

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, June 13, 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 7:09 PM.

Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, Karen A. Lynch, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, Diana B. Campbell, 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; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: William M. O'Dell

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Accolades

One of our Mt. Hope High School students has earned national recognition in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2011, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. We recognize art teacher Lauren Enjeti for encouraging and supporting creative learning at Mt. Hope and invite her to present the citation. The recipient of this prestigious award is Tyler Murgo. Tyler is among the most talented young artists and writers in the nation. This year over 185,000 works were submitted for review by professionals and only the top 1,500 were recognized in the national competition.

The Mt Hope Athletic Department is proud to announce that Meghan Rainville has been selected a Finalist for Outdoor Track for the Cox Sports Awards. Meghan joins Amanda DaCosta who will represent Mt Hope at the Cox Sports Awards on June 15th. The event will feature an awards dinner at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence.

On many days throughout this past school year, at 2:00 PM when the final bell rang at the Kickemuit Middle School, over 50 Kickemuit Middle School students, under the supervision of Debbie Kearns, walked down to Hugh Cole School. Within that short distance, these students transformed themselves from middle school student into MENTOR—they became reading homework buddies, math homework buddies and enrichment activity assistants to the Hugh Cole students. Many of the students volunteered over 20 of their

after-school hours, and some even 30 to 40 hours. Parent volunteers were also involved and we would like to specifically thank Mrs. Linda Rimoshytus for the many hours she shared so willingly. The School Committee would like to present to Principal Carbone a certificate of recognition and thanks, to the staff and students of the mentoring program. Mrs. Thies expressed appreciation to the students at Kickemuit and at Hugh Cole for the collegiality developed between the two groups; she introduced Mrs. Linda Rimoshytus. Mrs. Rimoshytus explained that mentors must be in good academic standing with no behavior infractions; the goal was to raise the math scores of all Hugh Cole students and provide behavior role models for students who struggle with classroom behavior; the experience was rewarding and valuable to both groups, raising self-esteem and encouraging more community service projects. Four student mentors spoke of their experience in the program:

- Michaela Desmarais said the experience taught her skills and helped her realize her idea about becoming a teacher will be a career goal; she was amazed as the relationships she developed and the respect shown to her even though she was only a little older than the students she mentored; she encouraged other students to become involved in the program.
- Josh Goldman followed in his brother's footsteps; he learned valuable lessons and got a brush-up on his own math skills; a simple "high five" gave students encouragement; he looks forward to continuing in the program.
- Sarah Russell said her involvement in the program made her feel

good about herself, especially when the students mastered a new skill she helped them with; much of the learning was through games; she thanked Mrs. Rimoshytus and Mrs. Ursillo for allowing her to be involved in this rewarding experience.

- Kayla Sullivan said her older brother and sister usually learn things before she gets a chance to but being a peer mentor is something she did first; the experience also assured her that a second grade teacher is what she really wants to be. Kayla is grateful for this opportunity and recommends it to other students.

Mrs. Thies was impressed by the articulate, insightful and reflective statements of the students. Mr. Bento thanked Mr. Carbone, Mr. Mello and especially Mrs. Rimoshytus; he is looking forward to an even bigger program next year.

Retirees

Superintendent Thies stated the District is so very, very grateful for the service of the retirees who collectively, have provided 476 years of service; their professionalism and expertise is appreciated and their retirement will leave an incredible void.

Certified Staff

Grace Arruda – Kindergarten Teacher at Colt Andrews

Maureen Clark – Reading Specialist at Colt Andrews

Terri Martland – Grade 1 Teacher at Colt Andrews

Madlyn McArdle – Special Educator at Colt Andrews

Karen Finocchi – Grade 5 Teacher at Guiteras

Marion Fodor – Reading Specialist at Guiteras

Theresa Silva – Kindergarten Teacher at Hugh Cole

Mary Almon – Grade 2 Teacher at Rockwell

James Hagan – Business Teacher at Kickemuit

Elvira Morra-Abilheira – Social Studies Teacher at Kickemuit

John Reynolds – English Teacher at Kickemuit

Joseph Welch – Social Studies Teacher at Kickemuit

Edward Wujcik – Social Studies Teacher at Kickemuit

Diane Gempp – Guidance Counselor at Mt. Hope

John Marshall – Social Studies Teacher at Mt. Hope

Cynthia Marszalek – Special Educator at Mt. Hope

Nancy McMahon – Spanish Teacher at Mt. Hope

Carolyn Thomas – Librarian at Mt. Hope

Non-Certified Staff

Patricia Cappucci – Teacher Aid

Geraldine Faillace – Secretary

Frances Nunes – Teacher Aid

Patricia Raposa – Teacher Aid

Each Principal spoke about their retiring teachers, citing personal observations, professional accomplishments, contributions to the school and the impact they have made on the lives of their students.

Teachers of the Year

Colt Andrews: Melanie Lane

Principal Tracey McGee said Melanie always brings multiple perspectives to the table, is open to new ideas, has a clear and honest relationship with teachers and support staff, is responsive, proficient with utilizing data, and has a positive attitude. Her professionalism is impeccable and she contributes much to the school and to the community with tender humor.

Guiteras: Margaret Perrotto

Principal Sonya Whipp said Peggie was chosen Teacher of the Year for many reasons; she has truly been an instrumental force in the progress Guiteras has made over the past twelve years, with boundless energy, a zest for learning, a love of children and a willingness always to lend a helping hand. She has served in a number of capacities on the school and District level and has instilled a sense of patriotism by coordinating programs with the RI Veteran's Home.

Hugh Cole: Chris Kinder

Principal Charles Mello said Chris truly cares about his school and the students he services, is highly regarded by the Hugh Cole Community for his ability to work collaboratively with his colleagues and administrators, understands the diverse needs of the community and has developed a strong and trusted relationship with parents, guardians and foster care givers.

Kickemuit: Debra Marshall

Principal Michael Carbone praised Debbie for her excellent job of catering to the individual needs of all students, for her leadership and people skills and her common sense. She is an excellent cheerleading coach for Mt. Hope and Kickemuit and has brought a wealth of fresh ideas that have endeared her to the staff and students; she is respected by teachers, administrators and students and her pleasant personality and great sense of humor is appreciated.

Mt. Hope: Lauren Enjeti

Principal Don Rebello explained there is an uncanny level of student engagement in Ms. Enjeti's classroom; she is truly exceptional at connecting with all students and maintaining the highest level of classroom standards and mutual respect. She inspires students to take part in every art competition available to them and a number of her students have excelled at high levels of competition; she was also instrumental in instituting the Art National Honor Society at Mt. Hope and teaches art classes on the weekend.

Rockwell: Kelly Brum

Tara McAuliffe, Rockwell Principal, said Kelly inspires students to always do their best and the true test of student engagement is when the students continue to work when the teacher leaves the classroom. She has a willingness to work and plan with other teachers and is respected by faculty who turn to her for ideas and advice.

DISTRICT: Mrs. Thies announced the District Teacher of the Year, saying each of the teachers of the year are so very valued and very, very special; this year there are two chosen for the District -- Kelly Brum and Margaret Perrotto.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

None

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell reported the next meeting is June 20, 2011 at Oliver; tonight, the group looked at the damage done at the high school due to water issues.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault reported the next Subcommittee meeting will be the first Monday in August; at the next full committee meeting they will be seeking approval of the indoor air quality policy, a policy having to do with the recruiting and assigning of personnel, and the policy on placement of elementary students (alternative to the Rockwell boundaries policy). Mrs. Arsenault thanked Ms. Alfano, Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Rancourt, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Thies and the three Bristol elementary principals for their part in the challenging task of trying to make sense of where to place our elementary students.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano reported negotiations continue; efforts are slipping into high gear with two meetings a week in July with the great hopes to “put the contract to bed” in a couple of months.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell has no updates but again encouraged anyone with an interest to join the group next year.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #S2011-28: Personnel

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mrs. Arsenault seconded.

Mrs. McBride stated she did not speak out because of an issue she

has. Mr. Bento clarified that a revision had been made. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Mrs. McBride opposed.

Mrs. Thies recognized the acceptance of Mr. Michael Carbone's retirement in June 2012 after 19 years as Principal of Kickemuit Middle School and acknowledged his leadership in bringing that school community together at the beginning of regionalization, as well as his service, dedication and love for Kickemuit Middle School.

Recommendation #S2011-29: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. Mrs. Thies confirmed for Mrs. Campbell that four professional development days are included. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Bento congratulated the Class of 2011, wished them well, and thanked high school administration for the great celebration this past week.

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:26 PM

At 8:26 PM Mrs. McBride, seconded Mrs. Campbell, motioned to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/c