

Brunswick School Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, August 14, 2019
*** Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. ***
with the
Regular Meeting
Immediately following
Council Chambers
Town Hall
85 Union Street

School Board Members Present: James Grant, Chair; Benjamin Tucker, Vice Chair; Celina Harrison; Joy Prescott (6:41); Sarah Singer; Elizabeth Sokoloff; William Thompson; Maddie Wayne and Tyler Patterson, Student Liaison

School Board Members Absent: Mandy Merrill; Teresa Gillis

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Shawn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent; Barbara Gunn, Student Services Director; Kelly Wentworth, Business Manager; Steve Ciembroniewicz, Coffin School Principal; Michael Harris, HBS Assistant Principal; Gabe Schuft, BJHS Assistant Principal; Scott Smith, Director of Building, Grounds, and Food Service; Brian Pressley, BHS Teacher, Sue Alexander

Guests: community members; and members of the press.

Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

Executive Session

62. Consideration of Executive Session with Possible Action

Vote to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A) for the purpose of personnel matters.

Motion to enter executive session.

Motion: Tucker Second: Harrison Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present
Approved to enter executive session.

The Board reconvened in public session 6:43 p.m.

63. Possible Action from Executive Session

Motion that the School Board direct the Superintendent to enter into a two-year contract with Michael Harris for the position of Assistant Principal at Harriet Beecher Stowe School.

Motion: Tucker Second: Sokoloff Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present

Adjustment to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda Action

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

***64. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of July 10, 2019**

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

None

Public Participation

None

Superintendent's Report

- a. Building and Equipment:
 - Brunswick Bay Mobile Home Co-op – use of high school
 - BHS Alumni Class of 1959 – use of BHS
 - Brunswick Parks and Recreation – use of schools
 - Merrymeeting Adult Education - use of BHS
 - Bowdoin International Music Festival – use of BHS
- b. Resignation
 - Carolyn Foley, Special Ed Teacher, HBS
- c. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:
 - Dave Boucher, BHS Math Teacher, 17 years of service
- d. Transfer:
 - Sara Nichols, from Special Ed Teacher to Dean of Students/Instructional Strategist at REAL School
- e. New Support Staff:
 - Peter Sullivan, head night custodian, BJHS
 - Laurie DeCamilla, Library Ed Tech, BHS
 - Jared DeSimio, Audiovisual/Library Ed Tech, BHS
 - Jody Dolley, Administrative Secretary, REAL
 - Devon Drake, Special Education Ed Tech, Coffin
 - Carol Hedgepath, Special Education Ed Tech, BHS
 - Danielle Wilkinson, Special Education Ed Tech, HBS
- f. Budget Report – K. Wentworth

Reviewed the July 31, 2019 Expense and Revenue Report. We are preparing for the new school year. Everything is running smoothly.
- g. Update Cub Camp – S. Ciembroniewicz

This is our 5th year of Cub Camp. We used a new screening tool this year called the DIAL. There were two sessions, 15 students at each session. Each session had one teacher and one ed tech. The focus was on a lot of read aloud, literacy, math, and purposeful play. We had many high school volunteers and one junior high school volunteer to help with the program. We had great student progress. One question for the future is whether we continue with Cup Camp once we start Pre-K classes.

h. Update on Summer School – B. Gunn

The purpose of the Special Education extended school year program is to help students maintain skills through the summer. It is an individualized program and was held Monday thru Thursday, from July 8 to August 8 at three schools. Many thanks to the transportation and IT departments for helping us serve our students this summer. It was a successful program.

i. Update on Asylum Seekers – S. Lambert and S. Singer

The task force met on July 24 and August 7 and is made up of School Board members, Town Council members, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Sarah Singer is the chair and Selena Harrison and Teresa Gillis are our Board representatives. Brunswick town hired a cultural broker whose purpose is to work with the community of Brunswick and communities where the asylees are coming from. We want to make sure that cultural issue as well as language issues are addressed. The school department has created experience English camps whose primary objective is language acquisition. They meet at the library and have been broken-up into different age groups: an elementary level, an adolescent level and an adult level. Registration will be held at Coffin School next week so we are not sure of the enrollments at this time. Programming will be based on individual needs so at this time we don't know what those will be. We do have an ESL entry plan in place but until assessments and screening are done we won't know the exact needs. A number of the asylees are interested in athletics, and some have already made connections. With the closing of the Portland Expo this week we believe seven more families may be coming to Brunswick. Midcoast Hunger as well as local health care professionals have been helping to make sure needs are met.

j. School Board Workgroups

Paul, Elizabeth, and Joy are looking at the procedures of athletic teams. They have looked at paperwork that the athletes and families receive and will continue to review these at the high school and junior high and provide some feedback and possible recommendations for updates.

k. Food Shaming Update – S. Lambert

Mr. Lambert explained PL2019, an act recently passed which prevents food shaming. The intent of this act is to prevent schools from denying meals to eligible students, punishing students who received a meal but can't pay for it, or stigmatizing students for a debt they hold from not paying for previous meals. All staff will be trained on this. The belief is that student debt will increase.

Board Chair's Report

Committee Reports

a. Asylum Seekers Task Force

See report above.

b. Personnel and Negotiations Committee – B. Tucker

The committee met Monday. They went over job description for a bookkeeper position and received an update from the Superintendent on positions being filled. We anticipate the start of negotiations with the ed techs. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 5:30 pm.

c. Elementary School Building Committee – S. Singer

1. Playground Sub-Committee

Tabled to next month

2. Public Art Sub-Committee – E. Sokoloff

The committee met on August 6th. They are preparing to gather submissions from local artists to donate or loan pieces to the Kate Furbish Elementary School. They are working on

a draft for an RFQ with the hope it would be sent out in September with finalists chosen by the end of November. The committee will meet again on September 18.

New Business**65. Consideration of the Superintendent's Nomination of Teachers for 2019-2020 School Year**

Vote to elect the following teachers for the 2019-20 school year:

Abby Madden, Special Education Teacher, HBS
Paisley Richard, Special Education Teacher, Coffin
Elise O'Connor, Social Worker, HBS
Brigitta Valente, Pre-K Teacher, Coffin

Motion: Thompson Second: Singer Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present

Calendar/Announcements

None

Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.


Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board