

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 14, 2007, in the Oliver Administration Building, 151 State Street, Bristol, RI. William A. Estrella, Jr, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:32 PM.

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

Absent: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:35 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:35 PM for legal advice on personnel issues. Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 7:49 PM

Discussed in Executive Session were personnel issues.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Estrella explained that the Committee is still working on a balanced budget.

Recommendation #BF2007-04: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, retain the position of Principal at Byfield School for one (1) more year.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. This position is provided for in the proposed budget. On a show of hands, the motion passed 9 to 0.

Recommendation #BF2007-05: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, adjust the administrative structure of the Hugh Cole School to include one (1) Principal and one (1) Assistant Principal.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. Mr. Brule does not support this recommendation because nearby schools of the same size and larger, function with just one principal, and this year's budget is extremely tight; however, he would agree to a lead person

to help. Mr. Saviano would prefer something like a reading coach. Mr. Estrella felt that Hugh Cole was still in transition and that Dr. Mara's reasoning for the recommendation made sense.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to amend the recommendation to add "for one (1) year." Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Comments:

Fran Nunes asked the Committee to make the choice that is appropriate for the children of Hugh Cole; Mr. Bertolino is historically a kids' person, deals with discipline appropriately, and has hands on knowledge of what those children need; she asked that the Hugh Cole children not be shortchanged for a miniscule amount of money; Hugh Cole students are as good as Byfield students.

Margaret Lopes said that Sam Bertolino is someone she and her children trust and is part of their lives; at a planning meeting she was told there were going to be two separate entities—she asked the Committee not to go back on their word; she will fight for his job.

Mr. Estrella reminded the public that discussion cannot be had about job performance.

Judy Collaluca, a fourth grade teacher at Hugh Cole, said the move has been very traumatic for them all and some children are still having problems adjusting; the Principal was a leader who helped them settle in and made it easier for the children; two administrators are needed in the building for consistency and follow-through and because of the many issues the children have.

Lori Nunes, an advocate for safety in the community and a Hugh Cole parent, is saddened that dollars are placed in front of safety; we should be looking to beef up administration rather than cut; she feels one person cannot handle all these unreal expectations; if this community is broken up, the children will be hurt; when she suffered a personal tragedy, this administrator provided supports for her children.

Mr. Brule stated this has nothing to do with the person, and the amount in question is more than \$8,000; they have been told by many people that we have too many administrators; budget cuts have to come someplace and decisions have to be made that are not popular.

Terri Moreira, a tax payer, agreed that the public wants to cut administration, but they don't mean principals and those who work directly with the children, they mean administrators at Oliver.

A parent asked if the other schools referred to by Mr. Brule have the same socio-economic make-up as Hugh Cole.

Fran Nunes stated the Committee's job is to stay within the budget, but their primary thrust should be the welfare of all the children in this district.

Margaret Lopes said one school department should not be compared to another; things are working well and should be left alone; parents build relationships with principals, not school committees.

Mr. Saviano explained that one of the benefits of regionalization was economy of scale; we can offer classes such as AP courses that could not be supported by either town separately and positions could

be eliminated; many people have commented that two principals are not necessary in one building; this is a money situation; warnings have been received that State funding will be much less than expected.

Mr. O'Dell explained he will vote the way he said he would previously; two principals does not make sense but one principal and one assistant does.

Mr. Silva said many people never express their opinions and it is the Committee's job to make a choice on the Superintendent's recommendation; he assumes the Superintendent makes educationally sound recommendations and the Budget Subcommittee would not make a recommendation that is fiscally unsound, therefore he will support this recommendation.

Mr. Dugan took exception to the argument that the Committee does not care about the children—children is the reason for them being on the Committee; he is opposed to this recommendation because the size of the school does not require more than one principal, an intern could fulfill some of those functions; if it is determined that this arrangement is not working, it can be added to; the financial situation in Rhode Island is as bad as it has ever been and we are praying for 1.5% from the State.

On a show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 6 to 3 with Mr. Dugan, Mr. Brule and Mr. Saviano opposed.

Mr. Estrella appreciated the involvement of the parents and community and asked that they continue.

Most of the public present left the meeting at 8:38 PM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

S2007-14 PERSONNEL

A. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Stephanie D. Beitler 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:

Name Area/Level

- 1. Kathleen E. Hoague Elementary**
- 2. Christopher Lambert Music**
- 3. Kristen M. Ramos General Subject Matter**

C. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote(s) of February 12, 2007 as to the following listed teachers and appoint the listed teachers to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

- 1. Jessica Achadinha Secondary Mathematics**
- 2. Deborah Allen Elementary Speech/Language Pathologist**
- 3. Michael Almeida Secondary Business**
- 4. Diana Baxter Middle School Art**
- 5. Laura Berard Elementary English as a Second Language/Kindergarten**
- 6. Gregg Burke Secondary Social Studies**
- 7. Paul Castigliego Middle School Health/Physical Education**

- 8. Elizabeth Chagnon Middle School English/Humanities**
- 9. Augusta Costa Middle School Foreign Language**
- 10. Patrick Dexheimer Elementary School Psychologist**
- 11. Steven Eaton Secondary Industrial Technology**
- 12. Karen Ferreira Secondary Alternative Program (Mt. Hope Plus)**
- 13. Patricia Fillipino Middle School Science**
- 14. Norman Fortin Secondary Social Worker**
- 15. Rebecca Gordon Secondary Business/Social Studies**
- 16. Hilary Grieve-McDermott Secondary Special Educator**
- 17. Sarah Jacobs Elementary Art**
- 18. Lois Kemp Secondary Reading Specialist/Consultant**
- 19. Peter Kinder Elementary Social Worker**
- 20. Joseph Kutcher Secondary Science**
- 21. Melanie Lane Elementary Social Worker**
- 22. Michael Lerner Secondary Science**
- 23. Anna Liechty Secondary Mathematics**
- 24. Rebecca MacDougall Elementary**
- 25. Christopher Mahon Secondary English**
- 26. Kerry Mastriano Secondary English**
- 27. Kimberly McCormack Elementary School Nurse**
- 28. Rebecca Moore Secondary English**
- 29. Jessica Mulvena Secondary Alternative Program (Mt. Hope Plus)**
- 30. Christopher Munzert Secondary Science**
- 31. Diane Nappi Secondary Special Educator**
- 32. Frank Patalano Middle School Social Studies**
- 33. Scott Pellerin Secondary Mathematics**

- 34. Larissa Perkins Secondary Mathematics**
- 35. Jennifer Saarinen Middle School Mathematics/Science**
- 36. Caitlyn Sardinha Secondary Health/Physical Education**
- 37. Jason Seals Secondary English**
- 38. Noreen Skrzypiec Occupational Therapist**
- 39. Nat Squatrito Secondary Mathematics**
- 40. Peter Sullivan Secondary Health/Physical Education**
- 41. Bryan Travers Secondary Special Educator**
- 42. Spencer White Middle School Social Studies**
- 43. Rebecca Wingstrom Secondary English as a Second Language**
- 44. Susan Winterbottom Elementary Music**

D. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary English as a Second Language/ Kindergarten Teacher as follows:

- 1. Laura Berard English as a Second Language/Kindergarten Teacher - Byfield**
Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave through June 1, 2007
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. Clare E. White Literacy Coach

Effective: End of 2006-07 School Year

Reason: Retirement

2. Marisa A. Faleri English Teacher – Mt. Hope High

Effective: End of 2006-07 School Year

Reason: Personal

3. Anne F. Simmons Health/Physical Ed. Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: June 14, 2007

Reason: Retirement

4. Ann Marie Vaillancourt Head Teacher – Reynolds

Effective: End of 2006-07 School Year

Reason: Personal

5. Carolyn G. Gammell Student Assistance Counselor

Effective: June 14, 2007

Reason: Personal

Seventy-five lay off letters were sent, this recommendation recalls 44 (which changed from the last discussion because of a retirement). Dr. Mara stated that despite the uncertainty of the Governor’s budget, these recalls are safe.

Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2007-13: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2007-2008 Student School Calendar.

Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. Dr. Mara pointed out that next year will be the first time ever that graduation will take place after 180 days of school—this is a new Board of Regents mandate that seniors attend school for 180 days, this is not a decision of the Superintendent or the School Committee. Mr. Estrella asked parents to plan vacations outside of school time. This calendar must be approved by RIDE before it is official. Mrs. McBride was concerned that two days leeway from end of school to graduation was insufficient; she asked that the calendar read “tentative graduation dates.” On a show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

**POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation #PCA2007-07: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy IKF Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve. Mrs. Campbell and Mr. O'Dell seconded. The high school developed this policy to conform to State requirements. Substantively it is correct, but requires some very minor adjustments for the second reading. Mr. Silva asked about the absence of notations about home schooling and social probation; the Subcommittee will address this. Dr. Mara explained that high school administration met with the seniors as did he about what is expected of them during these last few weeks of school. Any questions or concerns should be referred to Dr. Mara immediately. Mr. Estrella urged parents of seniors to confirm with their students that they are going to graduate. On a show of hands, the motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting is June 4th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 9:01 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. O'Dell motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:01 PM to discuss the Superintendent's job performance, salary and contract. Mr. Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:51 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was the Superintendent's evaluation.

Although policy requires the Chair to make a recommendation on the Superintendent's salary and contract, Mr. Estrella, in agreement with the Superintendent, will not make that recommendation until the final budget is set.

PROGRESS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

Without objection, Mr. Estrella continued this discussion to tomorrow night's meeting.

RECESS

At 9:55 Mr. O'Dell, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to recess the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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