

Brunswick School Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Town Hall
85 Union Street

School Board Members Present: James Grant, Chair; Beth Bisson; Teresa Gillis (arrived 7:01 p.m.); Celina Harrison; Mandy Merrill; Sarah Singer (arrived 7:33 p.m.); Elizabeth Sokoloff; William Thompson; Maddie Wayne and Tyler Patterson, BHS Student Liaisons

School Board Members Absent: Joy Prescott, Vice Chair

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Shawn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent; Kelly Wentworth, Business Manager; Mandy Lewis, BJHS Principal; Steve Ciembroniewicz, Coffin Principal; Sue Alexander, Administrative Secretary; and many district teachers, some of whom were: Ashley Albert, Cory Bucknam, Brandon Duras, Alexandra Fish, Eric Funderburk; Michele Joyce, Tatiana Lera, Julie Mason, Andrew McCullough; Peg Nulle, Brian Pressley, Mark Roma, Rick Wilson

Guests: Lavinia Rogers, DOE World Language Specialist; community members; and members of the press.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

Adjustment to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda Action

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

- *5. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of December 11, 2019
Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of January 6, 2020

Old Business

Report from Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Innovative Programming

In July 2014 the first Superintendent's Advisory Committees was formed to discuss School Choice and Innovative Programming. Through meetings, research, and a community survey the group identified three areas of community interest. A second Advisory Committee began extensive work on these three programs in 2017 and are here tonight to provide thoughts and recommendations regarding these programs. All staff and community members who participated in this project were thanked. Presentations were given on the Dual Language Immersion Program, Multi-Age Program, and the Accelerated Arts Program.

Communications/Correspondence

None

Public Participation

Kate Kalajainen, Sheila Demers, Marsey Caswell, Phil Santucci, Alyssa Gillespie, Joy Gould, and Gretchen Feiss each individually spoke in support of the three programs presented tonight. Ms. Gillespie would also like to see string instruments and other world languages taught in the schools. Ms. Feiss would like to know the next step for these programs.

Nathan Hintz discussed the use of BHPs (behavior health professionals) instead of ed. techs in special education classrooms.

Superintendent's Report

a. Building and Equipment:

- Brunswick Parks and Recreation – use of schools
- Aspire Program - use of HBS
- Merrymeeting Adult Education – use of BHS
- Girl Scouts of America – use of schools
- Midcoast Literacy - use of HBS
- Midcoast Youth Theater – use of Crooker Theater
- Bath Area Family YMCA – use of BHS Cafeteria
- Brunswick Democratic Town Committee – use of Hawthorne
- BHS Class of 1970 – use of BHS
- Brunswick Bike/Pedestrian Committee – use of BHS
- Portland Symphony Orchestra – use of Crooker Theater
- Sage Swingers and Round Dance Club – use of BJHS

b. Resignation

- Janice Sargent, bus driver

c. New Staff

- Kimberly Murphy, ESOL Resource Assistant, BJHS
- David Raponi, Ed Tech III, REAL School
- Andrea Schaedler, Main Office Secretary, BJHS

d. Donations

\$5,000 donation from an anonymous donor to the Nutrition Program to help absolve school lunch debt

Thank you for the donation, it has made a significant difference.

e. Budget Report – K. Wentworth

The Board members have the expenditure report through December 30, 2019. We are still under a budget freeze. We are currently working on the 2020-2021 budget.

Board Chair's Report

a. Student Liaison Report – M. Wayne & T. Patterson

A report was given on the happenings in our schools:

Coffin School began their all-school reading challenge; staff members are meeting regularly regarding the transition to Kate Furbish Elementary School; students recently voted on the Kate Furbish Elementary School mascot. Nominations were received from the community and a primary election with staff members put the top three candidates on the ballot: Chickadee, Dragonfly, and Honey Bee. Coffin School students voted overwhelmingly for the Chickadee.

Mr. Thompson would like to see the mascot unified from the high school down and would like to make the mascot the Dragonfly. Ms. Singer suggested they discuss at a future Board meeting whether they will adopt the children's vote.

BJHS students will be performing the *Music Man* at Coffin School on January 31 and February 1.

BHS students just finished auditions for the spring musical *The Adams Family*; mid-term exams will begin January 21st.

b. 2020 Board Committee Assignments

A committee assignment list was distributed to the Board members. The Curriculum Committee currently has 5 members listed but we cannot have the majority of the Board on one committee so that will have to be corrected.

c. Goal Setting Dinner Workshop on January 22nd

Workshop is scheduled for January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Hawthorne.

d. Superintendent Search Update

Applications have closed. The committee members are reviewing the applications.

The Chair welcomed and congratulated Ms. Bisson and also Ms. Merrill and Ms. Sokoloff on their re-election. He also thanked the Board for appointing him as chair for this year. For public information, the Board does two things to try to expedite the meetings: 1. the consent agenda is used for items that are believed to not need any discussion and will be passed by unanimous consent instead of a formal vote. Items can be removed from the consent agenda if a Board member wishes to discuss it during the meeting. 2. The Chair uses unanimous consent once a motion and second have been made along with discussion if it seems that all members are in agreement.

The Chair read a memo from Assistant Attorney General, Sarah Foster to Commissioner Makin regarding the role of a School Board. Some points listed in it are: "The school committee shall act as a public board. It in no sense represents the town. Its members are chosen by the voters of the town but after election they are public officers deriving their authority from the law and responsible to the state..." "...hold our meetings in public as a public body but they are not public meetings..." "...they are an executive board dealing with executive functions" not necessarily a legislative board which separate them from the town council.

Committee Reports

a. Elementary School Building Committee – S. Singer

The committee met on December 19th. They received a review of construction activities and reviewed the status of ongoing change orders. At that time the school was 73.19% complete. Contingency fund was \$842,036. They received an update on the Discovery Classroom which will be put out to bid for a separate contractor. The committee also received sub-committee reports from: Art – four proposals were received by the Art Sub-Committee and they decided to move forward with three of them; Interiors; Technology – they have been working on finalizing clocks, locking systems and alarms; Playground; and Rapid Response. There was also a discussion regarding the placement of a large, granite Kate Furbish sign. The old Jordan Acres entrance is now the bus loop where cars should not be entering, and we do not own the property at the end of Charles Court which is where the new car entrance will be. A suggestion was to put the large sign on the school property and have a small metal sign at the Charles Court entrance. No decision has been made at this time. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 6:00p.m. in the Hawthorne conference room.

b. Interior Design Sub-Committee – E. Sokoloff

The committee has been very busy going through each classroom and choosing furniture, and also placement of Kate Furbish artwork in the common areas. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

New Business

None

Calendar/Announcements


None

Future Agenda Items

None other than what was previously discussed.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.



Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board