

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 28, 2005, in the Library of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 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; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

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.

Accolades

The 2005 Mt. Hope High School Science Fair was held on January 27, 2005. Judges were the Mt. Hope Science teachers under the direction of Marcia King and 11 people from the community. After much hard work on the part of the students, the results are as follows:

Second Place Winners: Claire Randall, Brittany Pacheco, Terry Wright, Elizabeth Lombardo, Carolyn Halaburda, Colin O'Dell and Robert Cotta, Jr.

First Place Winners -- Eligible to participate in State Competition: Chris Azar, Chelsea Andrade, Kristen Mello, Rebecca Copeland, Ashley Fox, Parker Kotuby, Amanda Harvey – also, Biology Project of the Year Award

Wayne Powers – also, Best of Fair Award

Allison St. Vincent – also, Chemistry Project of the Year Award

Chris Liberti – also, Physics Project of the Year Award

Principals Award – Jonathon Delmage

We are pleased to report that the Mt. Hope High School Math Team, supervised by Jean Mollicone, finished in 1st place in the Island Division Competition of the Rhode Island Math League . Five schools participated in the Island Division-Mt. Hope, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown and Bay View. Twelve full teams of five students each and five partial teams took part in our division. The Mt. Hope A Team was at the top of those seventeen teams. The members of the Mt.

Hope Math Team are: Wayne Powers, Allison St. Vincent, Colin O'Dell, Evan Patton, Garrett Mattson, Stephanie Goodman, Theresa Stone, John Coletta, Marc Rodrigues, Daniel Shears, David Shears, Lydea Irwin and Elyssa DaRosa.

A Mt. Hope High School student has been selected by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council to participate in the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC from Feb. 15 – 20, 2005. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. This student will be one of approximately 400 outstanding scholars from around the country at the conference who, for six days, will interact with a variety of personnel who operate within the three branches of government, the news media and the international community. Congratulations to Christopher O'Brien.

Congratulations to the Mt. Hope Swim Team for winning the Division III Championship. The Huskies team, coached by first year Head Coach Jonathan Dell, won two relay races and three individual events to clinch the title. Members of the swim team are: Eric Boulanger, Zachary Cooper, Robert Cotta, Mitchell Dell, Brian Petit, Mike Zito, Tim Cordeiro, Alex Dell, Chad Morin, Terry Wright, John Coletta, Colin O'Dell, Anthony Lombardo, Allen Petit, Nate Dell and Jay Moniz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Travers seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Correspondence: Mrs. McBride received a letter which she asked to have distributed to the entire Committee.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Recommendation #BF 2005-02: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the proposed 2005-2006 budget package as presented by Administration and the Subcommittee. (\$51,043,301 – 10.81% increase)

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Ms. Travers voting no and Mr. Saviano abstaining.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Recommendation #PC 2005-01: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee,

approve the new School Committee Policy JFCH-R Breathalyzer Policy (First Reading)

Mr. Silva, seconded by Ms. Travers, motioned to approve. The motion passed, 9 to 0.

Recommendation #PC 2005-02: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy KG-R Use of Facilities (First Reading)

Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Avila, motioned to approve. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

PERSONNEL / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva reported that negotiations are progressing well; the next meeting is March 1, 5:00 PM, at Oliver.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Estrella reported that he and Mrs. McBride have met with Dr. Mara to discuss his contract; expectations of Dr. Mara have been fulfilled. Discussions will continue and a report will be made to the full Committee.

Reorganization

Mrs. McBride announced a change in the make-up of two subcommittees: Ms. Travers will replace Mr. O'Dell as Chair of the Policy/ Community Subcommittee and Mr. O'Dell will be added to the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee.

Due to the consuming nature of the budget process, the March 14th School Committee Workshop is cancelled.

The Policy meeting scheduled for March 7th is cancelled.

The first Joint Finance Committee meeting is March 7th at Hugh Cole School.

The location of the Building Committee Meeting on March 3rd is changed to Rockwell School.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Skuba reported that the Building Committee developed a projected financial draw down schedule needed for the projects and estimated that \$13M is required to get started. This figure is not concrete. A report will be sent to the Committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

S2005-03 A-F: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENT: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Secretary as listed below:

1. Melissa E. Rosato Secretary – Pupil Personnel Services Office

Effective: February 7, 2005

Reason: To fill a vacancy (Resignation – E. Gomes)

Funding: Operational Budget

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

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

1. Basketball Coach James Barnaby

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. Marsha B. Auerbach English

- 2. Beth Buvarsky Art**
- 3. Gode Davis General Subject Matter**
- 4. David Doucett General Subject Matter**
- 5. Melissa Gendreau General Subject Matter**
- 6. Roger Guilmain General Subject Matter**
- 7. Regina M. Hammer General Subject Matter**
- 8. Nga-Yee Leung General Subject Matter**
- 9. Cory MacEachen Pending**
- 10. Deborah J. Moura Elementary**
- 11. Darlene A. Nelson General Subject Matter**
- 12. Cynthia Saksena Home Economics**
- 13. Marianne Scorpio General Subject Matter**
- 14. Priscilla B. Uhl General Subject Matter**
- 15. Patricia M. Weissman General Subject Matter**

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:

SECRETARIAL

- 1. Felicia M. Pereira**
- 2. Maria R. Walmsley**
- 3. Theresa R. Zompa**

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

4 Maria R. Walmsley

CUSTODIANS/MAINTENANCE

5 Jeff Wilcox

E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for a Secondary Science Teacher, a Kindergarten Teacher and an Elementary Teacher as follows:

1. Stacia Jackson Science Teacher – Mt. Hope High

Effective: March 26, 2005, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L1 of the Master

Agreement

Stacia Jackson Science Teacher – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave

through the end of the 2004-05

school year

Reason: Parental leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L2 of the Master

Agreement

2. Kimberlie Peecher Kindergarten Teacher - Rockwell

Effective: May 15, 2005, for 6-8 weeks

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

3. Susan Castigliero Grade Three Teacher – Colt-Andrews

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave
through April 11, 2005**

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

**F. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the
recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations
listed below:**

1. Joan A. Alose Principal – Guiteras

Effective: End of the 2004-05 School Year

Reason: Retirement

2. Staci L. DeIDeo Mathematics/Science Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: Immediately

Reason: Personal

3. Wayne M. Millet Technology Education Teacher – Mt. Hope High

Effective: End of the 2004-05 School Year

Reason: Personal

4. Michael P. Martins Baseball Coach – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: February 7, 2005

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S 2005-04: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve two (2) requests for home schooling.

A parent of one of the children requested an opportunity to speak to the Committee about his child before they voted. Attorney Henneous advised that he has a right to open or closed session as it pertains to his child. The father requested further discussion in closed session. Mr. Silva motion to amend the recommendation to address only one student. Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion to amend passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

The vote on the amended motion passed, 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2005-05: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the short term borrowing of Bond anticipation notes for the purposes of construction of improvements to Rockwell School and engineering, architectural and other costs related to the construction of improvements to Hugh Cole School and Colt and Andrews Schools.

Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Spelling Bee Discussion

Dr. Mara and Mrs. Glavin explained the spelling bee situation—criticism from some students, parents and teachers last year prompted administration to review the process and develop a more acceptable format that aligns with standards based methods and does not impose on class time. Non-participation was never meant to be permanent. Next year, a traditional spelling bee will take place on a Saturday and will be coupled with an essay contest.

Mr. Estrella congratulated Mrs. Glavin for her handling of the spelling bee controversy; media criticism of our administrators is a tragedy. Mr. Estrella asked the Chair to direct our solicitor to investigate the actions of one of the board members who, according to a constituent, chastised the district and one of our administrators on a talk radio program—is this in violation of School Committee policy and/or State law.

Mr. O'Dell felt it was inappropriate for board members to learn of the controversy from parents and the newspaper.

Mr. Saviano asked Mrs. Glavin why the new bee plans were not put into place before this. Ms. Travers commented that this question was

inappropriate and nonproductive as a committee. Mrs. McBride consulted Mr. Henneous, who advised that this question was more appropriate for executive session.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella motioned to request a report on the spelling bee from Mrs. Glavin to be made at the next meeting; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Some members of the public asked to speak. They were told that public comment is over and advised to sign up for public comment at the appropriate time at the next meeting. Mr. Estrella said that most of the issues that come to the Committee can be addressed by administration and suggested that they contact administrators in their offices. Mr. O'Dell commented that the issue should have been placed on a workshop agenda to provide ample opportunity for discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:00 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:00 PM to discuss a request for home schooling, a student discipline issue, personnel and contract. Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:40 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was a request for home schooling and student discipline.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request for home schooling that was tabled earlier in this meeting. Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

MOTION: Ms. Travers motioned to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding student discipline. Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:45 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Avila, seconded by Mrs. Kinsella and Mr. Estrella, motioned to adjourn at 8:45 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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