

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

**The Organizational Meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Cafeteria of the Mt. Hope High School on Monday, November 17, 2008. The meeting was opened by Mr. William A. Estrella, Jr., at approximately 6:03 p.m.**

**Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, William M. O'Dell, Paul Silva, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, John P. Saviano, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; 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 Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor**

**All present were invited to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Mr. Estrella thanked all present for their attendance and congratulated the Mt. Hope Freshman Football Team for winning the**

**2008 Championship. He also acknowledged receipt of the June 2008 Annual Report in which the number of accolades has increased from one to six pages over the past few years. Mr. Estrella presented to Dr. Mara a new School Committee gavel and plaque engraved with the names of all the Chairs since the formation of the Bristol Warren Regional School District with room for the next ten Chairs; this is to replace the rather small School Committee Chair's gavel that disappeared shortly after he became Chair. Mr. Estrella wished the new Committee the best of luck, patience when needed, courage to make change, and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Dr. Mara, with pleasure, called the meeting to order. He then called on Judge Patricia Hurst to administer the oath of office to the new members, Mrs. Denise Arsenault and Major John Bento, and to the standing members.**

**Judge Hurst addressed the Committee. Upon researching the meaning of the education of children, the description Judge Hurst felt said it best was the following: "The education of children encompasses both the teaching and learning of knowledge, proper conduct and technical competency; it requires cultivation of skills, trades or professions as well as mental, moral and aesthetic development of each individual child." This description shows how broad a task the Committee has, a task that needs to be approached with calm and direction. Judge Hurst then had the two new Committee members and the seven returning members raise their**

**right hands and recite the Oath of Office.**

**Dr. Mara congratulated the Committee then recognized some of the guests in the audience—some State Legislators, House Representatives, Dr. Laura DeAbruna from Roger Williams University, Bristol Town Officials, the Bristol Warren Central Administration Team, as well as friends and family members of the Committee.**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Chair**

**Dr. Mara asked for nominations for Chair. Mr. O'Dell nominated Mr. Silva. Mrs. Campbell seconded.**

**There being no more nominations, Mr. Saviano motioned to declare nominations closed; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion for Mr. Silva as Chair passed by a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Silva abstaining.**

**With personal and professional pleasure, Dr. Mara handed over the gavel to Mr. Silva, as Chair of the Bristol Warren Regional School District. Mr. Silva thanked the Committee for their support.**

### **Vice-Chair**

**Mr. Silva asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.**

**Mr. Saviano nominated Mr. Brule. Mr. O'Dell seconded. There being no more nominations, Mrs. McBride motioned to close nominations; Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Saviano seconded. On a show of hands, the motion to elect Mr. Brule as Vice-Chair passed by a vote of 8 to 0 with Mr. Brule abstaining.**

### **Secretary**

**Mr. Silva asked for nominations for Secretary.**

**Mr. O'Dell nominated Mrs. McBride. Mr. O'Dell seconded. There being no more nominations, Mr. Saviano motioned to close nominations; Mr. Brule seconded.**

**On a show of hands, the motion to elect Mrs. McBride as Secretary passed by a vote of 8 to 0 with Mrs. McBride abstaining.**

### **Treasurer**

**Mr. Silva asked for nominations for Treasurer.**

**Mrs. McBride nominated Mr. O'Dell. Mr. Saviano seconded. There being no further nominations, Mr. Saviano motioned to declare nominations closed; Mr. Brule seconded. On a show of hands, Mr. O'Dell becomes Treasurer by a vote of 8 to 0 with Mr. O'Dell**

**abstaining.**

**Mr. Silva announced that assignments to the three standing Subcommittees are decided by the Chair and Vice-Chair; he asked that Committee members contact him or Mr. Brule with their preferences as soon as possible.**

### **Presentation**

**Representatives Gallison and Gablinske and Senator Levesque congratulated the new Committee and officers and thanked Mr. Estrella for all he has done over the years on behalf of our children. They then presented Dr. Mara a citation from the General Assembly for being chosen the Rhode Island School Superintendent of the Year.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Brule, moved to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary**

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