

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004

The monthly workshop 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, December 6, 2004. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. O'Dell, Thomas E. Skuba, Timothy L. Avila, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, Paul Silva and Beverly Z. Travers; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; and Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Mr. O'Dell read the District's Mission Statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerri Santos and Elizabeth Carter, Chartwells employees, spoke to the Committee on behalf of over 200 food service workers in the area.

With the recent change in food service providers from Aramark to Chartwells, these workers were suddenly faced with the uncertainty of continued employment and loss of accrued vacation and sick time.

They informed the Committee they will attempt to unionize and asked for the Committee's support.

PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

James Wilkinson, of the District's public accounting firm, briefly reviewed the audit report; he sited only two concerns: 1) student activity accounts—suggested that someone from the central fiscal office open bank statements and reconcile accounts, and 2) that the District develop a fraud prevention policy. Mrs. Correia will get a sample for the Policy Subcommittee to address. Several Committee members commented on the excellent job that Mrs. Correia has done bringing the number of infractions down from pages of items to only two items. Mrs. McBride stated that we are maintaining the 2% emergency reserve and 2% reserve for cash flow purposes by policy. Mrs. Correia mentioned that we are in our third and final year of our contract with this accounting firm and will go out to bid for next fiscal

year.

Mt. Hope Well Update

Mr. Pugh introduced Mr. George Kerr of A & W Artesian Wells who updated the Committee on the project; after first drilling the well, a rock formation discovered at 70 feet blocked the flow of water; after two attempts to hydrofracture the hole and another attempt to clear the blockage, no water flowed. Attempts to drill deeper could produce brackish water, which is unusable, and another hole could be drilled 100 feet away, but there are no guarantees that the same results will not occur. He recommended that we abandon this well and consider tying in to the town water supply.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dennis Gregson, Co-Chair of the Building Committee, reported that 20 architectural firms requested RFP's and 22 people attended the mandatory pre-bid conference. The deadline for proposals was extended to December 17; the next meeting of the Building Committee will be Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 PM at the Rockwell School.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Skuba reported that the next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, December 20, at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's Office when the 2005-2006 budget process will begin. He has been meeting with Mrs. Correia and Dr. Mara to be brought up to date with budget issues.

In response to Mr. Saviano, Mrs. Correia reported that the district does practice overnight investing.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva said BWEA contract negotiations will begin on Tuesday, December 7, 5:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office; the sessions will be closed to all but the negotiating team. School Committee members will have opportunity for input during Executive Session later in this meeting. The negotiation team will keep the Committee informed and request guidance when necessary.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee was asked to review our policy on parent/public visits to schools to assure alignment with current school practices.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Regents' Regulations for High Schools – Dr. Mara referred to a RIDE

report showing that Mt. Hope is right on target with Regents' regulations and showing the standings of all districts in the State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:40 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. O'Dell motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:40 PM to discuss contracts and/or litigation and/or personnel issues; no action will be taken. Mr. Estrella seconded. Mr. Estrella also recused himself from BWEA contract discussions because his wife is employed by the District. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:50 PM

Discussed in Executive Session were contracts and litigation. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:52PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. O'Dell, seconded by Mr. Skuba, motioned to adjourn at 9:52 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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