

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI, on Tuesday, October 10, 2006. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., Thomas E. Skuba, William M. O'Dell, Paul Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella, Paul Silva and Beverly Z. Travers; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: John P. Saviano

OPENING BUSINESS

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

ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2006-52 That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, award the bid for lockers at the existing Hugh Cole School to G.J. Sales for \$13,635.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve, Mr. Skuba seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2006-53: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract for the architect for the Colt Andrews Bond Project.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella motioned to approve, contingent on review by the Solicitor. Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote). The secretary will inform the Committee when the contract has been signed.

PRESENTATION

East Bay Educational Collaborative

Dr. Mara told the Committee the East Bay Educational Collaborative is a leader in the State of Rhode Island, recognized by the Governor and Commissioner as a model; our professional development is the best in any state. Dr. Mara introduced Jerry Kowalczyk, the Executive

Director of this private non-profit organization serving the partnership among the East Bay's eight public school districts for 22 years. Mr. Kowalczyk explained that the Collaborative's efforts are focused on their mission—To nurture world-class instructional practice in all our participating schools; this mission has been untouched since 1989. He highlighted some of the services offered:

- o The Career Academy, operating for eight years now, is an extremely effective alternative high school program and is commended by the Department of Education as an exemplary learning experience, where a culture of high school achievement is created; students are asked to leave their problems that brought them there behind. Bristol Warren currently has 14 students enrolled; the graduation rate is 95% and all the students hold jobs.**

- o Science Kits, developed in 1995, provide support to 23 of the 24 districts in the state.**

- o Onsite Professional Development provides support for teachers inside the classrooms as well as principal leadership.**

- o Lab Classrooms are a model of job-embedded professional development that pairs an instructional coach and a classroom teacher; teachers are supported as learners and students are respected as learners; every second is devoted to learning; they are highly structured and flexible, with verbal and non-verbal communication.**

Revenue streams are generated to offset expenses; for example, graduate courses generate considerable profits and provide local teachers the opportunity to take classes without traveling to RIC. As

a result, we save, for example, \$1100 to \$1800 per student in the alternative program as compared to a competitive program. Dr. Mara proudly Chairs the East Bay Superintendents; it gives us a great opportunity to move forward in professional development and expanding programs. Mrs. McBride thanked Mr. Kowalczyk for his presentation and for his hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:24 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Skuba motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:24 PM for an update on Council 94 Mediation. Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Silva recused himself from Executive Session.

Attorney Henneous left the meeting.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 7:58 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was Council 94 Contract Mediation.

Attorney Henneous left the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ISSUES/UPDATES

Booster Club

Dr. Mara is impressed with the initiative of the Booster Club Board; they have created by-laws; the lawyer is working on the 501 C3; we expect to have fund raising for winter sports go through the club; it is a great organization with good leaders and a great deal of community support.

Educational Foundation

Dr. Mara is working with Tom Hemmendinger of Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister on the paperwork. They are exploring money management through a local bank rather than the RI Foundation. Dr. Mara will be forming a board of directors to consist of six to nine people who do business in Bristol or Warren with experience in managing monies in the direction we would like to go. Meetings are expected to be monthly until the foundation is up and running, then probably four times a year.

DECA Fieldtrip

In keeping with policy, Dr. Mara informed the Committee of the overnight trip to Washington, D.C. by the DECA students.

MT. HOPE HOME BUILDING PROJECT REPORT

Mr. Estrella reported that the program has been offered a 60 year old house as long as it is moved; Ed Guadeloupe has volunteered to do the home inspection along with the students and Barron will do a site

survey with the students so they can lay out the foundation in the next few weeks. The house is a single family home with 800 s.f. of living space and a garage; the house should sell for \$260 - \$270,000. The street has been formally accepted by the Town so the responsibility to move the pole in the middle of the property will probably belong to National Grid.

ROCKWELL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Estrella reported the grass is growing, the fire protection system and the extra pump have been installed, the contractor is preparing the final invoices and one final meeting will be held.

COLT ANDREWS BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McBride reported the architect's contract is being finalized and the RFP is being prepared to go out to bid; the demolition of the Pastime and compacting of the foundation hole is complete and a fence has been erected.

HUGH COLE BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McBride reported that this subcommittee has not yet met, but unofficially things are fine. Dr. Mara said the final paving of the parking lots will be done next Friday, October 20, weather permitting; all parking will be on the street; parents are being asked to use the

busses, a note was sent home to parents.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Communication

Mrs. McBride raised concern about protocol for communication during a crisis. Dr. Mara said our District is a little more advanced than most districts regarding security, with a buzz-in and cameras at the buildings and personalization with the students, especially at Kickemuit and Mt. Hope. The Governor has urged a state-wide effort; Westerly does a psychological profile of suspect students. We will continue making progress and getting to know our students. Mr. O'Dell asked about the designated indoor staging area mentioned in the crisis management manual. Dr. Mara said each school has one, for example, St. Mary's Church. As far as a chain of command, the District organizational chart should be referenced.

School Committee Issues List

Mrs. McBride asked if there were any additions to the list. There were none.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Skuba reported that the next meeting is Tuesday, October 17th, at 5:45; priority agenda item is the 2007 fiscal budget.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Estrella said the next mediation with Council 94 will take place tomorrow; the Subcommittee is frustrated that the contract is not finalized yet, but it is not their fault.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Travers said the next meeting is a week from today at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office, to address the policies on the review list.

PUBLIC FORUM ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:22 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Skuba, seconded by Ms. Travers, motioned to adjourn at 8:22 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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