

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, September 26, 2011, in the cafeteria of Kickemuit Middle School, 525 Child Street, Warren, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 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:** Diane B. Campbell

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

## **Accolades**

**Each year the Bristol County Water Authority holds a Water Conservation Poster and Essay Contest. This year Bristol Warren had nine contest winners! First place winners receive a \$100 savings bond and second place winners receive a \$50 savings bond from the Water Authority. Congratulations to:**

**Ruby McCune**

**Benjamin Flynn**

**Grant Garcia**

**Hope Marie Tyska**

**Isaiah Bergmark**

**Isabel Ludes**

**Kristen Black**

**Makeda Bergmark**

**Margaret O'Brien**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM**

**Mr. Jock Hayes, President of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation, with heartfelt thanks, presented to the School Committee a certificate acknowledging the Committee's support of the 3rd Annual Bodacious Bee.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mr.**

**Silva seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to seal the minutes to the August 22 and September 19, 2011 Executive Sessions; Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.**

### **BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. O'Dell said the Hugh Cole Playground Project was discussed at their last meeting; more information will be provided during the discussion on the recommendation later in this meeting. Also, the District is faced with an astronomical increase in retirement contributions for next year, an increase of \$1.6M; a deep struggle will ensue to cover this increase.**

### **POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Arsenault reported the next Subcommittee meeting will be Monday, October 3rd, 5:30 PM at Oliver.**

**“At this time, no formal agenda has been proposed, however: Outstanding are the following topics and/or policies, which may be addressed:**

**-The RI State Legislature passed an amendment to RI State Law regarding the attendance ages for RI children in the Public Schools. One of the primary changes is the age at which a student may**

**formally withdraw (drop out) of school. The age has been changed from 16 years old to 18 years old. I believe we may want to recommend the change to our own policy based on the State Law revision. For further information, you may access RI Education Law 16-19-1 (Attendance Required) through 16-67.1-3 (Defining the Age and Protocol for a student to leave school)**

**-Elementary School Placement Policy-discussion was concluded at the subcommittee level, but the Policy in its revised form has not yet been recommended to the School Committee for a first reading.**

**-MHHS Academic Probation Policy**

**As a result of my participation in the School Improvement Team meetings at MHHS, I was part of the membership that was informed of the failure of this policy to reduce failures in various subjects. Data was collected for the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years and failed to show a decrease in the failure rate, which was anticipated when the School Committee enacted this policy in June of 2008. It is my understanding that the School Improvement Team is recommending a possible revision of this policy. I will speak to Superintendent Thies for further advice and a recommendation regarding this policy.**

**Other news!**

**As Policy Subcommittee Chair, it's nice to find support for those policies our District has created and are committed to. Last week I was able to attend two professional development opportunities that can inform how we move forward to improve our students and staff**

**well being and save us money in the area of energy costs.**

**On Tuesday RI school leaders were treated to a breakfast showcasing wholesome ingredients, in support of the State's healthy eating initiatives for students. I have shared packets of information with my colleagues in order to celebrate the measures that have been taken to improve student health in R.I. We are fortunate to have our own District Wellness Committee, and in attendance were parents Bobbi Jarvis, Joanne Waite and Kirstin DiChiappari . Also present from the Bristol Warren communities were Supt. Thies, MHHS Principal Don Rebello, community members Susan Donovan, Betty Brito and I believe grandparent Linda Rhimoshytus from Bristol Warren schools.**

**No doubt the wellness committee will guide us to more and better initiatives this year, as they have in the past few years under the leadership of Diana Campbell.**

**I also attended a professional development workshop sponsored by RI Assoc. Of School Committees, regarding energy efficiency and new and exciting ways to cut costs in our school buildings. Our own Pauline Silva is well known to Constellation Energy officials, as she has enabled our District to achieve considerable savings through collaboration with other districts in the state in purchasing energy. I am very excited about the potential additional savings we might realize, and have shared my folder with Pauline to alert her of new initiatives we might engage in going forward. Should we be interested in more information, representatives from Constellation**

**Energy are open to attending one of our Budget Facilities Subcommittee meetings to explain new programs and ideas we might consider in planning our energy needs.”**

**Mrs. Arsenault said that as School Committee liaison to the Rockwell School, she attended the September PTO meeting and is excited about the energy and commitment of the Rockwell parents; Rockwell is alive and well.**

**Chairman Bento reminded the members who are liaisons to a school of their mission: bring comments back to the Committee in regards to three things they view in the school that should be sustained and three things about which they can recommend improvements.**

#### **PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Saviano said teacher negotiations are approaching the end of the first year; unfortunately he had nothing to report at this time.**

#### **WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

**There was no report in Mrs. Campbell’s absence.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON’S INITIATIVES**

**Mr. Bento welcomed everyone to Kickemuit, where the School**

**Committee meetings will take place through June 2012, and then return to Mt. Hope High School. He thanked the Superintendent, the Principals, Mr. Morris and Mr. Simmons and the custodial staff for their support. Mr. Bento originally wanted to hold the meetings at all the schools but after speaking with several people and realizing the potential for much confusion, it was clear the focus should be on the two flagship schools.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**Recommendation # S2011-43 A-J: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

**A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Secondary Reading Specialist/Consultant, Middle School Guidance Counselor, Kindergarten Teacher, Elementary Reading Specialist/Consultant (Part Time), School Nurse/Teacher (Part Time) and two District Mentor Coordinators as listed below:**

- 1. Jamie J. Swierk Reading Specialist/Consultant – Mt. Hope High  
Effective: For the 2011-12 School Year  
Reason: To fill a vacancy (Transfer – S. Antonio)  
Funding: Operational Budget (10th step)**

**2. Rose A. Boyle Guidance Counselor – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 School Year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Transfer – R. MacDougall)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**(10th Step/Masters +20)**

**3. Kelly Servant Kindergarten Teacher – Hugh Cole**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 School Year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Resignation – T. Mellow)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**(3rd Step/Masters)**

**4. Nancy W. Keysor Reading Specialist/Consultant (2/5 time) –  
Rockwell**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 School Year Only**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Transfer – T. Mellow)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**(2nd Step/Masters)**

**5. Phyllis M. Glavin School Nurse/Teacher (2/5 time) – Colt Andrews**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 School Year Only**

**Reason: To fill a job share vacancy**

**(Job Share – M. Lero)**

**Funding: Operational Budget  
(10th step/Masters)**

**6. Brian P. MacDougall District Mentor Coordinator**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 school year only**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**7. Tricia E. Talbot District Mentor Coordinator**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 school year only**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**B. APPOINTMENT: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Elementary Head Teacher as listed below:**

**1. Peter J. Kells Head Teacher – Guiteras**

**Effective: For the 2011-12 school year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**(Retirement – M. Perrotto)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**C. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century,**

**Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):**

**1. Meghan Callahan Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**2. Paulette G. LaParle Child Care Provider (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**3. Melissa Avery Child Care Provider (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**4. Chelsea B. Rainville Child Care Provider (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**5. Dominique Latessa Child Care Provider (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**6. Emma W. Kee Child Care Intern (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**D. 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 2011-12 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):**

## **INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE**

### **Sport Position Coach**

- 1. Basketball Coach Paul Castigliero**
- 2. Flag Football Coach Paul Castigliero**

### **ADVISORS**

- 3. Class of 2014 (Co-Advisor) Jeanne Chaffee**
- 4. Class of 2014 (Co-Advisor) Scott Pellerin**
- 5. Marching Band – Color Guard Instructor Laurie Metthe**
- 6. Science Olympiad Glenn Valentine**
- 7. Yearbook Matthew Keegan**

**E. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Part Time Special Education Consultants for the 2011-12 school year contingent upon funding and student needs:**

### **Name Position Funding**

- 1. Rosia Beaulieu Speech/Language Pathologist IDEA**
- 2. Jasmin Desmarais Certified Occupational Therapist Operational Budget**  
**Assistant (COTA)**
- 3. Melissa Kavanagh Child Outreach Screener IDEA/Oper. Budget**

4. Nancy Keysor Special Education Tutor IDEA
5. Camille Manchester Speech/Language Pathologist Operational Budget
6. Elizabeth Rego Occupational Therapist Operational Budget
7. Carol Russell Resource Consultant IDEA
8. Katharine Woolbright Adaptive Physical Education/Private IDEA

**F. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2011-12 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

**Name Position**

1. Jacqueline Reynolds Support Teacher
2. Karen Ferreira Support Teacher
3. Mary Linda Soderlund Support Teacher/English Teacher
4. John Castriotta Mathematics Teacher
5. Raquel Goulart Mathematics/Science Teacher
6. Paula Faria PBGR Recovery Teacher
7. Joseph Koger Science Teacher
8. Brad Rodrigues Social Studies Teacher

**G. MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to

**appoint the following individuals for the 2011-12 session only of the Kickemuit Middle School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:**

**Name Position**

- 1. Debra Leffingwell English/Language Arts Teacher**
- 2. Lori Prazeres Mathematics Teacher**

**H. 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. Brooke-Joy Antone Elementary**
- 2. Maureen Clark Elementary/Sp.Ed./**
- 3. John Cross III General Subject Matter**
- 4. Harrison T. Delfin Sec. History**
- 5. Christina M. Farley Elementary/ESL**
- 6. Barbara A. Goad Early Childhood/Sp.Ed.**
- 7. Angela C. Hawkins Elementary/Reading Spec.**
- 8. Michael R. Karikas Music**
- 9. Jacqueline S. Vaughn General Subject Matter**
- 10. Marie J. Waring Elementary**

## **11. Josh K. Womelsdorf General Subject Matter**

**I. 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:

### **SECRETARIAL**

#### **1. Karyl E. Rotondo**

**J. RESIGNATIONS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Tara L. Mellow from the position of Kindergarten Teacher and Shana Leffingwell and Brad Rodrigues from the positions of Class of 2013 Co-Advisor as listed below:

#### **1. Tara L. Mellow Kindergarten Teacher – Hugh Cole**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Reason: Personal**

#### **2. Shana Leffingwell Class of 2013 Co-Advisor – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Reason: Personal**

#### **3. Brad Rodrigues Class of 2013 Co-Advisor – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Reason: Personal**

**Recommendation #S 2011-44: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of six (6) Bristol families and one (1) Warren family to home school their children for the 2011-2012 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District**

**MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mrs. Arsenault seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Mrs. McBride opposed.**

**Recommendation #S 2011-45: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, award \$15,000 from Capital Projects to the Hugh Cole Playground Project pending satisfactory evidence of raising \$47,000**

**MOTION: Mrs. Arsenault motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded. Mr. O'Dell explained the project consists of three modest phases; the \$15,000 from the District would most likely be awarded in the next fiscal year or the one after. Mrs. McBride requested future discussion on the need for fencing; Mrs. McBride feels the cost of fencing should not be the responsibility of the Playground Project; no**

other school playground groups were required to purchase their own fence. Mr. Saviano concurred; fencing should be the responsibility of the District. Mr. O'Dell, at the Budget Subcommittee meeting, had requested the Superintendent consult with Mr. Simmons, the building principals and our attorney and report back to the Subcommittee on the necessity of a fence and who bears responsibility for the cost.

Mr. Silva pointed out that the District contributed money to Hugh Cole for recreational facilities at the time of the new construction; a ball field and a back stop was provided which no other school received. This is not an equality issue and this action may not be an advantageous at this time when it is so difficult to balance the budget. Mrs. McBride retorted some items were removed from the original budget for construction of the new Hugh Cole. Mr. Bento said discussion will continue at a future meeting.

The motion to approved passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Mr. Silva opposed.

#### **Discussion: Revisions to 2011-2012 Student Calendar**

Superintendent Thies wished to open discussion on the handling of the four-day delay in opening school due to Hurricane Irene. Adding the four days to the end of the calendar takes the school year to June 20, even before the onset of inclement weather. Some Districts across the state have discussed modifying the February vacation or

eliminating the February and April vacations and establishing a March vacation. The only other time the February vacation was eliminated was in 1999, for other reasons. A March vacation may be an option to consider for the coming school year.

Mrs. McBride remembers the loss of the February vacation vividly saying that week was a disaster and benefited no one; it was not a good learning time; she personally favors a one week vacation in March. Mrs. Lynch feels it is too difficult to change the vacations this year but as a parent, supports one vacation in March for next year. Mr. Saviano agrees, it would be too disruptive to change February vacation for this year.

Mrs. Arsenault welcomes research on one March vacation, as well as the most effective time to shut down in regards to energy efficiency, perhaps two weeks at Christmas time and one week in March. Also, she feels summer is short-changed when school starts before Labor Day; she feels that holding classes later into June is not an issue. Mrs. Arsenault recommends surveying families for their input.

Mr. O'Dell favors adding the four days at the end of this school year. He is grateful for the opening of discussion on the possibility of one vacation in March; when he brought up the idea a number of years ago the argument was it would make the summer longer causing more mental atrophy; two week-long vacations cut down on flu; our teachers who reside in other communities would benefit from a

universal calendar. Mrs. Thies said prep schools open later and end earlier by having longer school days; our buildings are used throughout the summer for students needing additional support; we are a site for administering the flu vaccine; the most problematic issue would be what other districts are doing.

Mrs. McBride said bussing is a consideration and it is important to start coordinating efforts across the board. Mrs. Rancourt also supports one vacation in March starting next year; she asked if bad weather causing school closings this winter could impact the April vacation. Mrs. Thies said it is difficult to predict what the weather will bring but a waiver could be requested from the state and cancelling the February and April vacations this year would be problematic. As far as rumors that the hurricane days would not have to be made up, the state of emergency was declared for Monday only, which was our teacher orientation day.

Mr. Silva also agrees with a March vacation in place of February and April; in regards to climate control and energy efficiency, the last week of August is much hotter than the end of June and we get more snow after January than over Christmas break. Mr. Silva questioned if the four missed days have any affect on our senior class and graduation. Mrs. Thies said seniors must attend 171 days of instruction; the internal schedule of activities may have to be adjusted. Mr. Silva would not want to short-change those students' final time with us and he asked to have more information and then to

**disseminate it to parents for planning purposes. Mrs. Arsenault suggested it might be time to for “more outside the box thinking” such as the practice in some districts of high school in three years, which may benefit scheduling and financial issues.**

### **Announcement**

**Mrs. Thies announced some good news—Commissioner Gist will be at Mt. Hope High School tomorrow at 10:30 AM to announce the results of the spring 2011 science NECAP assessment; Mt. Hope was chosen as the site because of the significant gains they made in this area; also Mt. Hope is the only high school in the state that has created a STEM Department (science, technology, engineering and math), chaired by Mr. Greg Shea; she commended the faculty and students on the work. Mr. Bento congratulated the Superintendent and her team.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:00 PM**

**Chairman Bento will withdraw item #2. Fundraising from the Executive Session agenda; it had been brought to his attention there may have been some questionable tactics in regard to fundraising; the Superintendent researched the matter and provided a reasonable explanation; Mrs. Thies will send a reminder to all fundraising groups**

about policy and protocol.

**MOTION:** In accordance with open meetings law 42-26-5(a)(2), 5(a)(9), at 8:00 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session for an update on collective bargaining, and discussion on Joint Finance Committee insurance coverage; Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Arsenault will recuse herself from the discussion on collective bargaining.

Mr. Bento said no decisions will be made during the session and no action will take place when open session resumes other than to adjourn.

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:42 PM**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 8:43 PM**

**MOTION:** There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Saviano, seconded by Mrs. McBride, motioned to adjourn at 8:43 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/c**