement

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Voccio) to approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement.

VOTE: Unanimous

15. Public Comments

16. Adjournment

MOTION: (Downs/Voccio) to adjourn at 11:23 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

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