

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006**

**The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, August 21, 2006, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. 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, Paul E. Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, Paul Silva and Beverly Z. Travers; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Kevin McAllister, Esq., representing our District Solicitor**

**Absent: Thomas E. Skuba**

**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**

**Diana Campbell, 40 Seal Island Rd., Bristol, reiterated to the Committee that she feels the District must do more to prepare kids for college; it is time to tell students they can achieve more than their parents; when given the opportunity, parents want to become involved in their schools and statistics show that students of involved parents do better in school, and in fact, the whole system improves. Ms. Campbell urged the Committee to reconsider their current meeting policies and open the meetings more to parents and the public.**

**Linda Formica, representing the Asylum Road Neighborhood Association, expressed concerns about landscaping for the Hugh Cole project. She said she was told there was money set aside for landscaping, then was told there wasn't, and she asked the Committee what their plans are for landscaping. Mrs. McBride told Ms. Formica she can attend the Building Committee meeting when they discuss the issue. Ms. Formica said she was concerned with how the Committee is managing the money. She asked: Why wasn't landscaping put into the budget, why did the Committee not go before the Planning Board, where was Dig Safe in the process of the gas leak, who is overseeing critical situations on site, is a fence and gate going around the lot, when are we proceeding with asphalt? Mrs. McBride said she can attend the Building Committee Meeting for answers.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 7 to 0. (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote.)**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to seal the minutes to the July 17 and August 7 Executive Sessions; Mr. Brule seconded; the motion passed 7 to 0 (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote).**

**Mrs. McBride welcomed Melinda Thies, the newly appointed Assistant Superintendent.**

## **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Estrella commended Mrs. Correia and her staff—the audit is underway and will be completed earlier than ever before and well before other districts.**

## **POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Ms. Travers reported the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28 at Oliver. The agenda has been set and is available to the public.**

## **PERSONNEL / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Estrella reserved comments for Executive Session.**

## **ROCKWELL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Dr. Mara said the bus circle is complete and the area will be reseeded in September; the new playground is 60% complete and the safe surface will arrive two weeks after school begins.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

**Storage Facility at Mt. Hope: The unsightly structure will be emptied of items of any value and then sold to an interested party. This will be done before the NEASC visit on October 1.**

**School Committee Issues List: Mrs. McBride suggested the issues list be reinstated as a public document. Mr. O'Dell also would like the facilities issues list revived. There were no objections.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**Recommendation #S 2006-40: – PERSONNEL**

**A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the**

**recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions listed below:**

**1. Steven Eaton Department Head – Industrial Technology**

**Effective: Immediately, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Resignation – J. Bartoshevich)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (10th Step/Masters)**

**2. Diana H. Baxter Art Teacher – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year, pending receipt of certification**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Resignation – D. Dunn/**

**Transfer – K. Dwyer)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (1st Step)**

**3. Stacey Bird Art Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year only, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a leave of absence vacancy**

**(LOA – L. Enjeti)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (1st Step)**

**4. Larissa Perkins Mathematics Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a new position**

**Funding: Operational Budget (1st Step)**

**5. Cindy L. Pires Portuguese Teacher (3/5 time) – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year only, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a leave of absence vacancy**

**(LOA – L. Almeida)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (2nd Step)**

**6. Joseph D. Kutcher Science Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory**

**completion of pre-employment  
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy  
(Resignation – F. Emond)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (7th Step)**

**7. Norman P. Fortin Social Worker – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year, pending  
receipt of certification and satisfactory  
completion of pre-employment  
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy  
(Retirement – S. Baxendale)**

**Funding: Operational Budget (10th Step/Masters)**

**8. Melanie L. Lane Social Worker**

**Effective: For the 2006-07 school year, pending  
receipt of certification and satisfactory  
completion of pre-employment  
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a new position**

**Funding: Operational Budget (1st Step/Masters)**

**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**

**2006-07 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):**

**COACH – MT. HOPE HIGH**

**Sport Position Coach**

**1. Swimming Asst. Coach Rebecca Duggan \***

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**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. Maria Costa-Alano Elementary**

**2. Julie Weisbrod Elementary**

**D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for a Secondary Special Educator as follows:

**1. Elizabeth M. Pagano-Travers Special Educator – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: September 25, 2006, for 6-8 weeks**

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

**Recommendation #S 2006-34: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy IICA Field Trips and Excursions (Second Reading)  
Ms. Travers, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to approve. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Recommendation #S 2006-41: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the new School Committee Policy Anti-Fraud Policy and Organizational Code of Conduct (First Reading)**

**Ms. Travers motioned to approve; Mrs. Kinsella seconded. Mr. Estrella remarked that past audit reports were notoriously two pages long; with the implementation of this policy, we do not anticipate any issues, which is remarkable in the State of Rhode Island. Mr. O'Dell asked that this be placed on the workshop agenda for discussion. The motion to approve passed 7 to 0. (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote.)**

**Recommendation #S 2006-42: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve payment to the**

**Town of Bristol for demolition of the Pastime Theater.**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Report on Opening of School**

**Dr. Mara reported:**

**&#9643; High School roof completion delayed due to weather and underlayment problems, should be substantially complete by September 1, will not hamper opening**

**&#9643; High school science labs should be complete by second week of school, a plan is in place for temporary setting**

**&#9643; 9th grade picnic went well, set tone for freshmen and parents**

**&#9643; Mt. Hope Principal and he are discussing drop out prevention programs, preparing kids for college, possible ramp-up courses (maybe from IDEA funds); volunteer high school teachers are being recruited for extended day**

**&#9643; A new attendance officer has been hired; truancy court has reduced absences and tardies**

**&#9643; Elementary level is fully staffed**

**&#9643; Reynolds building has new windows**

**&#9643; Hugh Cole asphalt will be laid next week, entryway will be finished for opening**

**&#9643; Maintenance and custodial staff did a great deal of work over the summer and did a phenomenal job getting the buildings in shape, especially the high school**

**&#9643; Teacher orientation is next Monday at 8:00 AM**

**&#9643; First day for students is August 30th**

**&#9643; Mrs. Cerullo is working on the 8th to 9th grade transition**

**&#9643; We are awaiting the Commissioner's announcement to release the rankings**

**Dr. Mara thanked the Committee for their support.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:30 PM**

**In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Estrella motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:52 PM for legal advice regarding Council 94 contract negotiations and public discussion. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:44 PM**

**Discussed in Executive Session were the issues mentioned above.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 9:45 PM**

**There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Estrella, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 9:45 PM. The vote was unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**William M. O'Dell, Secretary**

**/ca**