

BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD
NOVEMBER 15, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Brookline School Board was conducted on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:01 p.m. at the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy.

Chairman Matthew Maguire presided.

Members of the School Board Present: Patricia Lynch, Vice Chairman
Erin Sarris, Secretary
Kenneth Haag

Members of the School Board Absent: Lauren DiGennaro

Also in Attendance: Gina Bergskaug, Assistant Superintendent
Denise Norton, Assistant Business Administrator
Dennis Dobe, Principal, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
Daniel Molinari, Principal, Richard Maghakian Memorial School

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None

NOMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE- None

PUBLIC INPUT - None

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Principal Dobe spoke of the Professional Development Day conducted on Tuesday, November 8th. The entire SAU teaching staff gathered at the High School for the day-long professional development. He spoke of how meaningful and productive the day was, and its uniqueness in that it was training for teachers by teachers.

Principal Dobe noted the Richard Maghakian Memorial School (RMMS) hosted a Family Math Night where families from Brookline were invited into the school to work with students from Southern New Hampshire University. The Brookline students played math games of different kinds, and the Brookline Math Specialists provided a presentation for families on enVisionMath 2.0. Based on the discussion and the questions that were posed, he is of the belief people were engaged and appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Math Specialists regarding implementation and how parents could support the program.

Principal Dobe spoke of having a report on the Smarter Balanced Assessment results. That information will be presented at the Board's December meeting. A hard copy was provided (attached).

PRESENTATIONS

- Specialist will be presenting an update

The [presentation](#) outlined the activities occurring during Integrated Specials time (hard copy attached). The integrated special time is new in the schedule for RMMS. It encompasses grades 1-3. It began with a grade level meeting each week to present proposals for what activities could occur during this time with the students. Students were then able to identify their first, second, and third choices for activities they wished to participate in. In most instances, students were able to participate in their first choice activity. Each of the specialists met with grades 1-3 with the exception of P.E., as schedule constraints only allowed for the specialist to meet with the grade 3 class. Lessons were built based upon the focus; engineering and design process.

In Library, students were engaged in Makerspace activities. A brief summary was provided of the types of activities that occurred. Makerspace is a place for arts and crafts, a place to explore, a place to make mistakes, etc. Information regarding Makerspace and the activities will be posted to the District's website.

In Technology, students worked primarily with code/programming to be able to demonstrate their abilities in a multitude of situations. For example, in first grade students learned how to code with Osmo, Bee Bots, Kodable, and Scratch Jr. Most of this code is basic block design and/or sequence programming. Grades 2 and 3 used Finch Bots and Scratch. This focus was due to receiving the Finch Bots through a grant/loan program by BirdBrain Technologies. There are 13 robots,

which are also being used for the school-wide STEM project. Discussions took place around the engineering/design process through the critical thinking needed to program. Focus was also placed on “failure forward” meaning when you fail, you learn from the failure and move forward.

In Music, students researched, read stories, and discussed and recorded all the information they needed to create a musical movie on their topic. Topics were chosen by the classroom teachers. Students were given booklets that had all of the different stages of the engineering design process, and were encouraged to draw/engineer what their musical was going to look like. In first grade, they became superheroes all solving a problem with one of their social skills; characters had the superhero power to be friendly, to compromise, etc. In second grade, they were community workers. They came up with a problem in an imaginary town. In third grade, they were students chosen to go to the White House and in the White House they found portals to all of the American symbols and were able to go directly to them.

In Physical Education, they worked on creating their own game. At the start, they worked on introducing the engineering design process. During the first two classes students reviewed the process using YouTube videos. They discussed the engineering process and were given the problem of students sitting on benches or using the slide during recess. The challenge was to create activities that could be taught to others during recess. Students were divided into groups of 2, and were charged with identifying a title, purpose, e.g., hand-eye coordination, identify materials needed, set of instructions, and introduce it to their class. Students who were taught the game were tasked with identifying two things about the activity they enjoyed and one thing that required improvement.

In Art and Science, students were offered an opportunity to create their own animation. First grade students were presented with a two-sided figure and shown how to create one picture out of spinning. Students learned the reason they can make movement from pictures is because our eye holds a picture per 10th of a second and that is what creates all animation we have seen for many years.

From there they moved on to using clay, and then moved into puppetry. Students helped each other accomplish some of that, and provided advice to one another. Students then wrote scripts and a stage. They started constructing backdrops before time was exhausted. Additional examples were provided of projects completed by students in the different grades, the problems they encountered and adjusted for, etc.

Principal Molinari thanked the Specialists for the presentation. He commented this block of time has become a student favorite. At Open House in September parents approached him looking for the enrichment class commenting they had heard a great deal about it.

DELIBERATIONS

- To see what action the Board will take regarding the proposed calendar change for March 2017 (Voting Day).

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated the request to be to swap the professional development day from the end of the school year to March 14, 2017. As March 14th is voting day, a request has been made of all three districts that calendars be amended to reflect that date as a professional development day swapped with one previously scheduled for June.

Chairman Maguire questioned what would occur if a single district approved the change, e.g., the Brookline School District would have no school on that day and the other districts would. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug stated there to be a desire for all districts to make the change. If that is not accomplished, it may have to be revisited.

MOTION BY MEMBER LYNCH TO AMEND THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR TO IDENTIFY MARCH 14, 2017, VOTING DAY, AS A DAY OF NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Maguire stated his belief the impetus for the change was the SB2 calendar, and that it is the Brookline School District that is prompting this change. Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug clarified it is not dates associated with SB2 that are driving the request. March 14th is a local election that Hollis voters will participate in as well. However, it is Brookline that utilizes the school facilities as polling locations.

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-0

INFORMATIONAL

- SB2 Calendar; Updated

Assistant Superintendent Bergskaug noted the revised calendar provided with the agenda indicates the date of the Public Hearing as January 12, 2017. The previous calendar listed January 16, 2017, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day; schools will be closed.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LYNCH TO RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0**

*The Board recessed at 6:43 p.m.
The Board reconvened at 7:50 p.m.*

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Brookline School Board. October 25, 2016

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 2, Line 11; replace "if" with "of"
- Page 2, Line 45; replace the ",", with a "." after "may occur" and capitalize "Ballpark"

**MOTION BY MEMBER HAAG TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER SARRIS
MOTION CARRIED
3-0-1**

Vice Chairman Lynch abstained

AGENDA BUILDING

- Discussion of Smarter Balanced Assessment and NECAP Results
- Discussion of FY18 Budget

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY MEMBER LYNCH TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER HAAG
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0**

The November 15, 2016 meeting of the Brookline School Board was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Date _____ Signed _____