

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

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, March 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, and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; 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; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Joyce M. Kinsella

Before the opening business, Mr. Estrella wished to explain the mechanics of School Committee meetings, workshops, postings,

agendas and how the public can address the Committee; he also explained public comment and public forum.

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Accolades

We would like to congratulate the Mt. Hope High School Girls' Gymnastics Team, coached by Melissa Gendreau, for claiming the Division II B Championship. This championship season follows the 2006 season where the team was selected as the Sportsmanship Team winner by the Gymnastics coaches association. Five girls also made All-Division. The last time the gymnastics won a championship was 2002. Team members are:

KARA BLAKE KAITLAN McQUEENEY

TIFFANY CABRAL JASMINE MILLER

KAYLA DALLAIRE – also All-Division KAELA OLIVEIRA – also All-Division

LAURA FELIX – also All-Division HATTIE PACHECO

CHELSEA FRANCIS CHELSEA PANZARELLA

MEGHAN HAGGERTY CHELSEA PATTERSON

ALI LOMBARDO ASHLEY RAMSAY

MELANIE LUMINELLO SAMANTHA RAMSDEN

KYLE MacGOVERN – also All-Division DESIRE SILVIA

HEATHER MARSHALL SAMANTHA SOARES – also All-Division

KATHERINE MARSHALL

**We would also like to recognize the Girls' Gymnastics Team Coach, who was chosen Gymnastics Coach of the Year by the Rhode Island High School Gymnastics Coaches Association. Congratulations to:
MELISSA GENDREAU**

Every year the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame sponsors the "Golden Dozen" and selects twelve high school senior football players to recognize for their athletic ability as well as their academic accomplishments. We are proud to say that one of our Mt. Hope High School seniors was chosen as an Honorable Mention for the Golden Dozen. He will be honored at a dinner on May 7th at the West Valley Inn.

Congratulations to: AUGUSTO FARIA

Several Mt. Hope students participated in the Berklee Jazz Festival recently. The groups, under the direction of Robert Arsenault and Vicki Boyle, competed against some of the finest Jazz Bands and Choirs from California, New York, New Jersey, and the New England states. The Mt. Hope High School Jazz Combo earned 4th place "Honorable Mention" in the Combo SB division.

Congratulations to the Jazz Combo:

TIM BOUGHTON

SAM CARREIRO

CAROLYN HALABURDA -- Carolyn also received the Judge's Choice Award for Jazz Combo

MATT PERREAULT -- Matt also received the Judge's Choice Award for Jazz Band

We also congratulate The Judge's Choice Award Winner for Jive: TERRY WRIGHT.

On Tuesday, March 13th, the Kickemuit Middle School Science Department, headed by Bob Stringer, held the final runoffs in its "Race For Science" (RFC). The RFC is a culminating project for 8th graders in conjunction with their course of study "Energy, Machines, and Motion". The students were given parts to make either a fan powered car or a mousetrap powered car. They had approximately 4 weeks for the project. This project was graded and in addition, students were required to produce a written piece explaining what they did and any problems they encountered. Nearly 30 students entered the race. While all participating students were winners in their own right, the highest placing students were:

ART AWARDS

Best Use of Color – DIANA CAMARA

Originality – JAMI WARNER

Craftsmanship – ZACH DeFREITAS -- Zach also took 2nd place for Fan Car Greatest Acceleration

Most Attractive Design – COURTNEY FERREIRA

MOUSETRAP CAR -- GREATEST DISTANCE

1ST Place – KATIE FLOOR

2ND Place – BRITTANY GAMON

3RD Place – MIKE RICHARDS

MOUSETRAP CAR -- FASTEST

1ST Place – ANDREIA MADEIRA

2ND Place – KERI ZIMMERMAN

3RD Place – SHANNON PIERCE

FAN CAR -- GREATEST ACCELERATION

1ST Place – GUY CASTIGLIEGO

2ND Place – ZACH DeFREITAS – mentioned previously

3RD Place – NICOLE PROULX

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Collaluca, a 4th grade teacher at Hugh Cole, spoke to the Committee about Mr. Bertolino. Having taught in Warren for 39 years, she has seen and been part of many changes in the town. Although change is good and helps people to grow and the system to become better, she became concerned upon learning that Mr. Bertolino was not going to be one of our administrators any longer. Hugh Cole has numerous issues and many emotionally needy students and there is

a need for two administrators to be visible, communicate with parents regarding behavior issues, for recess, for bus issues, to assure that policy is followed, to gather materials to meet GLE's and to organize activities. Mr. Bertolino has demonstrated an ability to run the school and a caring for students. As a teacher, Mrs. Collaluca feels an administrator is necessary to develop a community of learners in their high performing school and to make sure no child gets left behind. She presented a letter of support with a list of signatures.

Jerry Landay, of Wendy Drive in Bristol, talked about the decision-making process of the Committee. He thanked them for their service to the District, the children and the Towns. Although he has no children in the District, he is a tax payer; he feels his say on how his tax dollars are spent is being diminished. He feels that the Committee's plans to dismiss Stewart Armstrong are unreasoned and almost brutal. Stewart did not ask him to speak. This move would unseat a most caring administrator at the age of 60 and such a move is cruel and unusual punishment and capricious; isn't producing a high performing school more an accolade than a punishment? Mr. Landay made a comparison of the number of administrative staff at Byfield and at Oliver. He asked if the District has done all it can to find savings in other areas before choosing to lose Stew, or is he convenient and easy? Also, have legislative leaders done all they can to reduce mandates, have we told Legislator Paiva-Weed about the hardship she is imposing on this District with the 5.25% cap, and has the Committee seen the many duties a school principal must do

daily? He asked the Committee to reconsider this decision.

Mr. Estrella told the public that they may also submit comments in writing and they will be made part of the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Estrella asked to remove item E.1. from Superintendent's Recommendation #S2007-07—Personnel.

Mr. Silva motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Mr. Brule motioned to seal the minutes to the February 28 and March 12, 2007 Executive Sessions. Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2007-07: Personnel, Item E.1.: Retirement of Margaret Vendituoli-Ferreira, Principal of Mt. Hope High School. Dr. Mara commented that the importance of having principals and administrators in our buildings is demonstrated by the service Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira has given for 34 years. The NEASC document shows the impact that she has made on the high school in her four years as principal. She has given her life to the schools of Bristol and Warren with graciousness and heartache at time; she is

absolutely the student's principal. Dr. Mara thanked Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira with deep sadness. Mr. Estrella said this certainly is a loss for the District, but after 30 years, retirement is deserved and he gave Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira a vote of thanks and gratitude. Mrs. McBride commented that it is a sad day when we lose probably the most valuable person in the District and we owe Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira more than we possibly can say; Mrs. McBride is will be voting no because she feels there are better ways to keep her here. Mr. Silva stated that Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira has done wonderful things for the children of this community and for the high school; he would like her to wait around for his youngest child to graduate and he thanked her from the bottom of his heart. Mr. Dugan said that within the brief time that he has known Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira he was extremely impressed; it is sad to lose someone of that caliber; he said it would be nice if we could talk her out of retiring. Mr. Saviano said this is a great loss for both communities; the work Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira has done in the Language Department and at the entire high school is immeasurable; she is caring and tremendously professional and will be greatly missed.

The motion to accept, with regret and gratitude, passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Mrs. McBride voting no.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell reported everything is on hold until the Joint Finance Committee delivers the bottom line budget number. The next Subcommittee meeting will be April 16th to discuss action on cuts. He urged the public to attend the Joint Finance meeting on March 29th at 7:00 PM in the Hugh Cole Cafeteria for this extremely vital vote. Mr. Estrella reiterated the importance of support, encouragement and responsiveness to keep the level of funding the District is requesting. Final budget recommendations must be made and accepted by June 30; all the work will be done in the Subcommittee meetings which are open and amenable to public input.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride reported that she and Mr. Dugan met with high school staff to work on the Regents diploma; a draft will be included in this week's packet. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 2 at 5:30 PM. (Note: This date was later relinquished so the Bond Project Building Committee could meet; this committee will meet next on May 7th.)

Recommendation #PCA 2007-05: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee,

**approve the revised School Committee Policy AC Nondiscrimination
(Second Reading)**

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #PCA 2007-06: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the change to School Committee Policy Exhibit GCB-E Professional Relationship Between BWRSC & BWRSD

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. Mr. Silva commented that if a date were not indicated, we would not be in the position we are in with the administrators. Mrs. McBride motioned to amend to remove "prior to March 1 of the year preceding the new contract year" in section 2.2.1. Mr. Brule seconded. The Committee was split on removing the date altogether or just changing the date. Attorney Henneous will review the possibilities to address all concerns. Mrs. McBride withdrew her motion to amend. Mr. Saviano, seconded by Mr. Dugan, motioned to table. The motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva had nothing to report at this time.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Report of Vote Taken: At the March 12 Meeting the Committee voted unanimously in executive session to accept the Magistrate's Report and Recommendation in Case #04-521ML per the Solicitor's advice. Further specificity is not allowed because it involves a student.

ACTION ITEM: Discussion and reconsideration of prior decision to non-renew elementary school principals at Byfield and Mary V. Quirk (Hugh Cole)

The principals involved opted for discussion in Executive Session.

School Committee Issues List

Mr. Estrella distributed the Superintendent's Evaluation Form which is due back ten (10) days before the April Business Meeting. Please return them to the secretary; Mr. Silva will compile.

Mr. Silva requested that the Committee revive the past practice of each member adopting a school.

Future Workshop Agenda Items

Mr. Estrella announced that the April Workshop will be held at Mt. Hope. Agenda items will include: Administration organizational chart; an article that appeared in the local papers about how Mt. Hope must give respect to get respect; and Mr. O'Dell concerns about the

amount of class time that is spent on non-educational activities, or not in class at all.

ACTION ITEM: Acceptance of letter of resignation.

Mr. Estrella said Mrs. Kinsella has decided to resign from the School Committee. Mr. Saviano motioned to accept with regret and gratitude; Mr. Silva seconded. Mrs. McBride expressed great regret; the Committee will miss her advice and wisdom. Mr. Saviano stated this is a great loss that saddens him; Mrs. Kinsella truly did offer assistance with her great knowledge of the system; she was a great help to him personally. Mr. Dugan said Mrs. Kinsella has been a model for him, an advocate of education and was always thinking of the children; he regrets her resignation. Mrs. Campbell feels Mrs. Kinsella brought a perspective to the Committee as a teacher and administrator that will be missed. The motion to accept passed unanimously. Applause.

As a result, Mr. Estrella appointed Mrs. McBride to the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee.

Mrs. Correia reported that the Wellness Committee is reconvening and will meet on April 9th prior to the School Committee Workshop.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride said the project has passed technical review; meetings with the Historic District Commission and the Planning Board are this

month; Zoning is next month. Budget is near finalization and then RFP's will go out. The RI HDC has affirmed all decisions and requests of the architect. Documents and pictures are online and meetings are open to the public.

HUGH COLE PROJECT

A meeting to authorize the latest invoice for Lusi Construction on the Hugh Cole Project will be Monday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM at Oliver.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2007-07: Personnel

A. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Cassondra Monfette Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-

employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Allison L. Richards Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the

2006-07 school year, pending

**satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

B. 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. Theodore R. Catanzarite General Subject Matter**
- 2. Alicia Cirillo General Subject Matter**
- 3. Karen Nencka Elementary/Physical Education**
- 4. Gary T. O'Shea General Subject Matter**

C. CLASSIFIED 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 classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CUSTODIANS/MAINTENANCE

- 1. Jose M. Fernandes**
- 2. Joseph Medeiros**
- 3. Luis T. Silva**

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

- 1. Jennifer Cupolo English Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

Effective: March 1, 2007 through the end of the 2006-07 school year

Reason: Parental leave in accordance with Article 21, Section L2 of the Master Agreement

E. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations listed below:

1. Margaret Vendituoli-Ferreira Principal – Mt. Hope High

Effective: June 30, 2007

Reason: Retirement

2. Melissa J. Silvia Special Educator – Mt. Hope High

Effective: March 12, 2007

Reason: Resignation

3. Manuel S. Hilario Custodian – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: July 26, 2007

Reason: Retirement

4. Carolyn R. Cichon Elementary Music Teacher

Effective: September 28, 2005

Reason: Medical Disability Retirement

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:16 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:16 PM for discussion of two legal issues and Action Item: Discussion and reconsideration of prior decision to non-renew elementary school principals at Byfield and Mary V. Quirk (Hugh Cole). Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Estrella announced that an action will be taken when the regular session is resumed.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:00 PM

Discussed in Executive Session were two legal issues and discussion of the non-renewal of the Byfield and Mary V. Quirk (Hugh Cole) Principals.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to ratify the vote taken at the last meeting to non-renew the contracts of the Byfield and Mary V. Quirk (Hugh Cole). Mr. Saviano seconded. Mr. O'Dell commented that although these are very important positions, due to the budget process, timing is such that he must vote in favor because of the way the process is playing out.

Karen Bender, whose son attends Byfield School, addressed the Committee about Dr. Armstrong, saying she is impressed with his level of caring; she strongly disagrees with this decision and feels it would be better for legislators to work on changing mandates that require the district to spend over \$1M on transportation.

Nina Murphy, a Reynolds parent, said that of all the schools, the Byfield community is most needy of Dr. Armstrong's incredible leadership; many of the students come from splintered homes; she strongly urged the Committee to find the money to retain Dr. Armstrong's position.

On a show of hands, the motion to ratify passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:05 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mr. Dugan, motioned to adjourn at 9:05 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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