

May 28, 2011

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on May 25, 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, Mrs. Berry, Mr. Otto, Town of Brooklyn Board of Finance, Drew Dionne, selectman, 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 7:11 p.m.

2. Public/Comments/Comments by Representatives of:

- a. **BEA** – no report
- b. **Local 1303** – no report
- c. **PTO** – no report
- d. **Public** – NONE

3. Minutes of Board Meeting:

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2011 regular meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Church/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2011 special meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence:

- Woodstock Academy Minutes
The minutes of the Woodstock Board of Trustees were in Board of Education Packets.

5. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

Mr. Yanku reported on the following:

- Thirteen BMS sixth graders participated in the Connecticut Invention Convention at the University of Connecticut on Saturday, May 14th. More than 600 projects were presented by students from all parts of Connecticut. Five of our students received the Invention Convention Award given to the top 150 projects.
- Other awards given to Brooklyn students were the Angel Award given to only two students; the Connecticut Safety Award and the Connecticut Fire Marshall Award. Another Brooklyn student received the Microsoft Accessibility Award given to only six of over 600 students participating in that event. Additionally, one BMS student received the Material Science Award, given to only eight students.
- Professional staff teams are receiving additional training with an EASTCONN consultant using MyRtI during team time on Monday and Tuesday, Mat 23rd and 24th. The training will allow staff to more effectively use the program and assist teachers with identifying needs of individual students and groups of students. Teachers will be better able to use this data to plan strategies and approaches with students to address learning gaps.
- EASTCONN is offering workshops next year on Common Core State Standards Curriculum revision. Although the full implementation and rollout of the Common Core is a few years away, schools and districts are advised to begin planning for the changeover.

Connecticut is part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which includes more than half the states.

As part of the process the CBAS (Connecticut Benchmark Assessments) will be rewritten to match the Common Core.

b. Elementary School Principal

Mr. Caruso reported on the following:

- **Spring Concert**

The BES Spring Concert was held on May 12th and Mrs. O'Rourke and our 3rd and 4th grade chorus put on a fantastic show. Congratulations and job well done.

- **Benchmark Assessments**

Benchmark assessments for this year are near completion. Results are entered into the MyRTI system and will provide a cumulative record for each student's complete Brooklyn experience.

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.

- **Professional Development Committee**

The BES Professional Development Committee has met several times this spring to create a proposal for utilizing next year's Staff Development Days. This committee has sought staff input and is exploring a number of different options.

Some of the options under discussion include:

- continuation of Smartboard training
- Barton Reading Program training
- Storytown Writing workshop
- SRBI/MyRTI/SIT workshop
- utilizing assessment data to drive instruction/intervention strategies
- CALI workshop

- **Website Committee**

The BES Website Committee is continuing to meet to consider options for upgrading the school website. Pat O'Rourke and Beth Frink, working in conjunction with Glen Lessig, have volunteered to serve as in-house coordinators for next year.

We want to make sure that there is a mechanism for keeping the site updated, current and user friendly. In addition, we want to insure that all grades and departments are included and that our program expectations are outlined.

b. Elementary School Principal *(continued)*

• **Dates**

- Wed. May 25 Board of Ed. mtg., 7pm
- Thur. May 26 Grade 4 Instrumental demonstration at BMS
Professional Dev. Com. mtg., 3:40
- Fri. May 27 PK Team Day
- Mon. May 30 Memorial Day, no school
- Fri. June 3 Grade 2 to the Roger Williams Zoo
- Tues. June 7 Staff mtg., 3:40
- Wed. June 8 Advisory Council mtg., 3:30
Instrumental Demonstration for parents @ BMS,
7pm
- PTO mtg., 7pm
- Thur. June 9 PK Social, 6pm
- Mon. June 13 Curriculum Com. Mtg., 3:40, BMS
- Tues. June 14 Fun Day
- Wed. June 15 Grade 4 to Hartford
- Thur. June 16 Grade 4 Promotion Ceremony
Last day of school for pm PK/k students
- Fri. June 17 last day of school for am PK/K and grades 1-4
- Mon. June 20 Staff Development Day

c. Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sweet's reports included the following:

Spring Sports

Softball

The softball team's current record is 6 wins, 2 losses. Mrs. Sorel reports the girls are showing great effort. As of 3/15/11, the team is third in the QVJC Large School Softball League standings. Mrs. Sorel is pleased with the team's performance to date.

Baseball

The baseball team’s record is 0 wins and 6 losses. Mr. Gadomski states that the boys are playing hard and have had some excellent innings. The weather has made practicing difficult. Mr. Gadomski and Mr. Blackmar are enjoying working with the team

c. Assistant Principal (continued)

Track

Mr. Partyka reports: “The track team began practices in March. However, due to weather, the first scheduled meet was not held until early May. We knew this would be a rebuilding year for the boys and had modest expectations for the girls. Both boys and girls have exceeded expectations. The team has 41 members. Mr. Partyka is being helped this season by Mr. Plucenik and Mr. Quevillon. We feel fortunate that Mr. Lazuk has come out of retirement to coach our throwers twice a week. He is also grooming Mr. Quevillon as Brooklyn’s future throwing coach. Sara Chagnot set a school record in shot put only to see it eclipsed by Kara Heilemann 2 weeks later. Kara is undefeated in discus and Brooklyn has had many 1,2,3 sweeps in discus. Girls’ shot and jumping also have been strong. The boys’ distance running led by Ryan Heilemann has excelled. The girls’ 4X4 team may be the best in the conference. The boys have been getting stronger and last week beat Putnam, St. Joseph’s and Pomfret in a quad meet. After losing their first meet to Woodstock the girls have been undefeated and will be a factor in next week’s conference championship. More importantly, students have made considerable progress in their conditioning. The 6th graders, in particular, have made great strides as track athletes. We are glad that our middle school continues to support track and field.”

**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	19	2	13	10	14
6	35	3	7	5	12

7	19	3	5	4	9
8	26	5	3	2	13
TOTALS	99	13	28	21	48

- 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

c. Assistant Principal (continued)

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.

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
4/13/11 - 5/17/11	99	13	28	21	48

d. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Berry reported on the following:

- Dr. Berry asked the Board for authorization to submit the School Readiness Grant application in the amount of \$107,000.00

MOTION: To authorize submission of the School Readiness Grant Application (Johnson-Gerardi-Voccio)

VOTE: Unanimous

d. Superintendent's Report (continued)

- Auditorium Air Conditioner – Dr. Berry informed the Board that the Board of Finance approved the repair of the auditorium air conditioner and will pay the costs out of the contingency fund.
- Dr. Berry requested the Board approve a Graduation award in the amount of \$50.00 to be given to a graduating middle school student

MOTION: Johnson/Downs To approve the amount of \$50.00 from the school budget to purchase a savings bond for a graduating middle school student.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Woodstock Academy Contract – Dr. Berry requested approval of the Woodstock Academy contract that was included in the Board Packet.

MOTION: Downs/Gerardi-Voccio – To approve the Woodstock Academy contract as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Killingly/Brooklyn Suit – The Board reviewed the agreement prepared by our Attorney to settle the Killingly/Brooklyn Suit.

MOTION: Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio – To agree to the settlement prepared by our Attorney in the Killingly Brooklyn suit.

VOTE: Unanimous

- New Pricing for Cafeteria – Due to the result of a new USDA policy requiring school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program to increase breakfast and lunch prices, the school will increase the costs for the first time in 5 years.

MOTION: (Downs/Gerardi-Voccio) To increase the pricing of breakfast and lunch to meet the requirements necessary to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

VOTE: Unanimous

d. Superintendent’s Report (continued)

- Healthy Food Certification Statement

MOTION: Trivella/Johnson To submit the Healthy Food Certification Statement to the State.

VOTE: Unanimous

- MDG Associates – Dr. Berry presented a letter to MDG Associates naming MDG Associates as our agent of record for health and life insurance for the next 3 years.

MOTION: (Johnson/Downs) – To approve MDG Associates as our agent of record for the period of 3 years as presented in the letter included in the Board packet.

VOTE: Unanimous

- Other – Mrs. Trivella asked Board members if they felt her position at EASTCONN is considered a conflict of interest. After much discussion it was decided that Mrs. Trivella would abstain from voting on matters involving EASTCONN. The Board will ask the Town Ethics Committee for guidance.

6. Public Comment – NONE

7. Committee Reports –

Budget – The Town Budget hearing is set for June 1st.

Policy – Mrs. Trivella is looking for a page count of the present policy book so that a price can be quoted by C.A.B.E.

Staff Services – None

Education Planning – 3 months of Curriculum Committee minutes were included in the Board packet.

Information – The board discussed having the school website include the goals and priorities of the Board, list of Board of Ed Meetings and other important information.

High School Relations – None

Recreation Commission – None

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business – None

10. Other – None

11. Public Comments: Mrs. Maloney presented a letter to Board members regarding the concerns she has on how the decrease in her hours has impacted her job performance. Mrs. Maloney wanted to make it clear that she will not compromise her ethics with her reporting, but doing so may impact special education timelines resulting in fees/fines. Mrs. Lyons thanked Mrs. Maloney for her time and her letter.

12. MOTION: (Johnson/Downs) to enter executive session @ 8:35 p.m for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to exit executive session at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION: (Johnson/Church) to accept Mrs. Hardell's letter of resignation to occur on December 31, 2011 with regret.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Downs/Gerardi-Voccio) to continue the job sharing teaching elementary arts program through December, 2011 and to appoint Mrs. Dori Dougal to a full time position in the elementary art program as of January 1, 2012.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) to accept Mr. Caruso's letter of resignation as of June 30, 2011 with regret.

VOTE: Unanimous

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Gerardi-Voccio/Trivella) to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise A. Geeza
Recorder