

November 18, 2009

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on November 18, 2009 in the Middle School library. In attendance were: Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Trivella and Mr. McNally. Also present were: Mrs. Muscente, Mr. Otto, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Yanku, Mr. Caruso, Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Berry.

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

All members of the Board of Education stated that they had taken the oath of office.

Election of Officers for 2009-2011

Mrs. Berry asked for nominations for Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Johnson nominated Mrs. Lyons for Chairperson of the Board. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio seconded the nomination.

MOTION: (Downs/Trivella) to close the nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous

Written ballots were collected and Mrs. Lyons was unanimously voted as Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Berry turned the meeting over to Mrs. Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Downs nominated Ms. Gerardi-Voccio for Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education. Mrs. Johnson seconded the nomination.

MOTION: (McNally/Johnson) to close the nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous

Written ballots were collected and Ms. Gerardi-Voccio was unanimously voted as Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Lyons asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Johnson nominated Mrs. Downs as Secretary of the Board of Education. Ms. Gerardi-Voccio seconded the nomination.

MOTION: (Gerardi-Voccio/Trivella) to close the nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous

Written ballots were collected and Mrs. Downs was unanimously voted as Secretary of the Board of Education.

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: (Downs/Trivella) to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009 meeting as amended

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Correspondence:

Included in Board packets were:

- a. Minutes of Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees meeting on October 20, 2009 and the meeting agenda for November 17, 2009.
- b. Minutes of Killingly Board of Education meeting on October 14, 2009.

5. Education Presentation:

Mr. Kim Caron, the new Headmaster of Woodstock Academy, commented on his adjustment to the academy and the need for the academy to build a good size trust fund through endorsements. He also assured Brooklyn Board of Education members that the academy will continue to accept all Brooklyn students through an enrollment management plan which will control the growth of private student enrollment in order to take all town students from the sending districts.

In addition, he reviewed the administrative staff needs of the academy, the emphasis on teaching and learning, the sewer project which will be started in the spring and the need for making all buildings handicapped accessible.

Following a short question and response period, Mr. Caron thanked the Board members for the opportunity to speak to them.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of Bills - a list of bills dated November 18, 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: (Gerardi-Voccio/McNally) to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

7. **Administrative Reports:**

a. **Middle School Principal**

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

- Mrs. Hatzberger and Mrs. Corvello organized a Veterans Day assembly that was held on Tuesday, November 10th. An essay contest was held - students were asked to write on the topic, "Why Do We Honor Veterans". Winners of the essay contest read their essays at the assembly. A slide show was presented, which included pictures of service men and women connected/related to Brooklyn families. As part of the slide show students read commentary of soldiers from different eras in America's history. Mr. Schaffer spoke to our assembled students, and our students sang a few patriotic songs. It was a very significant and touching event that fittingly honored our veterans and those who are still serving.
- Members of our band and chorus participated in the QVMS Music Festival at Putnam Middle School. It was an exceptional experience for our students, who joined students from area middle schools in practicing and then performing a concert before a large audience.
- The Book Fair was held the week of November 9th, thanks to Mrs. Stellitano, middle school librarian. In addition to all the work of the Book Fair, she serves on numerous committees and is an incredible resource for students, staff and families.
- First quarter report cards went home on Friday, November 13th.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, November 18th and 19th.
- In our effort to be prepared for emergencies and maintain a safe responsive school, we continue to train and practice. The administrators and several faculty members completed training in CPR and AED training. First Aid training will be held on Monday, November 16th.
- The transition process continues for our eighth graders. Students visited Killingly High School on Friday, November 13th and will visit Woodstock Academy on Tuesday, November 17th.
- Staff continue to work on multiple initiatives - math curriculum committee, reading committee, technology committee, sixth grade writing grant, fifth grade science/technology grant, etc.

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

b. **Elementary Principal**

Mr. Caruso's report included the following issues:

Report Cards - Revised report cards were used for our first quarter marking period. Report cards were issued for grades 1-4 on November 13th.

SRBI Update - The SRBI Committee has continued to meet and we've established a preliminary Student Intervention Team on a voluntary basis, have begun reviewing and revising the CST paperwork, will meet jointly with our middle school colleagues later this month, and will be conducting MyRTI training for all staff on December 1st.

Technology Workshops - We have set up two after-school technology workshops. Each workshop will consist of three sessions and will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 during December and January. One workshop will be dedicated to Smartboard training and the other will be dedicated to Discovery Streaming. The instructor will be Doreen Murphy from EastConn.

Playground Update - The specialty bricks have arrived and the contractor has begun the installation process. According to the contractor, once the bricks have been installed, additional grading must be done and additional wood chips must be brought in.

Dates:

The Fall Book Fair is scheduled for November 16th - November 20th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 19th.

Early dismissal (1:30) on Wednesday, November 25th.

PTO sponsored Holiday Store - 12/7/09 - 12/11/09.

PTO Holiday Event - 12/12/09.

c. **Assistant Principal**

Mrs. Sweet's report included the following comments on the interscholastic sports program:

Fall Sports

Girls' and Boys' Soccer - Both teams lost in the finals of the QVJC playoffs.

Cross Country - On Saturday, October 16th, Brooklyn's cross country team runners headed to Wickham Park in Manchester for the middle school cross country championship. The girls' B Race was run first. Teagan Jones cracked the top 100 finishing 89th. She was followed by Kylee Barrows and Keeling Chiu. In the boys' B Race, John Ross squeaked in the top 100 finishing 99th. He was followed by Nico Lindia, Shawn Grayson and Max Chace.

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

c. **Assistant Principal (continued)**

To quote Mr. Partyka, "the best runners compete in the A Races. The A Races feature the 'Green Monster,' a hill so steep that even high school harriers talk about it with fear." This year, three Brooklyn girls were up for the challenge. Sabrina Brunelle, running through an injury suffered on the course, placed 107th following by Nickie Deary and Shayna Dougherty.

No Brooklyn boy has ever placed in the top 100 in the A Race. This year, history was made. Matt McMerriman finished 22nd. Ryan Heilemann shook off the effects of the flu and placed 62nd. Forty-five schools had enough runners to compile a team score. Brooklyn was one of them and finished 31st. Coach Partyka felt this was a great end to a fine season.

Winter Sports

Girls' Basketball - Once again, Mr. Bucky Lohbusch is coaching the girls this season. Tryouts have been held and the team is practicing for its first game, at home, against KIS on December 2, 2009.

Boys' Basketball - This year, Mr. Francis "Buddy" Conroy is coaching our boys' team. Tryouts have been held and they are also practicing for the opening game against KIS, away, on December 2, 2009.

Cheerleading - Mrs. Kim Caron is once again coaching cheerleading. Tryouts have just ended. The team will cheer at all home games. They will also participated in competitions towards the end of the season.

d. **Director of Student Services**

Mrs. Muscente commented on the special education enrollment for November and the changes in enrollment in the various programs during the past few weeks. The total number of students presently participating in special education programs and services is 157 with 14 students in out-of-district placements.

Mrs. Muscente also commented on the response from NAEYC (National Association for Education of Young Children) concerning the question of Kindergarten accreditation. With the submission of an annual report for our Kindergarten program, Brooklyn has been accredited by this association.

e. **Superintendent's Report**

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

Strategic School Profile - 2008-2009 - Mrs. Berry reviewed a number of the indicators of educational need and district expenditures on this report. Board members raised questions about student performance on the CMT.

7. Administrative Reports (continued):

e. Superintendent's Report (continued)

Proposed Contract - Woodstock Academy - Mrs. Berry presented the latest draft of this contract for Board review. Following Board discussion, members raised questions concerning the automatic extension of ten years at the end of each year and the four year requirement if the parties cannot agree on the terms for renewal. Mrs. Berry was asked to review this with Mr. Caron, Headmaster at Woodstock Academy.

Contract - BEA and Union - With a tentative agreement of the BEA contract for the next three years, the Union has asked to begin negotiations as soon as possible.

Cafeteria Issues - Equipment Repair/Replacement - Mrs. Berry reviewed the issues that were discussed at the October meeting, indicating that they are scheduled during the Christmas vacation period. She also stated that with a new estimate for replacement of the floor in the cafeteria at the middle school, it may be possible to include this asbestos abatement project. These projects will be funded from the cafeteria account.

Killingly Tuition Issue - Included in Board packets was an e-mail from the attorney representing Brooklyn on this issue stating that he had accepted a new position with the State Department of Education, and therefore, will not be able to continue his representation of Brooklyn. Following Board discussion of the status of this lawsuit, the consensus of the Board was to delay any further action until we receive a response from Killingly.

Also included in Board reports were:

- Cafeteria Report for September and October, 2009
- HINI Flu Situation Report for October and November, 2009

8. Public Comments - none

9. Committee Reports

a. Budget - no report

b. Curriculum - Ms. Gerardi-Voccio presented the report from the meeting of the Curriculum Committee held on November 16, 2009.

Issues addressed at that meeting included:

- the reading program at the elementary building;
- math in grades 6, 7 and 8;
- the language arts program and the resources needed for this program;
- science and the need for an updated curriculum and vertical alignment in the elementary grades (through grade 5);
- RTI at each building; and
- the second year of the bullying program - Second Step.

9. **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** - no meeting
- 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 Board will be on Tuesday, November 24th.
- b. **Board of Finance** - The Board of Finance is meeting this evening.
- c. **Insurance** - no meeting
- d. **Killingly Board of Education** - The last regular meeting of the Killingly Board of Education was held on October 14, 2009.

Issues discussed were:

- Fall sports (football, soccer and volleyball)
 - Student activities
 - Reports from individual schools
 - ARRA reporting requirements
 - NEASC Visitation Report - evaluation of the high school
 - Enrollment
 - Freshman Academy
 - CMT/CAPT results
 - School Facilities
- e. **Recreation Commission** - The Recreation Commission is meeting this evening.
 - f. **School Readiness/Brooklyn Collaborative/Children First-Brooklyn** - no report
 - g. **School Safety Committee** - no meeting
 - h. **Woodstock Academy** - no report

11. Old Business:

The Board discussed the proposed committee structure which consolidates existing committees and agreed to the following committees and chairs:

Budget	Mrs. Johnson, Chair
Staff Service	Mrs. Lyons, Chair
Educational Planning	Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, Chair
Information	Mrs. Trivella, Chair
High School Relations	Mrs. Lyons, Chair
Policy	_____
Liaison	
Woodstock Academy	Ms. Gerardi-Voccio
EastConn	_____
Recreation	Mrs. Downs

12. New Business: none

13. Other: none

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: (Trivella/Gerardi-Voccio) to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Valerie Downs, Secretary
Brooklyn Board of Education