

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, October 27, 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 7:18 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Chair, Marjorie J. McBride, Vice-Chair, Paul Silva, Secretary, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, 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; Leslie J. Anderson, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Dr. Mara, on behalf of the School Committee, Administration, staff and especially the students of the District and their parents, presented Mr. Estrella with a gavel in recognition of all he has done for this District. He said Mr. Estrella has supported him and his administrators and the District would not be where it is without his leadership; his heart and soul is in Bristol Warren. Dr. Mara said he will personally miss Mr. Estrella and wished him great journeys and health for the future. There was a standing ovation.

Mr. Estrella said it continues to be a pleasure and it has been a great honor to service the people of Bristol and Warren. He urged everyone to be involved on a day to day basis with our children, whether it be helping a child cross a street, or talking to a young person headed down the wrong path; he said we each really do make a difference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Galvin of Warren expressed congratulations to Dr. Mara and pride that he represents our District. This District has come a long way through the hard work of dedicated people. She also thanked Mr. Estrella for his service on the School Committee saying, “We owe him a great debt for his dedication.”

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. McBride asked to remove items III.2.C. & D. from the consent agenda.

Mr. Dugan asked to remove the Assistant Superintendent's report from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Lynch asked to remove the Director of Administration's report from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned accept the remainder of the consent agenda items; Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to accept the minutes to the September 29, 2008 Special Meeting; Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McBride voting absent.

MOTION: Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to accept the minutes to the September 29, 2008 Termination Hearing and Executive Session. Mr. Silva amended his motion to include sealing the Executive Session minutes. Mr. Brule seconded the amendment. The motion to amend passed unanimously. The motion to accept the amended motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McBride voting absent.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to accept the October 14, 2008 Minutes; Mr. Brule and Mrs. McBride seconded; the motion passed by a vote of

8 to 0 with Mrs. Campbell voting absent.

BUDGET/ FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell had nothing new to report.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride announced the next meeting, scheduled for November 3, is cancelled until the new Committee is seated.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva will give an update on negotiations in Executive Session.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Discussion took place during the Bond Project Building Committee Meeting just prior to this meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Amendment or Revision to Enabling Legislation

Mr. Estrella said he and Attorney Henneous worked out the language with the Superintendent.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella moved to amend enabling legislation and strike

the language that prevents the crossing of town lines by elementary students. Mr. O'Dell seconded.

Mrs. McBride said she will vote yes in order to move this forward because the people of Bristol and Warren should have the opportunity to vote whether children should cross town lines; her personal feelings will not trump public opinion. Mr. Estrella said this process will take one to two years. The motion to amend enabling legislation passed by a vote of 8 to 1 with Mr. Brule opposed.

Extra-Curricular Advisors

Mr. Estrella said appointments are made through the winter sports season; 80% of the student population is involved in extra-curricular activities at some time; advisors spend more time than they are paid for and volunteers give a great deal of time; he encouraged others to try to donate time because every minute you spend with a child is time well spent. Mrs. Campbell commented that the Math Coach makes far less than some of the sports coaches. Mrs. Correia responded that requests have been made for additional stipends and usually the number of competitive events involved in a club guides the amount of stipend.

Future Workshop Agenda Items

Mr. Estrella asked Committee members to advise the clerk and the new Chair of presentations they would like the community to be made aware of and the timeframe.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2008-64 A-E: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Special Services Department Head and Elementary Special Educator (3/5 time) as listed below:

1. Cynthia Marszalek Department Head – Special Services

Effective: October 1, 2008

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Retirement – V. Vouros-Chase)

Funding: Operational Budget

2. Victoria Guthlein Special Educator (3/5 time) - Rockwell

Effective: October 7, 2008, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year, pending receipt of

certification

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Operational Budget (1st step)

B. 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. Jessica Ferreira Child Care Intern (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

C. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2008-09 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

WINTER COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Basketball (Boys) Asst. Coach William St. Vincent**
- 2. Basketball (Girls) Head Coach Michael Almeida**
- 3. Basketball (Girls) Asst. Coach John Castriotta**
- 4. Hockey Head Coach Matthew Grieve ***
- 5. Track (Indoor) Asst. Coach Jeffrey Blanchet**

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISOR

6. After School Gym Area Supervisor (1st Quarter) ** Christian Staton

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ADVISORS

7. SADD ** Susan Costa

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**** Funded by Warren Substance Abuse Task Force**

D. 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. Krystal R. Bubnick General Subject Matter**
- 2. Rosemary A. Bubnick General Subject Matter**
- 3. Phyllis Glavin School Nurse/Teacher**
- 4. Michelle A. Lamothe General Subject Matter/School Nurse**
- 5. Lauren Piepowski General Subject Matter**

E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for a Secondary English Teacher and a Middle School Grade/Team

Leader as follows:

1. Carrie Devine English Teacher – Mt. Hope High

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave
through November 28, 2008**

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

2. Kristina Pereira Grade/Team Leader – Kickemuit Middle

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave
through December 2, 2008**

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

Recommendation #S 2008-56: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, adopt the new School Committee Policy SPED Staffing (Second Reading)

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 0 (Mrs. Lynch had briefly left the meeting when the vote was taken).

Recommendation #S 2008-65: That the School Committee, upon the

recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, engage National Grid to install new gas lines to Mt. Hope High School and three new gas meters at a cost of \$40,672.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded. Mr. Estrella commented that he would have thought this issue would have been addressed when the building was closed for the auditorium project. Mr. Silva stated that most of the cost will be reimbursed through housing aid and an energy credit. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2008-66: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, authorize the spending of up to \$21,000 to change the lighting in the Mt. Hope Gymnasium to a more energy efficient type.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. Mr. Brule said the end cost will be approximately \$4,000 which will be saved on electricity costs within the first year. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Overnight Field Trips

In keeping with policy, Dr. Mara informed the Committee of the Mt.

Hope Choral Group trip to the NYC Music Festival and the Alton Jones Campus Trip for the Explorer Team at KMS. The Choral Group will be asked to add another chaperone to keep with policy of a 10 to 1 student to chaperone ratio. The Committee was also concerned about the cost to families with more than one child involved in these activities; Dr. Mara said he has had long discussions with the administrative staff about keeping costs to a minimum; these are opportunities that students might not otherwise have and the cost of these trips is less than going privately; Mt. Hope has a very active music parents booster club.

Mrs. Campbell felt very strongly that all middle school students should have the same opportunities for the beneficial and awesome experiences such as the Alton Jones Campus, not just one team. She challenged the Superintendent and the Middle School Administration to creatively find a way to give every student these opportunities. Mr. Estrella asked that this point be discussed at the first Policy Subcommittee meeting of the new Committee.

Assistant Superintendent's Report (removed from the Consent Vote)
Mr. Dugan commented on the disturbing results of the NECAP report in math and science. Mrs. Thies explained these results have been out for only one month and she reported them to the Committee in order to be transparent; these results are unacceptable to her and the Superintendent as well; they have already met five times with the Middle School and have developed a game plan in response to the

baseline testing done last May; although we are above the state average, this is a critical problem across the nation. There is confidence the problem can be corrected with alignment of the curriculum, content of instruction and assessments. Mrs. Thies believes these results are reflective of the lack of attention to math and science, which is a national concern. She publicly states that in six months time, the scores will go up. Dr. Mara added that the other New England states performed on about the same level as Rhode Island and he supports Mrs. Thies' theory that improvement is coming. Mr. Estrella requested a report at the December workshop.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to accept the Assistant Superintendent's Report; Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Administration's Report (removed from the Consent Vote)

Mrs. Lynch asked for information on extra stipends paid to teachers for class overages. Mrs. Correia plans to report on this in more detail at a Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting; those teachers having more than 24 students have been given paperwork and are paid at the end of the year; there are payment lines set aside for this.

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to accept the Director of Administration's Report. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:11 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. Lynch motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:11 PM for discussion of contract negotiations. Mr. Saviano seconded. Mr. Estrella recused himself from this discussion and also announced there will be no voting when the meeting resumes. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:34 PM

The Committee discussed contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:37 PM

As his final action as a School Committee member, Mr. Estrella called for Adjournment, but first mentioned that “when you serve in a role, you never get rid of it” and he expressed appreciation for the things the Committee and Administration do on a regular basis.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 8:37 PM. The vote was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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