

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2007**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, November 26, 2007, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Mary Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy K-12, Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Accolades

The Committee gave surprise recognition to a person who served the District for over 28 years as a first grade teacher, principal and school committee member. Mr. Estrella remarked that it has been a pleasure to have Joyce Kinsella in our midst. Mrs. Kinsella was presented with a plaque and a Tiffany apple. Mrs. Kinsella, who was joined by her son Richard and granddaughter Farah, thanked the Committee saying she is a strong believer in education, so much so that she devoted her life to it and she continues to go to school. The Committee congratulated the Mt. Hope Girls Soccer Team for an outstanding season and an exciting win over LaSalle to capture the Division I Championship.

Team members: Heather Morreo, Brittany Terra, Chelsea Rainville, Lauren Patriarca, Emily Donahue, Lauren Maisano, Ariel Teixeira, Tara Turnbull, Emily Cambrola, Mariana McCormack, Katie Stone, Victoria Jamiel, Alison Massed, Mara Newland, Emma MacDougall, Rachel Lee Mascena, Alexandra Jamiel and Hanna MacDougall (Also MVP for the Championship Game), Kerri Ferreira – Assistant Coach, and Caitlyn Sardinha – Assistant Coach.

The Committee also extended a very special congratulations to the team's Coach, Roy Borges, for being named the Interscholastic League Coach of the Year. More important than all the winning is the positive influence Coach Borges has had on the team by modeling

good citizenship and high behavioral standards and displaying a genuine concern for his players.

The 2008 Arson Watch Reward Program Calendar showcases drawings of two of our Kickemuit Middle School students under the direction of Art Teacher Maria Camara. We wish to congratulate Oliver Warrender and Corey Silvia for a job well done.

**Rockwell School is the illustration for this year's District Holiday Greeting Card. Art Teacher, Sarah Jacobs, had several students from the school submit their drawings of Rockwell for consideration. The drawings were all very special but only one could be chosen for the card – we have a gift certificate to Don's Art shop for the artist whose drawing was used on the 2007 Holiday Card-- a fifth grader—
Nicholas Varrichione**

All-State – Fall Sports

Boys' Cross Country – Metropolitan Division

Christopher Azar – 3rd Team and Academic All-State

Andrew Augustus – 3rd Team, All-Class B 3rd Team and State Meet Qualifier

Girls' Cross Country – Metropolitan Division

Meghan McMullen – 3RD Team, All-Class B 3rd Team and State Meet Qualifier

Claire Randall – Academic All-State

Carissa Canario – All-Class B 3rd Team and State Meet Qualifier

Boys' Soccer

Christopher Serpa – 1st Team All-Division I

Joseph Benevides – 1st Team All-Division I

Jason Medeiros – 2nd Team All-Division I

Troy Silvia – 2nd Team All-Division I

Matthew Mello – 2nd Team All-Division I

Wayne Zina – 3rd Team All-Division I

Joshua Ferreira – Academic All-Division I

Girls' Soccer

Hanna MacDougall – 1st Team All-State, MVP Met Life All-Tournament Team

Ariel Teixeira – 1st Team All-State, MVP Met Life All-Tournament Team,

All New England

Tara Turnbull – 2nd Team All-State, MVP Met Life All-Tournament Team

Emily Donahue – 2nd Team All-State, MVP Met Life All-Tournament Team

Chelsea Rainville – All-Division I

Alison Massed – All-Division I

Lauren Patriarca – MVP Met Life All-Tournament Team

Emma MacDougall – Sportsmanship Award

Girls' Volleyball

Kayla Whiting – All-Division II

Girls' Tennis

Rebecca Copeland – 1st Team All-Division IV Singles

Kimberly 'Nikki' Andrade – 2nd Team All-Division IV Singles

Chelsea Verria – 2nd Team All-Division IV Singles

Katie DeGrazia – 2nd Team All-Division IV Singles

Football All-State will be recognized at the January 28 Meeting

Byfield School Presentation by Byfield Principal

Dr. Stewart Armstrong welcomed the Committee to the Byfield building, which was built in 1872, before telephones. Enrolled are 214 K-5 students and the staff is tremendously caring and dedicated; there is truly a family atmosphere here. There are also many highly involved parents. All these, along with the many programs such as Student of the Month, Positive Phone Calls, Helping Hands, Lunch with the Principal, are the key to the school's success. The students engage in community service and the daily pledge is done outdoors; there are mandatory summer reading packages, enrichment programs, an after school math ramp-up program, and students are expected to be cooperative and well-behaved. Mr. Saviano remarked that he is impressed with the sense of community in this school and

thanked the Principal and his staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mr. Estrella took the next item out of agenda order in consideration of the special presenters.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2007-42: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the FY 2007 Audit Report.

Mr. Estrella stated there were no issues once again, we have a balanced budget, as well as a fund balance, by policy, of 2% for cash flow and 2% for emergency; we have maintained a solid financial backbone.

Mr. James Wilkinson, partner in Braver, PC, confirmed there were no deficiencies, no violations, and no unsound accounting estimates. For the future, there is a new pronouncement that in FY 2009 Districts may be responsible for some retired teacher health insurance. Mrs. Correia said we have already contracted with Angell Pension in this regard. Considering the commitment of the District to pre-regionalization retirement benefits, Mr. Estrella asked if this will give us any more exposure. Mr. Wilkinson said it would not, the cycle

goes up and down. Mrs. McBride recalls Mrs. Correia asking the State if we could pay ahead and we have been refused. Mr. Saviano asked if the State will be requiring an additional retirement supplement next year; Mrs. Correia responded it is unsure at this time.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to accept the FY 2007 Audit Report. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. McBride said she and Mr. Brule were not present for the Executive Session on November 13 and she would like to remove asked to remove item A. 1. Section D from tfrom the Personnel Recommendations.

Mr. O'Dell removed item III. 2. A. (October 17 meeting minutes) from the consent vote for a correction the Executive Session minutes.

MOTION: Mrs. Silva McBride motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Mr. Brule Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

October 1November 26, 2007 Special Meeting/Public Hearing
Executive Session Minutes: Mr. O'Dell asked that Budget Facilities Recommendation #2007-09 be corrected to read "received and filed"

rather than approved. asked for a correction—the motion was to adjourn, not to recess. The clerk will make the correction.

MOTION: Mr. Silva O'Dell motioned to approve the October 1 November 26, 2007 Meeting Executive Session Minutes as amended; Mrs. O'Dell McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to seal the minutes of the October 22 and November 13 26 Executive Sessions; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Recommendation #BF2007-10: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Budget Facilities Subcommittee, move \$500,000 from the Medicaid Reimbursement Account to Capital Projects.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Brule, motioned to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Estrella asked the public to note that budget planning meetings will be scheduled in January and February and to stay informed.

Mr. O'Dell asked that Committee concerns be forwarded to him for the January agenda preparation.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride thanked Mrs. Campbell for chairing the meetings while she was indisposed. Mrs. Campbell reported the Superintendent's goals have been reviewed and revised and will be brought before the full Committee at the next meeting for acceptance. Recommendation #PCA 2007-17: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy/ Community Affairs Subcommittee, accept the Superintendent's Continuous Improvement Plan of Action for 2007-2008.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to accept; Mrs. Campbell and Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mrs. McBride thanked Mrs. Campbell for stepping in and handling this task while she was indisposed. Mrs. Campbell thanked Dr. Mara for putting this forth; the effort was made to match the Superintendent's plans with School Committee goals, as well as the District Strategic Plan, resulting in all working toward the same goals. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mrs. McBride informed the public that outside of Stop & Shop is a Kiducation box; a portion of the revenue from the sale of donated clothing is sent to the District; checks are received quarterly.

Mr. Estrella mentioned that clothing left behind in lockers is piled in the schools and parents can retrieve missing items; perhaps the left over clothing can be donated to Kiducation.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva had nothing new to report.said the Committee has discussed areas of concern, he has spoken with the District's Attorney, and issues remain to be addressed before the next meeting is scheduled.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride has spoken with Mr. Daly and Mrs. Williamson and everything is moving along; the steel for the addition is to be delivered on December 18 at 6:00 PM; the project is on time and on budget. Mr. Estrella asked that the poles in front of Andrews be removed before the steel arrives; the Bond Project Committee will meet on December 18 at 6:00 PM. The Colt Andrews Subcommittee wishes to meet one more time before the end of the year. Hugh Cole will be the focus of the next Bond Project meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2007-41: Personnel

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Secondary Dean of Students/Activities Coordinator, School-Based Physical Therapist and Secretary as listed below:

- 1. Russell D. Noble Dean of Students/Activities Coordinator –
Mt. Hope High**

Effective: December 17, 2007, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy (Retirement – N. Vorro)

Funding: Operational Budget

- 2. Elizabeth Simeone School-Based Physical Therapist**

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Operational Budget

- 3. Sandy Farias-Borges Secretary, Executive Director**

Effective: January 2, 2008, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy (Transfer – J. Tanguay)

Funding: Operational Budget

B. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2007-08 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER

- 1. Supervisor (Winter) Greg Arruda**
- 2. Supervisor (Winter) Thomas DelSanto**
- 3. Supervisor (Winter) Gerard Spence**
- 4. Supervisor (Spring) Greg Arruda**
- 5. Supervisor (Spring) Thomas DelSanto**
- 6. Supervisor (Spring) Gerard Spence**

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. Cheryl M. Ferreira General Subject Matter**
- 2. Rachel Maher General Subject Matter**
- 3. Michael Ziobro General Subject Matter**

Recommendation #S 2007-43: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, go out to bid for the Technology Department move to Kickemuit.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to table; Mr. Brule seconded. After discussion about concerns over excessive delays, Mrs. McBride withdrew her motion to table.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve, contingent upon review of specs and sign off by Mr. Brule and Mr. O'Dell. Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The clerk will inform the Committee as soon as the specs arrive.

Recommendation #S 2007-44: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of four families who currently home school their children (3 Bristol and 1 Warren), to continue to home school their children, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District, for the 2007-2008 school year (see 07-08 Home Instruction Roster at end of Assistant Super Report)

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Job Applicants and the School Committee

Dr. Mara reiterated that per School Committee policy no potential candidate may contact any or all members of the School Committee regarding their candidacy for the position or they will be disqualified; this is adequately explained to candidates. Mr. Estrella reinforced the message; if contacted, the School Committee member would have to turn the person in or recuse themselves.

Update on Status of Colt Andrews Elementary Plan

Dr. Mara met this past Friday with the administrators and two teacher representatives from each of the elementary schools in the District to roll out the plan. After two hours of discussion and minor adjusting, feedback was very positive and all seemed comfortable. The Policy Subcommittee will receive the same information on Thursday and the large group, consisting of administrators, teachers and parents, will meet on January 7; the full Committee and public will be presented the plan at the January 14 Workshop. Mr. Silva asked if this will be an expansion of an existing program or a new program and is it open to modification at each level. Dr. Mara responded it is an expansion and the review process is to move it forward with suggestions for improvements. The plan was devised by all administrators with consideration for parent concerns.

Mr.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

In response to Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Thies explained that for the first year of implementation of the 2007 edition of the Everyday Math program, professional development was offered over the summer for all elementary teachers with a facilitator from the publisher. They met with all kindergarten teachers to review the program with them and will meet periodically at grade level to address issues and concerns and alignment with the grade reporting system. The next meeting is November 7 with the ten math lead teachers who represent all schools. Rather than lesson plans, the focus is on assessment and utilizing the assessments and alignment to report out.

Report of the Executive Director of Literacy

Mrs. Campbell congratulated Mrs. Cerullo on the significant reduction in students performing below grade level. Mrs. Cerullo explained the GLEs directly impact NECAP; embedded in expectations are local assessment items. She and Mrs. Morris of Technology scrutinized the students' performance in order to be pro-active rather than re-active and assure upward movement. PLPs are difficult for classroom teachers so they took all NECAP and Gates information and provided teachers with spreadsheets showing students eligible for PLPs. Teachers use diagnostic assessments to assess a child's need for a PLP; these are the underpinnings of NECAP assessments. More dramatic improvements will be revealed in the spring. The SIPPS program did not contain a parent component but the District is creating one.

Dr. Mara remarked that Bristol Warren's assessment program is used as a model at Providence College.

Mrs. McBride motioned to accept the reports of the Assistant Superintendent, Executive Director of Literacy, and Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mrs. McBride announced that the Bristol Rotary purchased thesauruses for all Bristol Warren fifth grade students; there will be a presentation at Guiteras on Wednesday. Mr. Estrella asked that a thank you note from the Committee be sent.

Mrs. Campbell informed everyone that Craig's List has a section for teachers to input items they would like for their classrooms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:098:04 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. SavianoMcBride motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:048:09 PM for legal advice and for discussion of NEA personnel recommendation A.1.s Mrs. O'DellMcBride seconded. Mr. Estrella recused himself from NEA discussion; and since nothing in the session will require announced that action in open session will be taken after this discussion then Executive Session will be

reconvened. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:168:26 PM

The Committee received legal advice from the Solicitor and discussed NEAPersonnel Recommendation #S2007-41, A.1. Mt. Hope High School Dean of Students.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve A.1. of Superintendent's Recommendation #S2007-41. Mr. Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:298:04 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. SavianoMcBride motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:048:29 PM for legal advice and for discussion of BWEA contract negotiations. Mr. Estrella, who is legally disabled from this negotiation, recused himself from this discussion. No vote will be taken when open session resumes. Mrs. McBride will Chair the remainder of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Estrella wished everyone happy holidays.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:168:35 PM

The Committee received legal advice from the Solicitor and discussed NEABWEA contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:178:36 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. O’Dell, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 9:178:36 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

/c