

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006

The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Cafeteria of Rockwell School, 1225 Hope Street, in Bristol, RI, on Monday, January 9, 2006. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Joyce M. Kinsella

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Rockwell Bond Project Ribbon Cutting

Just prior to this meeting the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new

Rockwell classrooms was held. Dr. Mara recognized, complimented and thanked John and James Edwards of J.G. Edwards, the construction firm; Dennis Daly, Joseph daSilva and Joseph Culota of Mt. Vernon Group Architects; and the Building Committee who worked tirelessly every Thursday evening, as well as the parents involved, for a job well done with an outcome of which to be proud. He also thanked Patricia Gablinski, head teacher at Rockwell, who is filling in for Principal Karen Annotti.

MT. HOPE HIGH SCHOOL HOME BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. Estrella, the School Committee's representative on the Home Building Project Board, reported that the house built last year on Greenway Drive has not yet sold; therefore, this year's project has not gone forward. However, a purchase and sales agreement was signed and a deposit of \$38,000 was placed on a piece of property on Jefferson Lane for this year's project. The total cost of the property is \$190,000 and the balance is due on January 20th (after several extensions were allowed); the contract has been reviewed by Attorney Rego and Attorney Henneous and is deemed ironclad. Options are: to default on the property and forfeit the deposit, or borrow \$152,000 to purchase the land. Discussion with the School Committee followed involving: Joseph Bartoshevich and Everett Francis, Directors of the Home Building Project, Meg Chapman and Donna Holmes, Realtors with the Project, Ronald Labossiere, Mt. Hope Technology Teacher, and John Mello, a Bristol resident. Mrs.

McBride and Mr. Silva pointed out that the School Committee cannot own land, nor can they back a loan; this corporation is separate and apart from the School Committee. Mr. Estrella raised concern for District liability. Mr. Estrella is not in favor of borrowing the money; the two other voting members favor borrowing the money; a unanimous vote is required. Attorney Henneous will be asked to review the situation to assess district liability as well as liability of individuals. The Superintendent and Principal of Mt. Hope High School will meet to explore options to maintain the program at the high school.

SAILING PROGRAM

Dr. Mara introduced Mr. Steve Johnson, a Mt. Hope parent, who has proposed a sailing club at Mt. Hope through the Sea Scouts, which is under the auspices of the Boy Scouts. Many high school students are interested and Halsey Herreshoff is willing to donate/loan boats; the club could function at no cost to the District; the Boy Scouts would be responsible for background checks on the instructors. Mrs. McBride said instituting the club does not require School Committee action, but directed them to meet with Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira to ensure space and desire and that our attorney review the proposal for liability issues and requested a report back from the Principal.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McBride has been attending the Hugh Cole Site meetings which take place each Wednesday morning at 7:30; the site has water issues. Building Committee meetings will be scheduled one hour before regular School Committee Workshops; Mr. Farrar and Mr. Lusi have been advised. Mrs. McBride suggested forming a subcommittee and asked for comments, there were none. The first meeting of this Building Committee will be January 23, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Skuba reported the next meeting is Thursday, January 26, 2006, at 5:45 PM at Oliver (rescheduled from January 19) to discuss the upcoming fiscal year budget. On Monday, January 30, 2006, a meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled with the legislators from Bristol and Warren at 6:30 PM at Oliver.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Estrella reported that the Committee has been asked to enter into negotiations with Council 94, who has chosen to use the attorney-based method. He asked the entire Committee to review the current contract and forward suggestions, concerns or issues to the secretary to compile. A tentative meeting with Attorney Henneous is set for January 23, 2006 at 5:00 PM at Mt. Hope High School. Memos of agreement and amendments to the contract will be forwarded to the Committee this week. Mr. Silva described the attorney-based

process.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT ISSUES

Retirement of Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. McBride formally announced the retirement of the Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Bettencourt-Glavin, in June; she will be missed. The Superintendent has had some discussion with Mrs. Glavin about transition and moving forward. This will be discussed in Executive Session at the January 23rd Meeting.

Rockwell Ribbon-cutting

The Co-Presidents of the Rockwell PTO expressed disappointment in the handling of the ceremony. Mrs. McBride and Dr. Mara apologized for miscommunication and offered 100% support of a celebration when the students move to the new classrooms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:30 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Skuba motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:30 PM to discuss the peer review. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:20 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was the peer review with Mr. DiSaia.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:23 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Estrella, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 9:23 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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