

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 24, 2011, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08 PM.

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

Absent: Diana B. Campbell

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

Presentation: Bristol Warren Education Foundation Bodacious Bee

Kara Milner, President of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation, said the Foundation raises funds to support projects that are beyond the school budget. She thanked Melinda Thies, Mary Almeida and Diana Campbell for serving on the advisory board. The Foundation started four years ago growing from \$9,000 raised the first year, to \$24,000 raised last year. This year's application deadline is March 4; winners will be announced at the end of May. Their signature event and major fundraiser is the Bodacious Bee; this year's Bee is scheduled for Friday, March 18 at the Roger Williams University field house which has a big screen TV; the Bee will be catered by Leo's and will include a costume and a team name competition; an air bushing service for the big screen has been suggested. The group has raised nearly \$15,000 to be matched by a grant from Alan Hassenfeld and is grateful for the great community support; Mrs. McBride recruited Mr. Bento and Mrs. Almeida for her Bee team again this year. Mrs. Lynch commended the Foundation for creating such a fantastic event, which is a great deal of fun with many great people; as a parent, she thanked the Foundation for all their hard work. Mrs. Milner gave a plug to the outstanding Board of Directors, 19 people who spend countless hours working on the Bee; we should all consider ourselves lucky to be part of this community. Mrs. Thies thanked Mrs. Milner and the Foundation on behalf of the District; they exhibit the true spirit of collaboration; the members are talented

people and the District is so very grateful to Mrs. Milner and to the organization she helped to design.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to seal the minutes to the December 13, 2010 and January 10, 2011 Executive Sessions. Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Thies recognized Mr. Wayne Lima, newly appointed STEM Department Leader and thanked him for stepping up to the plate. Mr. Bento repeated the sentiments.

BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell stated an extra Budget meeting was added this month on February 9, 6:30 PM at Oliver to discuss the upcoming meeting with the Joint Finance Committee.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault reported their Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 7, 6:30 PM in the Quiet Study Room of the Rogers Free Library. This location was chosen to encourage community

participation in a public setting; Mrs. Arsenault invited all Committee members to come and will send a notice to PTOs and the entire district.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano said negotiations with the BWEA continue; the next meeting is Wednesday, January 26.

FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Mrs. Lynch had nothing new to report; behind the scenes research continues.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Funding Formula Review

To provide a clear understanding of the funding formula, Superintendent Thies presented "Funding Formula Basics"; the formula now being law, we must now take the market basket approach; issues lie with the General Assembly. A concern of hers is the timing of all this, with us being in the middle of the FY 12 budget cycle.

Components of Funding Formula

- **Core Instructional Amount (\$8,333) – Funding from state to support**

basic instructional needs of each student

- **Student Success Factor – Additional funding from state to support student needs beyond Core amount**
- **State Share Ratio – Metric that calculates state and local contribution based on the community's ability to generate revenue**

Core Instructional Amount

- **Teachers**
- **TA's**
- **Guidance Counselors**
- **Librarians**
- **School Administrators**
- **Districts Administrators**
- **Administrative Support**
- **Some Portion of Benefits**
- **Instructional, Classroom and School Supplies**
- **Textbooks and Equipment**
- **Pupil, Teacher and Program Supports**
- **Costs Funded Locally – Transportation, Retiree Benefits, Debt Service, Capital Projects**

Student Success Factor

- **Provides additional funding beyond core for students of high need**
- **40% of Core Amount (\$3,333 FY12)**
- **Applied to PK-12 students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch**
- **Poverty Weight**

State Share Ratio

- **Calculates differences between communities in their ability to generate revenue based on:**

 FRPL – Free and Reduced Poverty Level (PK-6)

 SSRC – State Share Ratio for the Community (0% - 100% based on assessed real estate values and median income value) (will be updated each year)

Funding Formula Calculation for BWRSD

- **PK -12 Enrollment (3,453) X CORE (\$8,333) = \$28,773,849**
- +**
- **PK-12 FRPL Enrollment (1,149) X (\$8,333 X 40%) = \$3,829, 847**
- =**
- **Core Instruction and Student Success Total - \$32,603,696**

State and Local Share Calculation

- **% PK-6 FRPL - 33%**
- **SSRC (State Share Ratio for Community) - 33.1%**
- **State Funding - \$10,775,534**
- **Difference from Previous State Funding – (\$8,085,607-latest calculation)**
- **Projected Year 1 Change – (\$808,561)**

Additional Funding for Special Programs – Currently Unfunded

- **Regional Bonus - \$357,137 (Sunset Provision) Representative Gallison worked very hard to secure this for the District**
- **Regional Transportation Categorical - \$120,482**
- **High Cost Special Education Categorical -\$17,300 (\$500,000 is allocated for the entire state)**
- **Local Tuitions VOC Tech (Met School) – (\$16,170)**
- **Subtotal Funding Formula Changes – (\$329,812)**
- **Projected FY12 Funding - \$18,545,622**

Total cost of unfunded programs is \$459,000—we must pressure the Governor through the General Assembly to get this funding restored.

Strategies to Counter Impact of Funding Formula

- **Near Term**

- **Legislative Support to Fund Categorical Aid**

- **Legislative Support to Amend Formula – identify flaws**

- **Streamline BW Per Pupil Costs if Possible – as a regional district we must include items other district are not required to**

- **Negotiate Contracts in Support of Students of BW**

- **Increase Local Contribution**

- **Lift 3050 Cap**

- **Long Term**

- **Increase State Budget for Education – Currently 52% (low compared to other states)**

- **Recalculate Bristol and Warren Contribution based on SSRC**

Mrs. Thies said special education and ESL factors were removed from the core formula because RIDE felt it could be skewed by over-identification or misidentification of students; RIDE feels the truest factor for determining need is poverty.

Mrs. Silva pointed out that \$875 of our per pupil cost goes toward debt service (only regional districts are responsible for their own debt service), \$316 goes to capital projects; \$972 to retiree benefits, \$216 for COZ Program; on February 11 the Uniform Chart of Accounts is going public so we can compare ourselves to other districts. Mrs. Thies added, also aggregated in our per pupil cost is grants, some of which are poverty based.

Comments:

Mrs. Lynch – It is upsetting that when the formula was first introduced the state was going to provide support for high costing SPED students, the \$17,300 for Bristol Warren would barely cover the gas for one student. The regionalization bonus and transportation piece is now unfunded; poverty is poverty whether you live in one community or another; our allocation is only this much with one third of our students on free and reduced lunch compared to Barrington who has fewer students in poverty, a higher ability to pay and are receiving much more money. Bristol and Warren has been able to keep their tax rate low because of the regionalization bonus; with the bonus gone, the communities will now have to look at how much they

contribute toward education and we are in the bottom third of that group.

Mrs. Thies had met with a parent who is a mathematician and statistician who brought up the fact that this formula is discriminatory to students living in poverty in Bristol Warren and the towns will have to make up the difference. The state's investment in this District awhile ago was a good investment—a quality education resulted; across the state, municipal support of school budgets ranges from 65% to 80%-- Bristol Warren equates to 48%.

Mrs. McBride – State law requires us to transport students all over the state but the state does not cover the expense; we have the largest transportation area; Massachusetts does not transport their private students. The regionalization bonus was also an effort by the state to encourage other districts to regionalize; they didn't and have been rewarded for not having done so. A formula is a great idea but there must be a revenue stream, which is missing from this formula, without which it is anyone's guess what will happen each year. Also, we are a public school district; it is the state's responsibility to educate the students who go to public school and we do not do that; \$120,000 for transportation is insufficient. Mrs. McBride questioned why the state insists on balancing school budgets on the backs of taxpayers. She wished to remind the state that education is about children, not about formulas and guessing games and whether you are poor or not. When five year olds walk into school, they are all

equal; this is extremely discriminatory on money levels and she is extremely disappointed in the State of Rhode Island and the path they have taken.

Mr. Bento agreed with Mrs. McBride's comments; he said that when that question was brought to the Commissioner she said the intent was to get us off on the right foot and then be weaned off; the Commissioner will be in Bristol Warren next week in the Mt. Hope auditorium.

Mrs. Arsenault – Commissioner Gist will be here next Monday, January 31, 7:00 PM in the Mt. Hope High School Auditorium. Mrs. Arsenault also feels we are being discriminated against; this has pitted municipalities against the state and school boards against their municipalities. She feels Ms. Gist, as well as the legislators who passed the formula, have done us a great disservice. Mrs. Arsenault would like the Governor to be invited to next Monday's presentation to hear the concerns of our citizens and the response of the Commissioner. Mrs. Arsenault reiterated Mrs. McBride's concern for a lack of revenue streams; there are in fact caps to the funding from the towns; we will end up with much less funding than is needed.

Representative Richard Morrison expressed agreement with what was said tonight; something needs to change. He is not suggesting this in any way but he believes each town would fare better under this formula if computed separate; he would like all of tonight's questions

answered by the Commissioner next week.

Mr. Silva feels the Student Success Factor implies you get extra funding for student success; he believes the formula is a process in deception and it implies that more money is needed to educate students from poorer homes and those from richer homes do not need as much or do not have special needs. Mr. Silva thanked Mrs. Thies for the work she has done on the issues with the formula; he pleaded for people to come to the meeting with the Commissioner. There are things so blatantly wrong with the funding formula which has nothing related to education but rather to poverty, which is given two bites at the apple. It costs the same to education each child regardless of economic class. The Commissioner claims the formula was enacted by the legislature and she can do nothing, when it is a fact it was passed because of her push and influence; we need her influence to fund the categorical items. The Commissioner claims our communities need to give us more yet there is a cap on the amount they can give. Mr. Silva thanked Representative Morrison for attending this meeting.

Mrs. Lynch asked the Superintendent to invite parents to next week's meeting through the PTO leaders. Mr. Morrison informed the Committee the Governor's Office has an email address which can be used by those who cannot attend the meeting.

Mrs. McBride supported Mr. Silva's comment that this is not about

education, but about poverty; it also makes the assumption that only those below the poverty line have special needs and no one of high income. Mrs. McBride cannot attend next Monday's meeting and she trusts the rest of the Committee to make the points.

Mr. Saviano commented one of the descriptions of this formula is it is fair and reasonable to all; in our case, it is not fair or reasonable; for example, to not take into account certain expenses. In Barrington, those expenses are covered by the Town yet Barrington is getting much more. The lion's share of districts are happy because they are not regionalized; there is talk of making all of Rhode Island one district; he believes we have to somehow hit a button with someone that talks about fair and reasonable.

Mr. O'Dell suggested the thermostat be set at 40 degrees for the Commissioner's meeting; he commented on the residual affect of the funding formula taking a great deal of valuable administrative time.

Mr. Bento thanked Representative Morrison for attending this meeting and asked him to collaborate with the other Senators and Representatives and do something for the students of Bristol and Warren.

Mrs. Rancourt asked that funding formula information be available to parents before the meeting with the Commissioner; Mrs. Thies will schedule an informational session just before the meeting itself. Mr.

Bento asked as many people as possible to attend the meeting in the auditorium next Monday, 7:00 PM; categorical aid is the focus; those wishing to speak must be professional and limits will be set; our elected officials are expected to attend, including our legislators.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

S2011-01 A-H: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Secondary Teacher Leader as listed below:

1. Wayne R. Lima Science, Technology/Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Teacher Leader – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year only

Reason: To fill a vacancy (Resignation – A. Fayan)

Funding: Operational Budget

B. 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 2010-11 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Baseball (Boys) Head Coach Robert Millard**
- 2. Golf Head Coach Christopher Munzert**
- 3. Lacrosse (Boys) Head Coach Scot Clark**
- 4. Lacrosse (Boys) Asst. Coach Michael Williams**
- 5. Lacrosse (Girls) Head Coach Kerri Ferreira**
- 6. Lacrosse (Girls) Asst. Coach Jamie Calenda**
- 7. Softball (Girls) Head Coach Steven Zina**
- 8. Softball (Girls) Asst. Coach Meredith Friedman ***
- 9. Tennis (Boys) Head Coach Geoffrey Keegan**
- 10. Track (Outdoor) Head Coach Andrew Sabourin**
- 11. Track (Outdoor) Asst. Coach Jeffrey Blanchet**

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 12. Baseball Coach Paul Castigliero**
- 13. Softball (Girls) Coach John Raposa**
- 14. Track (Outdoor) Coach Brian Beausoleil**

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

C. ESL TUTORS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2010-11 school year only as ESL Tutors contingent upon grant funding:

Name

- 1. Barbara Gracie**
- 2. Mary Frances Perella**

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. Jamie Calenda General Subject Matter**
- 2. Cheryl A. Dellefratte General Subject Matter**
- 3. Kenneth R. Hamel General Subject Matter**
- 4. Neil S. Hitchen General Subject Matter**
- 5. Carlos A. Lopes, Jr. History/M.S. Social Studies**
- 6. Bethany L. Richard Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 7. Kate L. Sweeney Elementary**
- 8. Faithe N. Weathers Registered Nurse**

E. CLASSIFIED 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 classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

SECRETARIAL

- 1. Sandra S. Allen**
- 2. Arleen T. Triolo**

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

- 3. Nicole M. Downing**

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

- 4. Fernando A. Goncalves**
- 5. Melvin E. Nine**

F. 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. Lee A. Brando Teacher Assistant – Mt. Hope High**
Effective: December 20, 2010, up to one year,
pending release from physician
Reason: Leave in accordance with Article 20

of the Master Agreement

G. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Anne Marie Fayan from the position of Secondary Teacher Leader and Patricia Raposa from the position of Teacher Assistant as listed below:

1. Anne Marie Fayan Teacher Leader, STEM – Mt. Hope High

Effective: December 22, 2010

Reason: Personal

2. Patricia Raposa Teacher Assistant – Hugh Cole

Effective: January 19, 2011

Reason: Retirement

H. TERMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of June 28, 2010 of the following listed auxiliary school personnel and appoint the listed personnel to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

1. Bonnie Dion Teacher Assistant (Part Time to Full Time)

(Effective 1/20/11)

2. Christa Resendes Teacher Assistant (Part Time) (Effective 1/20/11)

Recommendation #S 2011-02: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, go out to bid for a SPED bus

MOTION: Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to approve. Mrs. Silva explained this new bus would replace the one taken off the road in November because of the age of the motor; reimbursement from DEM is expected. Mr. O'Dell said emission standards will change drastically for diesel engines. Mr. Saviano moved the motion. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2011-03: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the replacement of the lighting in the Kickemuit Middle School Gyms with energy efficient lighting at a cost not to exceed \$15,033

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wellness Committee Report

Mr. Bento read a report prepared by Mrs. Diana Campbell who was ill

and could not be present:

Wellness Committee is very excited to be planning Wellness Celebration Week on March 21-25. We are hoping to use the month of March and especially during the week of the 21st, to highlight the wonderful things that are going on in the district with regards to Wellness, Healthy Choices, Good Nutrition, and Exercising.

We are hoping to incorporate the theme of Wellness into our activities by asking teachers, staff and even the school committee to participate in some way. One way for the School Committee to participate will be to recognize those students and staff that have done something extraordinary during the accolades section of a SC meeting in March. For example, the students at Rockwell have been walking 'around the world'. It would be nice to acknowledge their accomplishment. Another way, would be to open the Wellness Center for a demonstration before the SC meeting either on the 14th or 28th. With your support, the Wellness Committee is planning to move forward with this plan.

We are looking for input and ideas, as well, as your support. Thanks.

Mrs. McBride commended Mrs. Campbell and this District for the work they have done to make this a well and healthy community; we are far ahead of most other districts in this regard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- 8:43 PM

MOTION: At 8:43 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss bond counsel and collective bargaining updates. Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:05 PM

In Executive Session, the Committee discussed the topics mentioned above.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:06 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to adjourn at 9:06 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/c