

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI, on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan and John P. Saviano; and 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; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, District Solicitor

Absent: Paul Silva

ACCOLADES

Each year the Bristol County Water Authority holds a Water Conservation Poster and Essay Contest. This year we had three essay and nine poster contest winners! Congratulations to:

Essay winners: Jilian Mestre -- Mt. Hope High School

Jennifer Metthe -- Mt. Hope High School

Meghan McMullen -- Mt. Hope High School

Poster winners: Emily Cupolo -- Guiteras School

Gabriel Cruz -- Guiteras School

Macy Mello -- Guiteras School

Brianna Gendreau -- Hugh Cole School

Jon Cloutier -- Hugh Cole School

Sabrina DaSilva -- Hugh Cole School

Hannah Kiley -- Hugh Cole School

Olivia Phillips -- Hugh Cole School

Ava Grace Mascena -- Kickemuit Middle School

The Rhode Island College Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, in conjunction with the 2007 Celebration of Day of Portugal and Portuguese Heritage in Rhode Island, Inc., recently held their 2007 Art Contest. We are proud to say that three Mt. Hope High School students won awards.

Congratulations to: Matthew Laires

Jessica Delemos

Natasha Araujo

Mr. Saviano, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Bristol County Water Authority, said that only one student from Kickemuit Middle School participated in this year's contest so those prizes were sent to Barrington; he hopes more students will participate next year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ISSUES AND UPDATES

Moving the Technology Department

The District is exploring the possibility of decommissioning Main Street School; Technology could possibly be moved into the area that is now the maintenance shop at Kickemuit and the maintenance shop could be moved into the storage facility at Kickemuit. If after collecting all the preliminary information and figures the move seems viable, an architectural design will be ordered. Mr. Paul Morris, Director of Technology, has met with some of his vendors; the move will require a great deal of prep work, electrical upgrades, and the installation of air conditioning and heat before the final cutover. Voice Systems estimates \$10,000 to run new lines and reconfigure lines; the network system is a "hub and spoke" setup and will cost \$4 - \$5,000; the Kickemuit hub will have to be moved. Total cost is estimated at \$20,000 not including the Uninterrupted Power Source. Also needed will be a device between the generator and equipment. Mr. Estrella and Mr. Brule concurred that the Kickemuit generator was designed and engineered only for emergencies for Kickemuit and is

not adequate for the network system; an independent generator and power surge system will be necessary as well as a separate pole drop from the street. Mr. Morris said the cost of new generator will be significant. Vendors ask for a minimum of 90 days notice. Dr. Mara reported that small amounts of cosmetic work will have to be done and there are some issues with the flooring and drains; more information and a solid plan will be ready by the end of the summer. Mr. Estrella asked, without objection, that the numbers be run as well as a timeline through Mr. O'Dell, Chair of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, then report back to the full Committee after the summer.

Electronic School Board

Dr. Mara learned about this communication system at an AASA Conference and had disseminated the information to the Committee; this system streamlines School Committee meetings, note taking, and posting of information for public awareness. Attorney Henneous will review the system for conformity to open meetings law and Dr. Mara will arrange a demonstration, preferably just before a scheduled meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Phase II of the Elementary Facilities Plan

The momentum needs to continue and a number of buildings remain to be addressed. Mr. Estrella asked Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Campbell and

Mr. Dugan to start to form a task force, bringing in whoever they need from the Committee and from Administration, to look at all we have done and develop a recommendation for a plan of action for Phase II. The Task Force will begin with the most recent submission to RIDE and an update of enrollment projections from NESDEC. Mr. Estrella mentioned that the Regionalization Study Commission Report is near completion and that the analysis of the District done by a third party for the Bond be added to this report. Mrs. Lynch will chair the task force; minutes to the meetings will be kept and Dr. Mara will be consulted for clerical support. Mrs. McBride commented that the bond we are working on now could not have passed without all the hard work put in by Mrs. Lynch and her friends; while a new member of the Committee, Mrs. Lynch is an old member when it comes to the bond situation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUES AND UPDATES

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell had nothing new to report; the budget for next year is slowly coming into focus; the next subcommittee meeting will be in June and agenda item requests should be made to Mr. O'Dell in time. Forty-four teachers are being recalled as well as one principal, an assistant principal position is being created, and we have parking lot, press box and lighting issues to be addressed. The final budget must be passed in June.

BOND PROJECT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Estrella said a meeting must be scheduled for next week.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE

In Mr. Silva's absence because of a previous commitment, Mr. Estrella reported no major issues; the Superintendent is waiting for the Governor's budget before making recommendations for administrator contracts.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell reported the Committee reviewed the following policies:

Graduation Requirements—reviewed as presented by Mr. Jackson of Mt. Hope, needed to be submitted to RIDE, first reading was approved last evening and will be “tweaked” for the second reading.

Fundraising—aroused a great deal of debate, three major events are allowed per school per year, policy will be revisited at the next meeting and guidelines set.

School Admissions—updated to reflect health regulations.

Tutoring and Homebound Instruction—for ill children, updated for more specificity and updates on illnesses to be required every four weeks.

Defibrillators—it was discovered that one school does not have a defibrillator, we will purchase one through a grant.

Administrators' Contract—a date for lay-off notification was inserted that fits better with the budget process.

Walkers and Riders—due to budget limitations it was decided to follow state regulations and not bus any children who live within ½ mile of school.

The next meeting is June 4 at 6:00 PM.

Field Use Policy--

Mrs. McBride said Walter Burke, Recreation Director for Bristol, has asked that the field use study committee be revived to develop a policy. Dr. Mara will address this. Mr. Estrella asked Dr. Mara to set up a meeting after the administration's study of facility use is completed, then report to the Policy Subcommittee.

The Partington Tennis Court Dedication, a joint effort between the Town of Bristol and the School District, will take place on Sunday of the Memorial Day Weekend.

Mrs. Vendituoli, Dr. Mara, Mrs. McBride and Mr. Estrella have been working on the Vendituoli Sports Complex Dedication.

The Boosters Club has asked to erect a Boosters Board at the Mt.

Hope Field.

Mr. Saviano reported an item missing from the minutes to the Policy Subcommittee Meeting—his request to review the crisis plan in light of the recent tragedies on campuses. Mr. Estrella mentioned that the police and fire departments now have floor plans on disc that they bring to emergencies. Dr. Mara stated that each school district has been invited to a meeting on June 7 with Fire and Police Chiefs to look at emergency management plans. Chief Serpa is heading the Police Chiefs. Mr. Estrella warned that discussions on these kinds of plans may have to be held in executive session because of their nature. The District is secure, but we want to make sure we are securely secure.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Estrella explained the mechanics of Public Forum (no actions), Open Forum and Public Comment. All rules regarding personnel must be followed; no comments allowed about individual students or litigation.

Presentation: Best Practices for Special Education

Mrs. Patricia Krzywicki, parent of an elementary student with learning differences, presented the attached information about inclusion of special education students into regular education classrooms. She feels that incorporating inclusion is difficult but worth it; she hopes

the District will broaden its perspective on inclusion. She introduced Dr. John Susa, Director of Individual and Family Support at The Paul V. Sherlock Center. Dr. Susa talked about studies done by the Department of Education which show that inclusion greatly enhances the later lives of special education students who most often become unemployed, underemployed, isolated, lonely and in the criminal justice system. Rhode Island is behind in the learning curve. Studies demonstrate that the more time spent in regular education classrooms, the better the outcome for SPED students regardless of severity of disability. The cost is about the same but you get a graduate who is much more capable. He introduced his son Mark, the first special needs student fully included since fifth grade; Mark is now a business man who lives on his own. The state spends approximately \$150,000 per year to put someone in a group home, not nearly that much is spent for Mark to live on his own. In response to questions from the Committee Dr. Susa explained:

 Paul Sherlock was the first director of special education in Rhode Island and a pioneer of providing for children with disabilities.

 The Center is funded by State and Federal grants and is responsible for training teachers of students with profound disabilities; one major priority is the promotion and exploration of inclusion.

 80% of a student's day spent in a regular classroom constitutes full inclusion; last report indicates 3% of RI SPED students are fully included, Vermont and New Hampshire are at 70%.

 Regular education students benefit tremendously socially

and academically as well.

Mrs. Campbell supports inclusion.

Mr. George Burman, a Bristol resident whose wife is a Ph.D. specializing in autistic children, encouraged the Committee to stop saying no. When his daughter, now a mother and engineer, was at college, someone came in with a rifle and shot thirteen students—this is a result of just saying no. He pleaded with the Committee to stop saying no.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:36 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 8:36 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

**William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, for
Paul Silva, Secretary**

