

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, November 24, 2008, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair, Paul E. Brule, Vice-Chair, Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Diana B. Campbell, 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.

Accolades

The Rhode Island Math League holds competitions throughout the state; Mt. Hope High School competes in the Island Division with Bay View, Middletown, Portsmouth and Tiverton. Competition consists of five ten-minute rounds and students work on three problems in three of the five rounds, making 18 the maximum possible score for an individual. On October 29th the Mt. Hope A Team took First Place edging out Portsmouth's A Team by 6 points. And one of our students scored one perfect round. We commend Mt. Hope's math teachers and congratulate the following A Team members:

Elizabeth Powers

Jonathan Silva

Matthew Silva

Matthew Sooknah

April Arruda – perfect round and high scorer

Dr. Mara delivered a message from Mrs. Jean Molicone, Math Department Head; she was unexpectedly called to pick up her husband from the airport and would otherwise have been here, but she wished to let the students know she was very proud of them.

The parent of one of our middle school students wrote in to the Superintendent about a situation with her son at the school recently. Through quick and skilled action, the Kickemuit Middle School nurse averted a potentially life-threatening situation for this child. We

would like to recognize the professionalism of our Kickemuit Middle School Nurse: Janet Wollish.

The Rhode Island Technology Teachers' Association has chosen one of our Mt. Hope High School teachers their Rhode Island Technology Teacher of the Year. Their choice could not have been more appropriate – this teacher has spent many, many extra hours on projects with our students. We proudly congratulate: Ryan Garrity.

Bristol Warren is the home of one of this year's Governor's Awards for Wellness Innovation, awarded for commitment to health and wellness through the development of creative and innovative wellness programs and policies. We are proud to congratulate and recognize our Health and PE Department Head: T J DelSanto.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Hagan:

“I appear tonight wearing several hats. I am a resident, homeowner and taxpayer living in Bristol. I am a teacher at the Kickemuit Middle School and am also the former two-term Co-President of the BWEA; the teacher's union.

Six years ago, I was surprised one Sunday morning to find that the Providence Journal had quoted me as their 'quote of the week'. I was quoted on how the atmosphere of mutual respect between the

School Committee and the BWEA had resulted in an early resolution of the teacher's contract. I note for the record that the District negotiations team was headed by Mr. Paul Silva and then Superintendent, Dr. Helen Barboza. In 2005 an early agreement was also completed with the District team headed by Mr. Silva and our present Superintendent Dr. Edward Mara.

This year I was not part of the Negotiations Sub-Committee, but I told them that I expected things would go the same. I was shocked to hear them report that they were being ignored and condescended to. They said they were seated across from an antagonistic and petty group. I scoffed and said I was sure that it was all a misunderstanding.

They gave me the impression that instead of disagreeing over pay and benefits they were arguing over things that are conceptually hard to comprehend such as common planning time. Now understand that teachers do not like to be told that the School Committee knows more about education than they do. I am 133rd on the seniority list. There is no one left from the School Committee which appointed me. We have teachers, who have been in the District since Nixon was President. Superintendents, School Committees and Students come and go; Teachers endure and provide continuity. The question bears asking: Why do we need to change the contract? Under it we have achieved 'High Performing Schools'. Several of the elementary schools are 'high performing with distinction'. The Middle School is

one of a mere handful of 'Regents Commended' schools in the State. The High School Portfolio Assessment program is held up as a model for the whole state to follow. There is an old adage 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'. All this is but prologue to the present.

I was shocked the other day to read in the Warren Times that my union negotiators had turned down raises nearing 3% per year and a plan to lower our Health care premium share. If that was true then they should have been marched to the Bristol Town Common across from Ed Mara's office and whipped.

I then read in the Phoenix a long article giving the BWEA counter proposals. There were so many numbers that my head was spinning.

There is an unwritten rule, a gentleman's agreement in negotiating that you never release the proposals/counter proposals to the press. It's not that you are trying to keep secrets; it's just that they defy logic out of the context of a bargaining session. It is unfortunate that Mr. Silva has violated this prime rule of good faith negotiation and stabbed the union folks in the back by going to the paper. You never publish the numbers because the numbers are not real – they are just talking points. The teachers never really expect to get a 4% raise, but, it gets floated as a trial balloon. Hopefully a fatal blow to trust has not been struck.

We are in agreement on one thing – We are at an impasse. We are in a swamp, a quagmire, a morass. We need a map – a plan. The

School Committee says hire a map maker – a mediator. All well and good, but when the bill comes in some person, program or piece of equipment will be lost for want of funds.

I say we can still do something on our own. I ask that both sides agree to set another meeting. I ask that both sides come to this meeting with open minds. I ask that they park their egos and their petty bickering at the door. I ask that this meeting be limited to two items only – Pay and Benefits. These are the only two items that need to be addressed. I ask that they try to have this meeting before the next School Committee meeting. This District ain't broke so let's not try to fix it. Thank You."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Silva asked to remove the meeting minutes from the consent agenda because there are members present who were not at those meetings.

Mrs. Campbell asked to remove the Director of Technology's report from the consent agenda.

Mr. O'Dell asked to remove Items B. and D. in the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned accept the remainder of the consent

agenda items; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to accept the minutes to the October 27, 2008 Meeting and Executive Session; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mrs. Arsenault and Mr. Bento abstaining.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to seal the minutes to the October 27, 2008 Executive Session; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mrs. Arsenault and Mr. Bento abstaining.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to accept the November 17, 2008 Minutes; Mrs. McBride seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

BUDGET/ FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva said he and the Vice-Chair have discussed Subcommittee appointments and agreed that Mr. O'Dell should remain the Chair of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee with Paul Brule and Karen Lynch as members.

Mr. O'Dell reported the next meeting is Monday, December 1 at 5:30 PM. He is not soliciting agenda items from the Committee because time will be tight; the Bristol Town Council is being sworn in that

same evening.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva will have appointments to this Subcommittee before the end of the week.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva will have appointments to this Subcommittee before the end of the week.

COLT ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. McBride requested a full Bond Project Building Committee meeting for important action that is needed; the group will meet briefly on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 5:15 PM in the Colt Library. The project is near completion and issues are addressed as soon as they arise.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Future Workshop Agenda Items

Mr. Silva and the Superintendent will meet this week to discuss.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2008-67 A-G: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENT: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Secretary as listed below:

1. Donna M. Cruz Secretary – Colt Andrews

Effective: Immediately

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Death – C. Rodrigues)

Funding: Operational Budget

B. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2008-09 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

1. Paula Faria PBGR Recovery Teacher

2. Shana Leffingwell Support Teacher

3. Laura Manchester PBGR Recovery Teacher

4. Jacqueline Reynolds Support Teacher

5. Andrew Smink * English Teacher
6. Hope Aswell Mathematics Teacher
7. Jessica Mazo * Social Studies Teacher

* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

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 Christopher Munzert
2. Hockey Asst. Coach Kyle Mello *

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISOR

3. Supervisor (Winter) Thomas DelSanto
4. Supervisor (Winter) Arthur Pellerin *
5. Supervisor (Winter) Gerard Spence

ADVISORS

6. Class of 2010 Jodi-Lee Neves
7. Class of 2012 Peter Kells
8. Science Olympiad Marcia King

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

9. Basketball (Girls) Coach John Raposa

10. Wrestling Coach Eric Bedard *

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

11. Basketball (Girls) Coach Steven Bernard

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

D. EVENT SUPERVISORS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2008-09 school year only as Event Supervisors for the Bristol Warren Regional School District contingent upon sufficient activities:

Name

1. Lisa Bruce

2. Kristin Carpenter-Azevedo

3. Paul Castigliego

4. Debra Costa

5. Matthew DePasquale

6. Margaret Lopes *

7. Jason Silva

8. Juliann Tanguay

E. 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. Greg F. Cirillo General Subject Matter**
- 2. John H. Deardorff General Subject Matter**
- 3. Mathew DePasquale Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 4. Meghan DeSotle General Subject Matter**
- 5. Katelyn M. Dorney Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 6. Ahmed M. Gomaa General Subject Matter**
- 7. Derwood Lesh Music**
- 8. Noelle M. Mello Elementary**
- 9. Kathleen M. Mouligne General Subject Matter**
- 10. Carolee C. Neff General Subject Matter 5**
- 11. Lauri Sinclair Registered Nurse**
- 12. Maya L. Tavares General Subject Matter**
- 13. Diane T. Thomas General Subject Matter/Sp.Ed.**

F. 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. Paula D. Fitzpatrick

G. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Debra Marshall from the position of Assistant Cheerleading Coach (Winter Competitive) and Michelle Teixeira from the position of Child Care Provider as listed below:

1. Debra Marshall Asst. Cheerleading Coach (Winter Competitive)

Mt. Hope High

Effective: October 30, 2008

Reason: Personal

2. Michelle Teixeira Child Care Provider

Effective: October 22, 2008

Reason: Personal

Superintendent's Recommendation #2008-67, B

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve Superintendent's Recommendation #2008-67, B; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mr. O'Dell questioned the notation "contingent upon sufficient enrollment." Dr. Mara explained that we want to cover as many students as possible but if students are not coming because they are doing well in class, we don't need the program; he will make sure the Principal announces that this is open to all students. These teachers are hired on a yearly basis. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Superintendent's Recommendation #2008-67, D

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve Superintendent's Recommendation #2008-67, D; Mr. Brule seconded. Mr. O'Dell asked about the stipend paid to these employees. Dr. Mara explained the facilities users will be required to cover that cost; it is necessary to have these supervisors present because of damage to the facilities.

Recommendation #S 2008-68: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of four (4) families to home school their children for the 2008-2009 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. Mrs. Thies, in response to questions from the Committee, explained that the curriculum information was inadvertently omitted from one

application and the “home school curriculum” is an on-line high school curriculum. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2008-57: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy DJ Procurement Policy (Second Reading)

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve. Mr. O’Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2008-58: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy DJC Bidding Requirements (Second Reading)

MOTION: Mr. O’Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Student Population/ District Plans/ Formation of a Task Force

Mr. Silva announced that this discussion is tabled to the next meet as an action item.

REPORTS

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

Mrs. Campbell asked if a written report from Quality Connections is available; Dr. Mara will look into this with Mr. Morris.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:38 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:38 PM for discussion of BWEA contract negotiations. Mr. Brule seconded. Mrs. Arsenault recused herself from this discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Silva announced that no voting will take place during or after this Executive Session.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:17 PM

In Executive Session, the Committee discussed BWEA contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:18 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 8:18 PM. The vote was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary

/c