

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 24, 2010, 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 7:10 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair, Paul E. Brule, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Diana B. Campbell, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; 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.

Mr. Silva announced that the Bristol Town Administrator was awarded an honorary Doctoral of Public Service degree by Roger Williams University at their graduation exercises on May 22. Also, President Nirschel did a wonderful job; Mr. Silva will not be singing at the Mt. Hope graduation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Arsenault seconded. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to seal the minutes to the April 26 Executive Session; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mrs. Thies recognized the retirement of three staff members: James Gorman, a teacher at the East Bay Academy, Janet Wollish, nurse at Kickemuit, and Susan Donovan, Health and PE Teacher at Guiteras; all three have devoted many years to Bristol Warren serving the

students with professionalism and pride; they will be missed. Mrs. Campbell also acknowledge Susan Donovan saying she has done so much for physical education in this District, initiating programs, promoting activity and wellness; her dedication is exemplary. Mrs. Thies added Ms. Donovan has been recognized by the state for her programs and she has brought a great deal of funding into the District through grants. Mrs. Arsenault acknowledged Janet Wollish who served well as a nurse educator and voice of reason and helped the Arsenault children when they were at Kickemuit. Mrs. Arsenault cannot say enough about Susan Donovan, a remarkable educator and citizen, a proponent of good education and good facilities who was also a great benefit her five children.

BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell reported the Subcommittee and Administration continues to search for \$1.8M in budget cuts necessary to balance the budget; the remaining cuts are being sought through negotiations. Concerning to Mr. O'Dell is although there is the ability to re-negotiate certain aspects of certain contracts, there have been no solid or concrete results to date.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell said the next meeting is June 7, 6:30 PM at Oliver; the agenda is to be determined.

Wellness Committee

Mrs. Campbell stated she and Mrs. Thies attended an award breakfast to receive a worksite health award for promoting good nutrition and activities for students and staff; Bristol Warren is the only school district in the state to receive this award. Mrs. Thies thanked Mrs. Campbell, as Chair of the Wellness Committee, for applying for this award. Mrs. Arsenault expressed appreciation for initiatives to keep her husband healthy; we are all fortunate to have the Wellness Center.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano said there is nothing remarkable taking place right now. Mrs. Campbell asked where the District stands with recall letters. Mrs. Thies responded the recall recommendations are scheduled for the June 14 meeting.

FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Mrs. Lynch explained the District went before the Warren Town Council with a request to amend the enabling legislation; the Council unanimously opposed the request but voted to support a non-binding referendum. Mrs. Lynch personally appreciates the respectful treatment by the Council and their acknowledgement of the Task Force's hard work and forward vision as well as their interest in

future plans. Mr. O'Dell asked if the Committee would be discussing the support of a non-binding referendum; since the topic is not on this agenda, Mr. Silva stated it will be placed on the agenda of the next workshop as an action item; both Town Councils voted in support of a non-binding referendum.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Mr. Silva will reserve his comments for Executive Session.

Mrs. McBride wished to apologize for her absence at some meetings, her husband has been very ill but is now doing well; she thanked the Committee for "picking up the slack."

Mrs. Campbell asked the state of progress for School Committee goals. Mr. Silva said Mr. Bento is working on it for further consideration by the Committee.

Mr. Saviano directed a question to Mr. Brule regarding the Warren Town Council meeting: Mr. Saviano asked for an abbreviated version of what Mr. Brule told the Council about Mr. Saviano's absence. Mr. Brule stated he would get for Mr. Saviano a video of that meeting so Mr. Saviano can hear it for himself; Mr. Brule has heard three or four versions of what he supposedly said; Mr. Brule would not respond further. Mr. Saviano stated for the record that he was unable to attend that meeting because his son was deathly ill in the hospital at

the time and they were concerned for his life. He prefers Mr. Brule not mention or talk about him in any fashion in the future, as Mr. Saviano will take care of his own responsibilities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation # S2010-26 – PERSONNEL (Approved via the Consent Vote)

A. APPOINTMENT: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of High School Athletic Director (Part Time) as listed below:

- 1. Elizabeth Penkala Athletic Director (Part Time) – Mt. Hope High**
Effective: For the 2010-11 School Year
Reason: To fill a vacancy
Funding: Operational Budget

B. EVENT SUPERVISORS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2010-11 school year only as Event Supervisors for the Bristol Warren Regional School District contingent upon sufficient activities:

Name

- 1. Kimberly Aguiar**
- 2. Lisa Bruce**
- 3. Kristin Carpenter-Azevedo**
- 4. Debra Costa**
- 5. Sandy Farias-Borges**
- 6. Debra Lopes**
- 7. Patricia Raposa**
- 8. Jason Silva**

C. CERTIFIED 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 certified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Kimberly M. Kulesza English**

D. 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:

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

- 1. Nancy A. Verrette**

E. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for a Teacher Assistant as follows:

1. Constance Labao Teacher Assistant – Guiteras

Effective: May 4, 2010, through the end of the 2009-10 school year

Reason: Leave in accordance with Article 20 of the Master Agreement

F. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of James J. Gorman from the position of Secondary Special Educator, Susan R. Donovan from the position of Elementary Health/Physical Education Teacher and Janet H. Wollish from the position of Middle School Nurse/Teacher as listed below:

1. James J. Gorman Special Educator – Mt. Hope High

Effective: June 30, 2010

Reason: Retirement

2. Susan R. Donovan Health/Physical Education Teacher – Guiteras

Effective: June 30, 2010

Reason: Retirement

3. Janet H. Wollish School Nurse/Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: June 30, 2010

Reason: Retirement

Recommendation #S 2010-22: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy JHFD Student Automobile Use (2nd Reading)

MOTION: Mrs. Arsenault motioned to approve. Mrs. McBride seconded. Mrs. Campbell said a change was made for this reading in response to Mr. O'Dell's request. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2010-23: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for window replacement at Mt. Hope High School to Matrone Service Company, to do Buildings A, F, E, B and D, at a total cost not to exceed \$551,815.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mr. O'Dell explained the Subcommittee felt that because there were sufficient funds in a budget line item, all five buildings could be addressed, and if the cost of the windows themselves is lower, our cost could be less. Mrs. Arsenault is happy to see this project go forward as it is in our best interest in terms of energy efficiency, and the problem has impacted the health of the students and staff. Mrs. Campbell added that now with our thermostats fixed, the high school should be nice and cozy. Mrs. Lynch commented that once this project is completed, all of the windows in this high school will be replaced with energy efficient ones except for the gym; she has asked Mr. O'Dell to put the gym windows into the asset protection plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S 2010-27: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, award the bid for the Guiteras Heating System to Automatic Temp Control in the amount of \$125,000.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mr. George Simmons confirmed for Mrs. McBride that this process will remediate the glycol issue. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2010-28: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the East Bay Transportation Bid.

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mr. O'Dell said the vote of the Budget Subcommittee was not unanimous; he was opposed because the bid is awarded to First Student, with whom he is not pleased; Mr. O'Dell had six issues with First Student this past year, which First Student rectified, but only because they were caught. He went on to say this bid goes well beyond Bristol Warren and is worth \$32M and not one representative of the company is present. The age of the busses has improved, the fleet will be almost brand new. Mrs. Silva added that 10% of the fleet has to be spare.

Mrs. McBride concurred with Mr. O'Dell's feelings on First Student's past behavior; however, the contract is for one year with four optional years and if they do not live up to their promises, she will option out after one year.

Mr. Saviano asked if Mr. O'Dell was opposed because he feels there is something better out there. Mr. O'Dell responded that if the Committee votes to accept this award, we can only hope they will abide by the contract; we already have to change a policy because of what this company has done; they have to be watched. Mr. O'Dell is

in favor of going out to bid for something better.

Mr. Saviano asked Mrs. Silva if she thought we could benefit from re-bidding. Mrs. Silva said the other two bids are substantially higher than First Student's. Mr. Silva asked if this bid includes cameras; Mrs. Silva confirmed it does and also that the field trip rate has been reduced, all instructional-related trips will be treated equally, and the contract includes an idle clause for \$18 per hour; she feels this is a very aggressive contract for the District.

Mrs. Arsenault appreciated Mrs. Silva's investigative work in recouping \$12,000 for inequitable charges in the past; as a group we will always receive more savings; Mrs. Arsenault agrees we must be diligent with monitoring and make another decision at the end of the first contract year.

Mr. O'Dell said the next lowest bidder is Ocean State at \$103,000 more; they cannot be considered because we are entering into a collaborative; looking at the dollars it makes sense to go with First Student because it is costing us less money; however, Mr. O'Dell will still vote against it.

The motion to approve passed by a vote of 7 to 2 with Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Saviano opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:48 PM

MOTION: In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Saviano motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:48 PM for legal advice and to discuss some appointments; no action will be taken when open session resumes other than to adjourn. Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:03 PM

In Executive Session, the Committee received legal advice from Attorney Henneous. No action was taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:04 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Brule, motioned to adjourn at 9:04 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary

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