

September 23, 2009

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on September 23, 2009 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Downs and Mrs. Trivella. Also present were: Mrs. Muscente, Mr. Otto, Mr. Yanku, Mr. Caruso, Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Berry. In the audience was Mrs. Hardell.

**1. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lyons at 7:10 p.m.**

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

- a. BEA - no report
- b. LOCAL 1303 - AFSCME - no report
- c. PTO - no report

**3. Minutes of Board Meetings:**

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2009 meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: (Gutierrez/Trivella) to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

**4. Correspondence:**

Included in Board packets were:

- a. Minutes of Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees meetings on June 16, 2009, August 19, 2009 and the annual meeting on August 19, 2009 and the meeting agenda for August 25, 2009 and September 22, 2009.
- b. Notification of 2009-2010 union officers from Local 1303.
- c. Letter of retirement from Mrs. Hawes, math teacher at the Brooklyn Middle School.

MOTION: (Johnson/Trivella) to accept Mrs. Hawes' decision to retire as of June, 2010 with thanks for her many years of service.

VOTE: Unanimous

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated September 23, 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: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

## 6. Administrative Reports:

### a. Middle School Principal

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

- The number of Brooklyn students enrolled in Woodstock Academy's Developmental Reading Classes;
- August Professional Development workshops on Data Analysis; specifically SRBI (Scientific-based Research Interventions) and Strategies and Practices for SRBI;
- Middle School Open House Program on September 16th;
- Field trip - Whale Watch for Grade 7 students on September 14th; and
- President's Address to students.

Following discussion of seventh grade math grouping, the issue of grouping by ability was referred to the Board/Staff Curriculum Committee for additional discussion and a recommendation.

### b. Elementary Principal

Mr. Caruso commented on the work underway at the elementary building on systematic, research based instruction with interventions matched to student needs. This response to intervention is being implemented through frequent progress monitoring, on-going staff professional development and the use of the DIBELS Data System in the reading program.

With the purchase of the fourth grade reading program - Storytown, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Inc. - the Brooklyn School finally has a comprehensive reading program in grades PK through grade four. Listed below is the new framework for an elementary reading curriculum.

#### Tier I

- Basic core instructional program for all students
- Differentiated instruction, flexible grouping
- All students assessed three times per year - September, January and May
- 80% + successfully achieve established benchmarks

#### Tier II - Students not making effective progress in Tier I:

- Receive additional assessment to determine area for improvement
- Participate in targeted interventions (small groups)
- Receive progress monitoring (usually every two to three weeks)
- Receive six to ten weeks of intervention

#### Tier III - Students not making effective progress in Tier II:

- Would receive additional assessment
- May be eligible for special education services
- Students may receive intensive interventions targeted toward the specific need

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

**c. Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet's report included the dates for the annual evacuation bus drills for all students in both the elementary and the middle school and the schedule for school photographs on September 21st, October 6th and October 7th.

In addition, she presented the schedules for the Fall Sports Program:

Physicals

This September, 10 boys and 18 girls, who wanted to participate in fall, winter, and spring sports, had physicals by our school physicians. We have been informed by Day Kimball Pediatrics that this is the last year they will offer this service in the schools.

Girls' Soccer

Mrs. Amanda Sorel is joining us again this year as our girls' soccer coach. Tryouts were held, the team has been selected and they have been practicing very hard. The first game will be on Friday, September 25, 2009, against Plainfield. Coach Sorel is looking forward to a great season.

Boys' Soccer

Mr. Marc Quevillon is coaching the boys' team this season. The boys' team has been selected and they have been practicing for their first game. Their first game is scheduled for September 23, 2009 against St. Mary's. Coach Quevillon states that this team has a number of good players and he expects the team to play hard and do well. He is looking forward to working with each boy to improve individual skills.

Cross Country

Mr. Partyka is coaching the Cross Country Team once again this season. Brooklyn will host two meets this year (October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting). Fifty-seven students are participating in this year's program. Mr. Partyka has stated that the goal of the cross country team is to, "increase speed, endurance and strength of team members but, more importantly, increase their sense of self-confidence, their empathy for others and nurture their abundant joy for life."

**d. Director of Student Services**

Mrs. Muscente reviewed the present enrollment in special education programs (154) and commented in detail on the new regulations for learning disability identification.

**e. Superintendent's Report**

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

Killingly Board of Education Lawsuit

Mrs. Berry reported that Attorney Murphy had been unable to contact the attorney representing Killingly and she would contact him to discuss the issue.

Extracurricular Positions

A current list of positions and staff members appointed to fill these positions was included in Board packets.

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

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

Enrollment Report

A current report on the high school enrollment shows a total of (369) students; (41) at KHS, (7) at KHS Vo-Ag, (314) at Woodstock Academy and (7) at other high schools. In addition, (41) students attend the technical high schools in the area and (2) attend the Quinebaug Valley Middle College/High School program.

Report to Planning and Zoning

A copy of the report on the Brooklyn School for the 2009 edition of the town's Plan of Development was included in Board packets.

Other issues reviewed were:

- Woodstock Academy Contract for Brooklyn Students;
- Maintenance Problem - grease trap in the middle school cafeteria;
- Single Stream Recycling;
- Plans for H1N1 Flu Clinic; and
- Middle School Gym Renovation.

**7. Public Comments: none**

**8. Committee Reports:**

**a. Budget** - no meeting

**b. Curriculum** - A Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28th at 3:30 p.m. with the seventh grade math grouping issue on the agenda.

Following a discussion of the proposed committee structure, the Board took the following action:

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to implement the proposed committee structure and proposed committee membership following the November election:

Budget - Johnson/Lyons - Facilities; School Safety; Board of Finance liaison  
Staff Services - Lyons/Downs/Trivella - Negotiations (Certified, Non-Certified, Non-union); Transportation; Staff Relations; Insurance.

Educational Planning - Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson/McNally - Curriculum; Technology; Special Education; School Readiness; Eastconn

Information - Trivella - Media Relations; Web updates; Signage/Advertising

High School Relations - Lyons/Gerardi-Voccio/McNally - Killingly High Liaison; Woodstock Academy liaison

Recreation - Downs - Recreation Commission liaison

VOTE: Unanimous

**8. Committee Reports (continued)**

- c. **Educational Planning** - no meeting
- d. **Facilities/Capital Improvement** - no meeting
- e. **Policy** - no meeting
- f. **Public Relations** - no meeting
- g. **Special Education** - no meeting
- h. **Staff Negotiations** - BEA negotiations will begin on September 29, 2009
- i. **Staff Relations** - no meeting
- j. **Technology** - no meeting
- k. **Transportation** - no meeting

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

- a. **Eastconn** - no report
- b. **Board of Finance** - The agenda for the September 16th meeting of the Board of Finance was included in Board packets.

Mr. Otto reported on the discussion at the Board of Finance meeting on the state revenue shortfall of \$54,211 for the current budget year, and on behalf of the Board of Finance asked the Board of Education to address this issue by returning \$40,506 to the town from their current budget. Following a discussion on this issue, members of the Board of Education agreed that any decision should be delayed until later in the year and the status of the education budget is more definite.

- c. **Insurance** - no meeting
- d. **Killingly Board of Education** - Mrs. Downs presented the minutes of the Killingly Board of Education meeting held on September 9th which included recognition of their Teacher-of-the-Year, a report on the district's music curriculum, reports on activities at KHS, performances of Killingly students on the CMT and CAPT testing last spring, and a presentation of the improved district website.
- e. **PTO** - no report
- f. **Preschool Building Committee** - no meeting
- g. **Recreation Commission** - The last meeting of the Recreation Committee was held on September 1st and discussion included an update on programs, a review of the Prince Hill activities and consideration of issues for a long term capital plan. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October 15th.
- h. **School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative** - A Community Conversation meeting was held last week.
- i. **School Safety Committee** - no meeting
- j. **Woodstock Academy** - Ms. Gerardi-Voccio reported on the last meeting of the Woodstock Board of Trustees, specifically on comments by Mr. Caron, Headmaster, on the formula used to determine costs for special education students from the sending towns.

10. **Old Business:** none
11. **New Business:** none
12. **Other:** none
13. **Adjournment:**

MOTION: (Johnson/Gerardi-Voccio) to adjourn at 11:30 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

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