

DRAFT

October 28, 2009

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on October 28, 2009 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Johnson (at 7:40 p.m.), 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 were Mrs. Hardell, Mr. McNally and Mr. Morrison from WINY Radio.

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 - AFSCME - no report
- c. PTO - no report

3. Minutes of Board Meeting:

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Trivella) to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2009 meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence:

Included in Board packets were:

- a. Minutes of Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees meeting on September 22, 2009 and the meeting agenda for October 20, 2009.
- b. Minutes of Killingly Board of Education meeting on September 23, 2009.
- c. Information on the CT Association of Boards of Education Conference scheduled for November 19, 2009.
- d. A letter from the Brooklyn Historical Society.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated October 28, 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

6. Administrative Reports:

a. Middle School Principal

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

- SRBI Program (Scientific Research-Based Interventions) which was the focus of the Professional Development Day on October 13th;
- The Brooklyn Middle School Online Writing Project resulting from the award of a \$57,000 grant to improve writing using technology;
- The transition process for eighth grade students which has included presentations by Killingly High School representatives, Elli Tech, Pomfret Prep and Marianapolis representatives and visits to our designated high schools;
- Science in Grade 5 will include two new projects - Dark Skies, a study of optics and light and Expanding Horizons, an enrichment program for all students supported by the EastConn Regional Education Center.
- Other issues included: student progress reports; student activities during the first quarter; and the Signature in Space Poster project coordinated by Mrs. Wimmer.

Mrs. Downs commented on the Online Writing Project grant award (\$57,000) and asked that the Board send the teachers involved in this program a letter indicating the Board's support and appreciation for their efforts and work.

b. Elementary Principal

Mr. Caruso commented on the work underway at the elementary building on SRBI and the fall benchmark assessments which have been completed in reading and math in grades K-4.

Other issues included: an update on the instructional changes to address the weakness on the CMT; dates for various school events; and the review of the current report card and development of a new report card for students in the elementary grades which provides inclusive and consistent grading across the various grade levels and alignment with current instruction.

c. **Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet's report included the ERR Report for 9-29-09-10-28-09 as noted below:

ERR Report - September 29, 2009 – October 28, 2009 (Time Period #2)

	Minor Infraction 1		Major Infraction 2		Academic, etc. 3		# Students 4
Grade 5	8		2		21		6
Grade 6	6		0		7		3
Grade 7	9		3		7		3
Grade 8	14		4		21		15
Totals	37		9		56		27

- 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 second, 20 day period of ERR this year. Twenty-seven 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.

Mrs. Sweet also presented the following Fall Sports report:

Fall Sports

Girls' Soccer - As of October 28, 2009, the girls' team record in the QVJC Large School division was 6 wins and 4 losses. This means they will play KIS in the semi-finals. Coach Sorel reports that the girls continue to work hard and the semi-final game should be exciting.

Boys' Soccer - The boys' record in the QVJC Boys Large Division is 6 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties. They have made the semi-finals and will play KIS. Coach Quevillon reports the boys have been playing hard and that they have been working on both individual and team building skills throughout the season.

Cross Country - Mr. Partyka states, "The Cross Country Team this season is the largest that BMS has ever had (58 students). At the present time both boys' and girls' teams are 8 and 2.

Matt McMerriman (an 8th grader) has raced against every school except Pomfret and won every race. He is the best runner in the conference. Ryan Heilmann (a 7th grader) has finished 2nd to Matt in every meet except one and is clearly one of the top 5 runners in the conference.

The girls have been led by 6th grader Sabrina Brunelle. She has four first place finishes, one second and one third to her credit. There are a number of fifth, sixth, and seventh graders that have moved steadily toward the front of the pack and can proudly call themselves runners.

c. Assistant Principal (continued)

We hosted two very successful meets. Many factors make this feat possible. Our course provides spectators with many views of the runners and the enthusiasm and helpfulness of the Brooklyn parents, staff and teachers sets our meets apart. Mr. Partyka would especially like to thank: Jim Bejma, Tom Lazuk, Diane Socquet, Diane Wimmer, Doris Marquis, and Terry Larrow for their supportive efforts.

Julie Ducharme has helped Mr. Partyka coach this season. Her many talents and her assistance has made her a great role model for the boys and girls on the team. Randy Brouillard has kept the Prince Hill facility in amazing shape. His efforts over the last few weeks, despite having six cracked ribs, warrant recognition and thanks.

Finally, once again, Mr. Partyka would like to thank Steve Hamil who donated the proceeds of the Brooklyn Fair Road Race to both the Cross Country and Track Teams this year. He has donated over \$1,200.00.

d. Director of Student Services

Mrs. Muscente presented the following report on special education services:

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT OCTOBER (22) 2009

BES		BMS		KHS		WA		OUTPLACEMENT	
SEPT.-09	OCT.-09	SEPT.-09	OCT.-09	SEPT.-09	OCT.-09	SEPT.-09	OCT.-09	SEPT.-09	OCT.-09
GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.	GR./NO.
PK 13	PK 13	5 15	5 15	9 2	9 2	9 10©©	9 10©©	PK 0	PK 0
K 7	K 8	6 15	6 15	10 2	10 3	10 2	10 2	K 0	K 0
1 8	1 8	7 6	7 6	11 2	11 1	11 1©	11 1©	1 0	1 0
2 10	2 10	8 18	8 18	12 2	12 2	12 5©©	12 5©©	2 1	2 1
3 12	3 12							3 0	3 0
4 11	4 11							4 0	4 0
								5 1	5 1
								6 2	6 2
								7 1	7 1
								8 2	8 2
								9 0	9 0
								10 2	10 4
								11 3*	11 2
								12 0	12 0
								Ungraded 1	Ungraded 1
								Total: 13	Total: 14
Total: 61	Total: 62	Total: 54	Total: 54	Total: 8	Total: 8	Total: 18	Total: 18	Grand Total: 156 (October)	

In addition, Mrs. Muscente reported on the work she and the preschool teachers are doing in preparation for the re-accreditation of the pre-k program by the NAEYC (National Association of Education for Young Children).

e. **Superintendent's Report**

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

Middle School Gym - Mrs. Berry asked the Board members to review the issue of the maintenance needs in the middle school gym. Following some discussion on this issue, the Board members took the following action:

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Trivella) to refer this issue to the Board of Selectmen with the study and recommendations from JPJ Engineering, Inc. for their review and action.

VOTE: Unanimous

Cafeteria Issues - Mrs. Berry reported on the need to replace a broken grease trap in the middle school cafeteria and a hot water heater in the elementary cafeteria. She noted that the cafeteria account would support the cost of these replacements.

Mr. Otto requested that we notify the town's capital improvement committee that these projects will be funded by the cafeteria account rather than referred to the town for action.

High School Enrollment and Tuition Costs - With the October 1st deadline on the enrollment count at designated high schools, both Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School have submitted a final count on student enrollment for the purpose of determining the 2009-2010 tuition.

This count for regular tuition students is lower than projected in the 2009-2010 Budget (projected 377 versus actual 369).

Following the review of the tuition costs at Killingly High School, Board members discussed the issue of the contract with Killingly (one year roll-over in the absence of withdrawal by either party), termination of the contract which states Killingly High School as a designated high school for Brooklyn, transportation issues if Killingly High School is not a designated high school and space problems at Woodstock Academy.

Flu Issue - Mrs. Berry reviewed the H1N1 Flu issue and the presence of flu-like symptoms in our student population - specifically in grade 4. She also commented on her discussions with the Department of Health and the letter she had sent to parents. Mrs. Downs requested that an additional message be sent to parents on October 29th giving them an update on previous information and alerting them to the present student absentee record.

Woodstock Invitation - Mrs. Berry informed Board members of the invitation from the Woodstock Public School superintendent to attend a meeting for new Board members to be held on November 18th at the Woodstock Middle School.

7. **Public Comments:** none

8. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Budget** - no meeting
- b. **Curriculum** - Mrs. Johnson, Chair of the Curriculum Committee reviewed the last meeting of the Curriculum Committee, specifically Board policy #5122 on class placement. Mrs. Johnson also stated there would be a committee meeting on October 29th to discuss the pre-k program. Following an extended discussion on committee structure and assignment of committee chairs, Mrs. Lyons stated that the committee assignments would be finalized at the November meeting.
- 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 are on-going with mediation scheduled for November 17, 2009.
- i. **Staff Relations** - no meeting
- j. **Technology** - no meeting
- k. **Transportation** - no meeting

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

- a. **Eastconn** - The Board met yesterday - no report.
- b. **Board of Finance** - Mr. Otto reviewed his comments at the last month's Board of Education meeting on the state revenue shortfall of \$54,211 and asked the Board of Education again to address this issue by returning \$42,000 to the town's General fund.

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Johnson) to decrease the high school tuition account by \$42,000 and return this amount to the town in response to the request by the Board of Finance.

VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Gerardi-Voccio requested information on the amount returned to the town at the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year and the account with a balance that enabled the Board to return such funds.

Mrs. Berry reviewed the 2008-2009 budget and submitted the following information:

Account #563A Special Education - Out-District Placements in the 2008-2009 shows a final balance of \$149,846.38 which was returned to the town as authorized by the Board of Education at its meeting on July 29, 2009.

9. **Board Representatives to Other Committees (continued):**

- c. **Insurance** - no meeting
- d. **Killingly Board of Education** - The last two meetings of the Killingly Board of Education were held on October 14th and October 28th. No minutes were received from Killingly. The next meeting of their Board of Education will be held on November 11, 2009.
- e. **PTO** - The report from the PTO was presented by Mrs. Trivella concerning food brought into the classrooms and the Board's policy on healthy snacks as well as the school's Healthy Food Certification from the State Department of Education. Mrs. Johnson recommended the development of a booklet on Healthy Snacks for distribution to Brooklyn families and Mrs. Trivella urged the Board of Education to take a hard line on snacks in school.
- f. **Preschool Building Committee** - Plans for the signage for the early childhood building will be finalized on November 9th.
- g. **Recreation Commission** - Mrs. Downs reported on the upcoming program which will be offered by the Recreation Commission; specifically - jewelry, cycling, intramurals, aerobics, basketball clinic, Bruins trip, toy drive, open gym, vacation activities, Christmas décor. She also reported on the election of John Burns as vice-chair, the repair work needed at the Prince Hill property and the planning for joint activities with the Library Association.
- h. **School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative/Children First-Brooklyn** - The minutes of the October 26th meeting are included below:

Children First Brooklyn - October 26, Meeting Minutes.

Present: Peggy Muscente, Kimberly Franz, Lauren Rossi, Heather Larrabee, Dawn McDonough and Ken Dykstra.

Readiness: We discussed the five year plan. We will review and discuss more at the next meeting. We will do a program in the spring, probably on literacy, perhaps including nutrition. This will be followed by the end of the year celebration.

Fundraiser: Saturday, November 21st will be a Providence Bruins hockey game against the Worcester Sharks. 7:00 p.m. at the Dunkin Donuts center in Providence. We are selling tickets at \$15 each. Deadline to purchase is November 4th. We will Make \$2 per ticket. All students can receive a team hat. It's also poster night!!

9. Board Representatives to Other Committees (continued):

h. School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative/Children First-Brooklyn (continued):

Community Conversation Update: Friday, December 4th is the big day! We will focus the conversations on 7 questions which will inspire thinking about why we live in Brooklyn. The proposed outcome will be how to gear our programming for the next year, as well as bringing the community together.

Childcare - this has been proposed that we offer a child care coordinator \$300 to provide an evening of fun and safe activities. This budget will include paying for youth sitters and supplies.

We still need moderators and recorders. The number will depend on the number of participants.

We are hoping to offer a check meal this year.

Invitations are printed out as fliers. They have been distributed to all elementary and middle school students. The group will personally invite other community members, as well as distribute to Creamery Brook, the Post Office, Library, Town Offices and the Senior Center.

Old Business: The All Day Kindergarten report will be sent out to the BOE and participants explaining the results as well as current budget concerns and why we are not pursuing this option at the moment. This is important information which the BOE should have.

Next Meeting: To discuss the Community Conversation on **November 16th at 3:30** Brooklyn Elementary School.

Monthly Meeting (follow up from conversation and Readiness) will be December 14th at 3:30 p.m., Brooklyn Elementary School.

i. School Safety Committee - no meeting

j. Woodstock Academy - Ms. Gerardi-Voccio reported on the last meeting of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees. The minutes of the October 20th meeting are included below.

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

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Downs) to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

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