

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, March 19, 2007, in the Oliver Administration Building, 151 State Street, Bristol, RI. William A. Estrella, Jr, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, and Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Absent: none

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL SETTING

At a previous meeting the School Committee identified five goals; three of the goals were fleshed out with strategies, actions, timing, outcome measures and responsible entity. Goal #3: "Enhance communication with parents and the community, including Town Government"; and Goal #4: "Maintain excellence in fiscal responsibility and accountability" were worked up at this meeting. The results are noted on the attached chart.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Committee discussed the tabulated results of the Self-Assessment Questionnaire which included input from the former Committee, Dr. Mara and new member Diana Campbell. Mr. Dugan declined input as he felt he was much too new to the Committee to be able to comment fairly and accurately.

Comments/Suggestions:

„X Not a great report card.

„X Not a snapshot of where the Committee is now.

„X Every time you change a member or two, the dynamics of the board change.

„X Considering that 90% of votes are unanimous, the Committee must be in agreement most of the time.

„X Because so many votes are unanimous, people think deals are cooked up ahead of time.

„X The Committee is not communicating properly with the public.

„X All meetings are open and the public is invited, but rarely do they come.

„X Most discussions are held at subcommittee meetings.

„X Perhaps discussions should take place at workshops.

„X The people of Warren feel they are over-taxed.

„X School Committee goals should be mapped back to the assessment.

„X The bulk of decisions are on recommendations of staff.

„X We will not have a high performing District and staff unless we

demand it.

„X Perhaps the questionnaire should be completed by each member as an assessment of themselves rather than as a group, the results would be very different.

„X Despite the shortcomings, the Committee gets the job done.

„X This Committee can be proud of their accomplishments.

„X The Committee needs to look at what they do right, what they do wrong, and what needs to be done, and take time to reflect; it is healthy to discuss and reflect.

„X The assessment can be eliminated but not the discussion.

„X Successes must be acknowledged.

„X Committee members get to know each other through discussion; it is not necessary to always agree, but it is necessary to discuss.

„X A little bit of disrespect exists.

Mr. Estrella asked Mrs. Campbell to create a task force to look at the functioning of the group and perhaps design a tool for self-evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Dugan, seconded by Mr. Brule, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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