

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

**A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 1, 2010, at the Oliver Administration Building, 151 State Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 PM.**

**Present: Paul Silva, Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Diana B. Campbell and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; and Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent**

**Absent: Paul E. Brule and Karen A. Lynch**

**Mr. Silva stated he gave the task of coordinating School Committee goals to Mrs. Arsenault and Mr. Bento and so turned the meeting over to them.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS**

**Mrs. Arsenault suggested to the Committee that they perform the Board Self Examination from Effective School Boards to help improve**

the functioning of the group; it asks many questions they might not think to ask. Mrs. McBride said this exercise had been done in the past. Mrs. Arsenault also pointed out that the School Committee also adopted a policy in 2002;XBK (AFA) Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures with notes suggestive of good practice and states the Committee will evaluate itself bi-annually. It will be considered.

Mr. Bento presented an overview of the formation of Committee goals which should align with the Strategic Plan and the Superintendent's goals; he highlighted excerpts from the article "Setting Achievable Goals" from NSBA. Because this new Strategic Plan is a living, working document, it will be reviewed annually; Mrs. Thies said it will probably be done in the spring in a public setting with community members; participants in the development of the Plan are eager to assess its function. The goals themselves would not change, but the strategies defined to implement the goals could be adjusted. School Committee goals are driven by the Plan.

After much discussion about what is considered a goal versus a strategy, the optimal length and number of goals, and priority order, the Committee identified six specific goals:

- 1) Increase Student Achievement
- 2) Maintain Facilities
- 3) Grow and Expand Communication with the District Community
- 4) Maintain Excellence in Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability to

## **Support Education**

**5) Verify that Strategic Plan, School Committee Goals and Policies, and Educational Practice are Aligned**

**6) Increase Effectiveness of School Committee**

**Throughout the discussion, a number of strategies and action items were suggested:**

### **Students and staff --**

**„Í Promote energy efficiency by improving recycling, more use of emailing and turning lights out**

**„Í Provide optimal learning environment**

**„Í Increase minimum academic standards**

**„Í Reform guidance counseling**

**„Í Improve transition from MS to HS**

**„Í Increase programs for at-risk students**

**„Í Increase cultural programs**

**„Í Increase advance placement opportunities**

**„Í Strengthen staff / faculty evaluations**

**„Í PLCs / teacher evaluations**

**„Í Convene a creativity task force to explore creativity education**

**„Í Increase recognition of quality personnel**

### **School Committee and Administration ¡V**

**„Í Review Strategic Plan annually**

**„Í Community locations for meetings**

- „Í Work with Town officials**
- „Í Increase public announcements**
- „Í Promote transparency with students, teachers, administrators and School Committee on decisions**
- „Í Align Superintendent and School Committee goals to provide a way for the Superintendent to guide the Committee and the committee to guide the Superintendent**
- „Í Schedule workshops only when needed; do groundwork on a subcommittee level**
- „Í Revise meeting format to make it more visible to the public**
- „Í Support Superintendent's recommendations with rationale**
- „Í Announce websites and links during meetings**
- „Í Professional development for School Committee**
- „Í Policy Subcommittee review entire policy book**
- „Í Consider assigning a completion date/ timeline for goals**
- „Í Be sure goals are accomplishable**
- „Í Create School Committee mission statement/ vision**

**ADJOURNMENT ¡V 8:45 PM**

**MOTION:** Because of the time, Mrs. Arsenault motioned to adjourn at 8:45 PM, all Committee members would work on strategies to review at another goal-setting meeting to be scheduled. Mr. Bento seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary**

**/c**