

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 25, 2008, 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 7:00 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M.

O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and

John P. Saviano; 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; and Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Estrella asked everyone to take a moment to contemplate our responsibility to speak well of and protect one another and to think about what we can do as a community on this one-year anniversary of a tragic loss.

Accolades

The Bristol Warren Art Department is pleased to announce that the following students received RI Scholastic Art Awards this year. We would like to thank art teachers Ms. Sloat, Ms. Bird, Ms. Camara, Ms. Baxter and Ms. Mullen for their work with the students and guidance.

We congratulate:

Mt. Hope Key Winners: Troy Mandeville -- Gold and Silver Keys

Emily Annes - Silver Key

Kickemuit Key Winners: Sydney Beck - Two Gold Keys

Brooke Pacheco -- Gold Key

Their art work will be on display at Bannister Gallery at Rhode Island College, February 10 - 28. There will be a Reception and Awards Ceremony for winners and their families on Sunday, February 10. Congratulations to these students and the district art teachers.

For the past few years, The Met Life Foundation has offered five Acting Class

Scholarships to 2nd Story Theatre for all East Bay High School

Students. We

are proud to say that under the direction of Carol Schlink, three Mt. Hope High

School Students are among this year's five winners. We congratulate:

Marissa Simeone

Brittany Rapoza

Jon Kmiecik

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 2

The KMS Masquers have a tradition of awarding summer acting school scholarships to deserving students from its annual production. This year they are proud to announce that seven students were awarded the Robert Evans Acting Scholarship. The award is named in honor of Bob Evans, founding co-director of the Masquers Theatre, who, as a retired teacher, still volunteers his time to the Masquers. The seven scholarships are the largest number awarded in any year of the program. Students awarded scholarships following our production of The Wizard of Oz are:

Mt. Hope High School Ninth Graders: Katarmna Ezikovich

Alison Martinville

Kickemuit Middle School students: Tom Hanson

Mikayla Lopes

Samantha Egge

Alexander O'Hanley

Victoria Ezikovich

**Over the years Mt. Hope High School has had some truly outstanding athletes. We would like to recognize a student athlete who can be considered just that -- outstanding. This student excelled not only in soccer but recently reached the amazing benchmark of scoring 1000 career points in girls basketball. With much pride we congratulate:
Ariel Teixeira**

The 2008 Mt. Hope High School Science Fair was once again an impressive display of talent, hard work and thought. We extend a special thank you to the Mt. Hope science teachers for all the extra time put in to helping students, the students for continuing to improve their projects and presenting themselves in a professional manner, family members for their support, and the incredible turnout of judges from Roger Williams University, Brown University, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, DEM, NASA RI Space Grant Consortium, Professionals in the Community, Kickemuit Middle School, Mt. Hope High School, and Bristol Warren administration.

Third Place Winners

Michael Richards The effect of the troop effect on reaction time

Briana Coletta Which bathroom cleaner kills E. coli the best

Allison McCallum Antibiotic Sensitivity

**Katherine Martineau The effects of alcohol in mouthwashes on the
B. cereus**

Britney Verria Is all natural really fantastic?

Jami Warner The effect of magnetism on radish plant growth

Tori Deschenes The effect of alcohol content in hand sanitizers on killing bacteria

Nicholas Mendonca Robot and a goal

Richard Proulx Robot and a goal

Crystal Costa Robot and a goal

Gregory Gerjets Effect on magnetism on plant growth

Alicia Pimental How do different road salts affect grass seed

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 3

Second Place Winners

Robert Cotta E. colis effects on spinach plants

Alison Martinville The effects of lotion on the skin and flower petals

Rachel Lessing Purell vs soap

Rebecca Copeland Which antacid works the best?

Matthew Carreiro How the configuration of popsicle sticks affect their strength?

Victoria Jamiel The effects secondhand smoke has on the growth of plants

Krystyna Schinigoj The effect of different color lights on plant growth

Kayla Sluzewski Shampoo, friend or pho?

Alison Massed The effects of baby wipes on E.coli

Timothy Arcand Temperature and pH changes and their effects on brine shrimp

First Place Winners

Troy Silvia Heartrate and Daphnia

Michelle Farias The effects of spices on the growth of bacteria

Esther Morency Blood pressure and music

Emily Cambrola The effects of sugar solutions on a plants photosynthetic process

Samantha Fortin Does age affect a healthy diet?

Jason Moniz The effect of honey on bacteria

Ronald Sadlier E. coli contamination in spinach

Principal's Award

Abigail Pattie Can the reusing of water bottles cause a buildup of bacteria?

Best Biology Project

Lynn McCoomb Does VegiWash kill bacteria?

Best of Fair

Edward Spinard How would you like that done?

The State and National Principal of the Year Awards programs annually recognize outstanding secondary school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. These principals are acknowledged by their peers for the

exemplary contributions they have made to the profession. The following are only a few of the nearly 20 selection criteria used:

- Involves teachers, staff members, parents, students, and the community in achieving the goals of the school**
- Observes, supervises, and evaluates teachers and instructional programs to maximize the learning opportunities both for every teacher and for every student**
- Establishes and maintains a positive school climate that reflects high student and staff morale**
- Models values, beliefs, and attitudes that inspire others to higher levels of performance**

We are proud to say that our own Michael Carbone was selected as this year's RI Middle School Principal of the Year. The national principals of the year (one middle level and one high school) will be selected from the state honorees and will be announced in September 2008.

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 4

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Silva, according to protocol, removed Superintendent's Recommendation #S2008-12, Section C, from the consent vote.

Mrs. Campbell requested the report of the Executive Director of Literacy be removed from the consent vote.

Mr. Saviano and Mr. Silva motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mr. Silva motioned to seal the minutes to the January 28, 2008 Executive Session. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET/ FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Recommendation #BF2008-01: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the proposed 2008-2009 budget package as presented by Administration and the Subcommittee.

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Saviano seconded. Mr. O'Dell explained the requested amount is \$52,035,756, a 2.5% increase over last year's approved budget. Were it not for Senate 3050, the request would be for a 4.48% increase, which would only duplicate last year's programming and staffing, so even the requested amount puts us at a deficit of over \$ 1M. Mr. Estrella said the budget request must, by law, be prepared by March 1; the first Joint Finance Meeting is March 4, 7:00 PM. We are now up to 69 teacher layoffs. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Pupil Personnel Services

The Committee asked Mrs. Neubauer questions about the new Special Education Regulations. In response Mrs. Neubauer explained that we must meet with the Department of Education and a plan will be developed to defend what we have to do for the Special Education staff. Regarding the lay-off of SPED teachers, RIDE does not want budget cuts to hurt Special Education; the layoff of SPED teachers must be substantiated by caseload, need and programs; she does not foresee any crunch for Bristol Warren. Classroom numbers are being redefined based on ability and level—technically at 10; the Federal Government would like to raise it to 12 but Rhode Island would like each school district to set their own, based on the needs of the children and the geographical nature of the district; she does not expect much change in Bristol Warren and we should remain on solid ground. Mr. Saviano commented that some districts are contemplating 15. Mr. Estrella would like Mrs. Neubauer to prepare a presentation on the potential impact of the new regulations for the

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 5

April Workshop. He asked that Committee questions and concerns be forwarded to Mrs. Neubauer, Dr. Mara or the clerk. Mrs. Campbell also asked Mrs. Neubauer to invite the Special Education Advisory Committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2008- 14: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the change in Carnegie Units for the Graduation Requirements.

Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2008-15: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, adopt the proposed 2008-2009 Mt. Hope High School Program of Studies.

Mr. Saviano motioned to adopt. Mrs. McBride seconded. Mr. Jaime Crowley, Assistant Principal for Guidance, spoke on behalf of the Mt. Hope faculty and staff, stating that all changes to the Program of Studies are based on proficiency and personalization and the new PBGR system dictates what needs to be accomplished. Personalization is the prime objective of the SIT Team this year and to create some flexibility in the school and to allow students more choice in course selections, also to assure the Program of Studies adheres to the vision for the high school. Mr. Crowley reviewed the four proposed changes:

1) Reorganization and reformatting of the document to improve its readability, cost-effectiveness and professional appearance

2) Reduction of Carnegie Unit requirements from 24 to 23 and

elimination of a .5 English requirement for honors students as well as the practical arts and fine arts requirements as Carnegie Unit requirements for graduation—

- **will increase student satisfaction**
- **most schools require 21 to 23 Carnegie Units**
- **unanimous endorsement by team**
- **Mr. Saviano was essential in this decision making**

3) Addition of new courses—

- **Three AP courses: AP Spanish, AP US Government and Politics, AP US History — the goal is to add one new AP course each year**
- **Computer Programming — for Juniors and Seniors, founded in algebraic applications, to increase number of high level offerings**
- **Marine Trade I — represents a move to building partnerships in the community**
- **Digital Audio Recording**
- **Public Speaking**
- **Computer Graphics II**
- **Introduction to Biotechnology**

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 6

4) Adjustment in the content and focus of some courses to further support students in the new diploma system—

- **Mathematical Systems — combines two 1-semester courses and**

essential for students who do not plan future work in math or science

- Digital Portfolio — provides a practical understanding of the MH diploma system to freshmen**

Mr. Estrella commended the entire faculty and staff of the high school; this document recognizes that our communities are benefiting from all the advancements brought forth; AP courses are a tremendous benefit to our students.

Mr. Saviano expressed great pride in the staff that worked on this program; a great deal of thought and hours were invested; it makes our school stand out, assures the future of our children and gives alternatives for kids to hit their targets for the future; he thanked the team for their efforts. Mr. Saviano was contacted by a Warren family that sent two of their four children to LaSalle and thanked the Committee for saving them \$80,000 now that their other two children can get as good an education at Mt. Hope.

Mrs. Lynch, as a member of the School Committee and as a parent, is thrilled to see this document; she is extremely excited about the things to come; choices help children get to the end; she commented that Mr. Rebello has done a lot of work in the six months he has been here.

Mr. Dugan congratulated the team for an outstanding job, the course offerings look like a college catalogue and demonstrates our ability to

offer a first rate education; he is particularly pleased with the AP courses and choices.

Mrs. Campbell thanked the team for their great effort; this Program of Studies not only offers choices but also sends a message to students that you care enough to do this and value education. She encouraged them to try adding two new AP courses each year and asked how AP placement is decided; Mr. Crowley responded by teacher recommendation and test performance. Mrs. Campbell also asked if students are tracked and can students jump into honors courses. Mr. Crowley responded yes. Mrs. Campbell encouraged the high school to continue offering networking courses and to consider ecology and green paths.

Mrs. McBride reminded administration that the Committee agreed to run the AP courses no matter how many students enrolled. She could not be prouder of how far the team has come and continues to put effort into making Mt. Hope the best high school in the state. She thanked the team for all their hard work.

Dr. Mara commented that this document is a tribute to this high school; the team responded to the students' request for flexibility and gives them an opportunity to explore their passions; the team work in the high school can be felt.

Mr. Rebello commended Mr. Crowley, Mr. Murgio and his leadership

team at Mt. Hope who displayed an incredible amount of collaboration in this effort, all for the benefit of the students; the vote of the SIT team was 32 to 0 to endorse these recommendations.

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 7

Mr. Estrella instructed the Superintendent to send a letter of thanks to the SIT team for their efforts on behalf of the District and the School Committee. The Committee extended their unanimous support and approval of Recommendation numbers S2008-14 and S2008-15 with standing applause.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva said the next negotiation session is March 5 and it might be the last one.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride reported the project to be on time and on budget as of today; within the next month or so, a tour may be arranged for the Phoenix. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28 at 5:00 PM. Mr. Estrella asked Mrs. McBride to alert him when a full Bond Project meeting is needed.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Revised policy readings were reviewed under Superintendent Recommendations.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

School Committee Issues List

The goose poop issue can be removed even though it is still a problem; a parent had suggested Flight Control; Mr. Simmons will explore.

Mr. Estrella wished to inform the public that normally, when moving out of and into buildings, we buy significant amounts of furniture, but this administration has been religiously replacing furniture so we are better off than usual; there is a concerted effort of all staff to maintain cost controls.

Workshop Agenda Items

The May Workshop will be devoted to budget and facility issues.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES – Continued

S2008-12 A, B &-D: CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL

A. 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. Nancy Keysor General Subjects

2. Peter Marra Elementary 1-6

Middle Social Studies

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 8

B. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Alisha M. Hunter

2. Laura Temple

CUSTODIAN / MAINTENANCE

3. Robert Carraturo

4. Edward Girard

D. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Dolores R. Noronha from the position of Teacher Assistant as listed below:

1. Dolores R. Noronha Teacher Assistant — Byfield

Effective: June 30, 2008

Reason: Retirement

Approved in the consent vote.

Recommendation #S 2008-12. C.: SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: Based on the uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2008-09 school year, and program reductions, consolidation of classes, realignment of staff and elimination of positions to more efficiently and effectively use the school systems assets, the Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination! non-renewal of the following listed personnel effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year:

2 Staff Members

Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Brule and Mr. O'Dell, motioned to approve. Mr. Estrella said this brings lay-offs of certified staff to 69. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2008-13: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of a Warren family to home school their children (a 1st grader and a 3rd grader) for the 2007-2008 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 9

Recommendation #S 2008-16: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Torrado's Request for Payment for Architectural Services for the Kickemuit Technology Space Renovation.

Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Saviano seconded.

Mr. Brule motioned to table this recommendation back to the Finance Subcommittee for review because he has questions. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Saviano seconded the motion to table. The motion to table passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-09: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy/ Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved

**the revised School Committee Policy HE School Committee
Negotiating Agents (Second Reading)**

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

**Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-10: That the School
Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and
supported by the Policy! Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved
the revised School Committee Policy EC Buildings and Grounds
Management (Second Reading)**

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

**Superintendent's Recommendation #S 2008-11: That the School
Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and
supported by the Policy! Community Affairs Subcommittee, approved
the revised School Committee Policy ECB Buildings and Grounds
Maintenance (Second Reading)**

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

Report of the Executive Director of Literacy

Mrs. Campbell feels we should be touting those who exceed the

proficiency level. Mrs. Cerullo pointed out there has been steady improvement over the levels, sometimes dramatic. Mrs. Lynch stated that despite the Governor's cutting of free breakfast programs, the COZ program continues to provide breakfast with funding from grants they receive. Dr. Mara is vehemently opposed to cutting the breakfast program, as are all the other superintendents. Mrs. McBride asked the cost to the District. Dr. Mama and Mrs. Cerullo will get that information. Mr. Estrella said it is important for the community to know this information; Mt. Hope parents should look for a curriculum guide on March 17 and all parents should assure their children eat breakfast.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell motioned to accept the Executive Director of Literacy's report; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting Minutes 10

ADJOURNMENT - 10:17 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mrs. Lynch, motioned to adjourn at 8:54 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

/c