

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 Monday, June 11, 2007. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, William M. O'Dell, Paul Silva, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch 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; and Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance

Absent: Paul E. Brule

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACCOLADES

Retirees: Rebecca N. Borges, Carolyn R. Cichon, Marie Cottrell, Ida Hughes, Joseph Lero, Louis M. Oliveira, Anne F. Simmons, Margaret Vendituoli-Ferreira, Nancy E. Vorro and Clare White

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent thanked with pride the retirees for all they have done for the District and the children, noting their quality of instruction and commitment.

2006-2007 Teachers of the Year:

Byfield School Marie Cottrell and Rebecca Borges

Guiteras School Nicole Galipeau

Hugh Cole School Susan Martel

Kickemuit Middle School Michael Urban

Mt. Hope High School Jamie Crowley

Reynolds School Kate Barry

Rockwell Margaret DeFelice

Each Principal spoke about their Teacher of the Year and their contributions to their school and the District. Dr. Mara announced the District Teacher of the Year-- Jamie Crowley.

Student Leaders:

Mt. Hope Student Council

President: Nicole Morreo

Vice-President: Alexandria Teixeira

Secretary: Jamie Calenda

Treasurer: Chelsea Andrade

Parliamentarian: Mathew Luk

Kickemuit School Improvement Team

President: Holly Whipp

Vice President: Sam Howlett

Secretary: Sarah Fillipino

Treasurer: Jacob Sardinha

Guiteras Student Council

President: Ryan Gamon

Vice President: Haley Ferreira

Treasurer: Samantha Palumbo

Secretary: Rachel Cloutier Reynolds Student Government

President: Victoria Ezikovich

Vice President: Austin Ramos

Treasure: Jenna Fikiet

Recording Secretary: Zoe Almeida

Corresponding Secretary: Madison Beck

The New England League of Middle Schools recently selected Kickemuit Middle School as a NELMS Spotlight School. Executive Director, Dr. Robert Spear stated that “The school was selected because of its consistent observance of middle school best practices” and was very impressed with the excellence that was evident throughout the school. Criteria for the award included a review of curriculum, instruction, qualified middle level teachers, teaming practices, democratic governance, appropriate school environment and the level of involvement of parents and Community.

Kickemuit Middle School is one of two schools identified in Rhode Island in 2007 and one of only thirty-four schools in the entire New England region to be designated by NELMS. Congratulations to Michael Carbone, Principal, and the entire staff of the Kickemuit Middle School. Dr. Spear stated that NELMS represents 30,000 middle level teachers and commented that Kickemuit received the highest rating in all five areas; he presented a banner to the school and congratulated the entire staff. Mr. Carbone said it was an honor to accept the award for Kickemuit on behalf of the entire staff; his staff pulls together to laugh and celebrate at times and to mourn and support at times.

The Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials recently named Mrs. Jane Correia, our Director of Administration and Finance, as the Rhode Island School Business Official of the Year for 2007. Mrs. Correia was selected by her peers for distinguishing herself in the business of education. In addition to receiving the award, Mrs. Correia was also given the honor of selecting a high school senior who plans to study business in college, to receive a \$1,000 scholarship—she selected Mt. Hope senior Jamie Calenda, who plans to study business at Southern New Hampshire University. We congratulate and thank Jane Correia for being an extremely competent administrator who works miracles with the budget.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Kickemuit Chorus/Band Participation Opportunities

Kristina Lynch and Victoria Ezikovich, fifth grade students at Reynolds who will be on the Pharaohs Team next year at Kickemuit, spoke to the Committee about their disappointment that chorus is not offered to the Pharaohs Team in sixth grade. Many of them have been involved in chorus at Reynolds and would very much like to continue. Mrs. Ezikovich stated that the Reynolds chorus has performed accelerated pieces of music, singing five-part harmony, which is unheard of at this level. This Team is the only one that is not offered chorus in the sixth grade. Many parents are not yet aware of this. She feels the interruption of one year of instruction will be very detrimental to their eloquent growth. Dr. Mara and Mrs. Thies explained it is a scheduling matter and would support an after school club; however, discussion is needed with the people who build the schedule. The Committee has concerns for equal exposure across all three years. Mr. Estrella asked the Policy Subcommittee to delve into this issue.

Coach Selection Process and Ethics Expectations

Mr. Estrella reiterated his concerns about the coach selection process, specifically the advertising and the timing. The Committee discussed with Ms. Beth Penkala, the best time to advertise; Ms. Penkala said the Interscholastic League requires coaches to be at a compulsory meeting very early so she would like advertisements posted two seasons ahead. Mr. Estrella felt the advertisement was not clear. Mrs. Correia explained the reason for going with

SchoolSpring was to alleviate the excessive costs of advertising. Mr. Estrella asked that the individual sports be listed in the newspaper advertisement, and for the sports for which we have only one candidate, readvertise.

The subcommittee working on the naming of the athletic complex will have an announcement at the next School Committee meeting.

Also of concern is the lack of a written code of ethics; all school functions are an extension of the classroom and should have behavioral expectations of all chaperones, advisors and coaches. Attorney Henneous is researching ethics codes nationwide. Ms. Penkala reported the Interscholastic League has a code of ethics, sportsmanship and integrity that is recited at the beginning of each contest. Ms. Penkala will give a copy to Mrs. McBride. Ethics and conduct expectations should extend to volunteers as well. We have a parent volunteer handbook that is rather clear.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ISSUES AND UPDATES

Administrative Organizational Chart

Dr. Mara reported the structure is being worked out as the budget is massaged and will be finalized once the budget is in place. Mr. O'Dell stated that the anticipated 1.5% increase from the State is not going to happen so a great deal of work needs to be done.

Energy Education

The East Bay Collaborative Director of Finance and Dr. Mara are researching different programs; if all eight districts are willing, we will sign on; opportunities to save money are searched and taken whenever possible. Mr. Saviano presented the attached energy audits for Central Falls and Newport showing substantial energy cost savings using energy efficient measures. He suggested certification of our staff as “building operators”; energy costs are not going down, rebates and grants may be available. Dr. Mara and Mrs. Correia will gather all information available and take the best possible measures.

Virtual High School

Dr. Mara reported progress; there is much interest from the Middle School as well. Cost for classes can be worked two ways: 1) we train a teacher to teach the class on line and we get a number of seats; and 2) we can purchase a license from SORICO at a reasonable price. The program has been around for ten years and can be used for the 11th Day Program; the Board of Regents has endorsed on-line courses but not any particular program.

SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUES AND UPDATES

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O’Dell stated that at their next meeting, the budget will be firmed up, and there will be an update on the closing of Main Street School.

Mr. Estrella encouraged all Committee members to attend this important meeting as the budget must be balanced by June 30.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE

Once the budget is in place, Mr. Silva will meet with Dr. Mara about plans and ideas, and then with the Subcommittee.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride reported some policies will be before the full Committee on June 25th and more for the July meeting; she is still conferring with Attorney Henneous on some issues; Mrs. Campbell is working with Dr. Mara on some policies.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Estrella reminded everyone about the Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, June 11 at 4:00 PM; Kickemuit Awards Night on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:00 PM, and the bid opening for the Colt Andrews Bond Project on Friday, June 15 with the Bond Project Meeting at 5:30 PM. He also thanked the new Phoenix/Times reporter for his presence.

Dr. Mara mentioned the “American Executive” magazine article about him and the District. It will be displayed at Oliver.

Mrs. McBride thanked Mrs. Thies for her competent handling of District issues while the Superintendent was away.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:09 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Ms. Campbell, Ms. Lynch, Mr. Silva, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Dugan and Mr. Saviano, motioned to adjourn at 9:09 PM. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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