

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Library of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI, on Monday, October 25, 2004. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Marjorie J. McBride, Timothy L. Avila, Mary V. Cabral, Connie J. LaMountain and Deborah A. Redmond; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Beverly Z. Travers

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Estrella announced that this was the last meeting of this sitting School Committee. All have had the best interest of the District at heart.

Also, he asked the public for serious consideration of the bond issue--question #15 on the ballot in Warren and #16 in Bristol; both towns would be well served to support the bond project for the present and future children who attend our schools; we do not have the luxury of waiting any longer; the Committee has made every attempt to make their business public but would be happy to meet with anyone who wishes.

Accolades

Special Recognition Award from the New England Reading Association (NERA) who recognizes an individual from each New England state who has made a positive impact in the promotion of literacy – awarded to Mary Cerullo, Director of Reading and Title I.

Susan Donovan has been named R.I.'s Physical Education Teacher of the Year. She will compete at the national level in 2005.

Mt. Hope High School's Physical Education / Health Department has been named the winner of the Alice Marchant – Honor Awards for Innovative Educational Leadership for 2003-2004. This award

recognizes outstanding Health/PE teachers across the state who have successfully developed and implemented original and innovative PE/Health programs and shared materials and information with peers.

Selected from a list of 8 finalists, Mt. Hope's programs were chosen on the strength of four particular initiatives: the Healthy Huskies Wellness Center, the addition of a climbing wall, the Anti-Bullying Program, and the annual Hoops for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association. As recipient of this award, Mt. Hope's PE/Health Department will receive a \$200 cash prize from the Rhode Island Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and will be recognized at their 2004 Fall Conference on October 29th at Rhode Island College.

Dr. Mara commented that the use of the Wellness Center has been overwhelming and we are grateful to Mr. T. J. DeSanto and Mrs. Stacia Jackson for making it possible. Mrs. Redmond also commented that her daughter's pediatrician mentioned the wonderful facilities at the fitness center at Mt. Hope and encouraged her to take advantage of it.

Mr. Estrella commented on the outstanding performance of the theater and band students at the opening of the Performing Arts Center this past Sunday night.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Pulled from the consent vote were:

- **The September 27 meeting minutes by Mrs. McBride**
- **The Director of Pupil Personnel Services' Report by Mrs. LaMountain.**

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Mrs. Redmond seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell cancelled the Budget/Facilities meeting scheduled for November 15.

Door Replacement: Dr. Mara reported that Horner has submitted a bid of \$20,080 for replacement doors and hardware; if Horner is in the master price agreement, we can use them; if not, the job must go out to bid. A request has been made to evaluate the doors at Reynolds.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride had nothing to report at this time.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACTS NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva said BWEA contract negotiations packages were sent out; there is nothing to report at this time; meetings will begin after the election.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Regionalization Study Commission: Mr. Estrella reported that all appointees have been received except for Warren's; he set the first meeting on the first Thursday in November at 4:00 PM in the Administration Building as an organization meeting.

BOND EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Mrs. McBride paid a debt of gratitude to the parents who spent so much time on this project; she asked everyone to vote on Tuesday.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

2004-40 A-G: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions listed below:

1. Peter Kinder Elementary Social Worker

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – K. Estes)**

Funding: Operational Budget (9th Step/Masters)

2. Jillian Amato Teacher Assistant – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Operational Budget

3. Robert Evans District Mentor Coordinator

Effective: For the 2004-05 school year only

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

4. Margaret McKiernan District Mentor Coordinator

Effective: For the 2004-05 school year only

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

B. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2004-05 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

ADVISORS

1. Class of 2006 (Co-Advisor) Raquel Goulart
2. Class of 2007 (Co-Advisor) Jason Seals
3. Class of 2007 (Co-Advisor) David Vasiliauskas
4. Class of 2008 (Co-Advisor) Erica Napolitano
5. Class of 2008 (Co-Advisor) Mellissa Riccio
6. Student Council James Dranchak
7. Yearbook Lynn Marie Sousa

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

Sport Position Coach

8. Baseball (Boys) Coach Michael Martins
9. Cheerleading (Boys Basketball) Coach Debra Marshall
10. Cheerleading (Wrestling) Coach Debra Marshall
11. Softball (Girls) Coach Pamela Oliveira
12. Track (Outdoor) Coach Tony Daponte
13. Wrestling Coach Bruce Hutchison

C. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the

office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Mark DeLucia General Subject Matter**
- 2. Louise E. Hindman General Subject Matter**
- 3. Jessica Maisano Elementary**
- 4. Pamela Murphy Elementary**
- 5. Louise Pouliot General Subject Matter**
- 6. Peter J. Squatrito General Subject Matter**
- 7. Gail Stokes General Subject Matter**
- 8. Marisa Tobias Elementary**

D. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

SECRETARIES

- 1. Bernice G. Martino**

CUSTODIANS/MAINTENANCE

- 2. Silverio A. Borges**

3. Joao M. DaPonte

E. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of February 23, 2004 as to the following listed teacher and appoint the listed teacher to the position indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

Jennifer Boudreault Elementary (Effective October 6, 2004)

F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence as follows:

1. Jennifer G. Nardelli Special Educator – Mt. Hope High

**Effective: End of Maternity Leave through
December 23, 2004**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

**2. Lynn DePasquale Mathematics/Social Studies Teacher –
Kickemuit Middle**

Effective: End of Maternity Leave through

January 25, 2005

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

3. Marilyn A. Jones Grade Five Teacher – Colt-Andrews

Effective: January 12, 2005, for 6-8 weeks

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L1 of the Master
Agreement**

Grade Five Teacher – Colt-Andrews

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave
through April 8, 2005**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

4. Meredith DePalma Teacher Assistant – Hugh Cole

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave through the end of the
2004-05 school year (Extension)**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 17 of the Master Agreement**

**G. RESIGNATION: That the School Committee confirm the
recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation
below:**

1. James J. Dranchak Freshman Class Advisor – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately

Reason: Personal

#2004-35: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised School Committee Policy EEACC-R Student Conduct on School Buses (Second Reading)

Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. On a show of hands the motion passed 8 to 0.

#2004-41: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Mt. Hope High School Mission Statement

The recommendation is for the originally presented Mission Statement minus the Social Expectations section. Mrs. Cabral, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to approved; the motion passed unanimously.

School Accountability Classifications

Dr. Mara reported he received unofficial word from RIDE that we now have four high performing schools, Guiteras is low performing but improving, Mt. Hope moved up to moderately performing and although the drop out rate decreased by 20%, was not classified as high performing because of missing the target for graduation. Mrs.

Glavin mentioned that test scores are posted on the RIDE website and certain school committee candidates should better inform themselves.

Mrs. Redmond sharply criticized Mr. Leslie Gray, a candidate for school committee, for recent comments in the newspaper:

“current school committee cannot be trusted” – she would not consider anyone she has worked with over the past four years as untrustworthy.

“highest in cost and lowest in performance in the state and nation” – this is just not true; she finds it despicable that someone could say this with no basis in fact.

Mrs. Redmond commented that she is amazed at how the faculty and staff have worked together and improved test scores despite the \$4M budget cut, NCLB, and fire laws. She is very proud of the work done by this Committee and it is important for the public to know that the four top administrators asked only for a cost of living raise.

Mr. Estrella asked that a letter of thanks to administration and staff for their efforts to develop into a high performing school district—they are doing what we asked them to do. Dr. Mara pointed out that the per pupil costs include money spent on buildings, money received from grants and money spent on non-public text books.

DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES' REPORT (pulled from

the consent vote by Mrs. LaMountain)

Mrs. LaMountain questioned a letter to the Committee from a parent. The issue will be discussed in executive session.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to accept the Director of Pupil Personnel Services' report; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

FUTURE AGENDA AND WORKSHOP REQUESTS

The first School Committee Meeting after the election (November 8) will be the organizational meeting, with one agenda item—swearing in.

Mr. Estrella stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the School Committee.

This being her last meeting as a School Committee Member, Mrs. Cabral thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve; there have been some incredible changes in the District and it is getting tremendously better; she asked the public to vote for people who will give committed service, be informed and vote with your head. Dr. Mara, on behalf of his administrative team, said Mrs. Cabral will be greatly missed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:45 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:45 PM to discuss personnel, contract and litigation matters. No action will be taken. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:05 PM

Discussed in Executive Session were personnel, contract and litigation issues. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:07 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Avila, motioned to adjourn at 9:07 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary

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