

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, December 10, 2012, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Mr. Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairman; Karen A. Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Lynn Wainwright, 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: John Bento

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the Mt. Hope High School Girls' Tennis Team for winning the Division III State Championship under the coaching of Geoff Keegan for the first time in school history! Team members include:

**Tess Alexandre Lauren Manuel
Emma Camara Catherine McGee
Jane Carney Michaela Pacheco
Sophie Costa Madelyn Phillips
Destinee DeSousa Hannah Riccio
Alyson Dion Marisa Silva
Hailie Dion Emma Sousa
Haley Ferreira Kiana Thayer-Hannon
Lauren Fletcher Simone Verria
Sarah Leger**

Congratulations to the following Kickemuit Middle School students who have been selected to perform with the Rhode Island Junior All State Band, Orchestra and Chorus this year:

**Laura Iacono, flute, BAND
Emily Cupolo, flute, BAND
Elizabeth Hennen, baritone saxophone, BAND
Scott Goltsos, clarinet, BAND**

Luke Cabral, trombone, BAND

Eleanor Knapman, CHORUS

Kaya Giroux, CHORUS

Geneva Casalegno, ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to Mt. Hope High School senior Ricky Souza who has been accepted as first tenor in the All Eastern Honors Festival Chorus. Ricky will travel to Baltimore in April to participate in this prestigious event!

Mr. Saviano congratulated Mrs. Wainwright that in the same month she became a member of the school committee, she has already attended the School Committee 101 seminar which was offered recently thereby satisfying the required six hours of training per year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Silva stated for the record that there was no need for an Executive Session on the FY12 Audit at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Mr. Saviano seconded. The motioned passed by a vote of 8-0

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to seal the minutes to the November 26, 2012 Executive Session; Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INITIATIVES

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee: Mrs. Rancourt reported that there will be a Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting on Monday, December 17th. Study of the watershed area will be one of the items discussed.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee: Nothing to report at this time.

Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee: Mr. O'Dell reported that there will be a Policy Meeting on Wednesday, December 12th. Agenda has been posted.

Wellness Committee: Mrs. Wainwright reported that she met with Mrs. Campbell and has been brought up to speed. Mrs. Wainwright also stated that she will be meeting with Mrs. Thies to get her input as well. Additionally, she will be attending a seminar with Pauline Silva. After these things are accomplished, Mrs. Wainwright will plan her first meeting. The Wellness Policy will be discussed at this Wednesday's Policy Meeting.

Chairperson's Initiatives:

SCHOOL LIAISON UPDATE:

Mr. Saviano provided a liaison report for Mt. Hope High School

highlighting the following:

Grad Seminar for Seniors which was comprised of a group of presenters who had graduated from Mt. Hope High School within the last seven years who talked of their experiences after high school. This was a wonderful way of informing and encouraging our seniors about life and choices after high school. Mr. Saviano believes this is a valuable program that he hopes will continue.

Extended Day Support Program which is a blended learning program that is totally district funded. Mr. Saviano gave a brief history of the program and highlighted how much it has grown over the years reaching more and more students. This is a highly effective program that is significantly improving student achievement. A question was asked on whether this is a “drop-in” program. Mrs. Thies responded by stating that the district is very responsive to the needs of the students by offering an open-enrollment that is flexible, but also allows for preparation on the part of the administrators of the program.

Major Testings Mt. Hope High School administers a variety of tests throughout the year including NECAP twice a year (in the spring for Science and in the fall for Math and English Language Arts); NWEA which is a standardized assessment three times a year (fall, mid-winter and end of year); Interim assessments three times a year; PSAT in October for the entire 10th grade and some self-selected

juniors; Advanced Placement Test in May.

Parent Advisory Council which was established to get more “positive press” for our district. The High School administration is looking into the possibility of offering Journalism/Publishing for the upcoming Program of Studies.

Truancy Court which has made great progress with students. The new judge models good parenting, and there has been a significant turn-around with the kids.

YES Program which is a “war room/mentoring project funded by grants through the Drug Abuse Task Force. The balance of the funding comes from the district. Mr. O’Dell wanted to know if there have been meaningful conversations about funding for 2013-2014 and Mrs. Thies responded, yes. 100% of YES seniors went on to post-secondary education. Mrs. Thies mentioned a study that was done of 2009 graduates of Mt. Hope High School which highlighted their strengths and weaknesses and offered to provide these findings to Mr. Saviano. Mrs. Campbell stated that the YES program is not just a personal and academic program, but it empowers students to help themselves.

SUPERINTENDENT’S GOALS

Mrs. Thies started her presentation by mentioning that she appreciated the input from those school committee members who

had conversations with her about the superintendent's goals as it is important to her that her goals and the school committee's goals align. She stated that many of the goals are carryover throughout the years and therefore, use the same format. They also align with the District's Strategic Plan and Rhode Island's Evaluation Standards. Mrs. Thies has also shared her goals with the administrative team. Mrs. Thies went through the following highlights of the superintendent's goals:

Goal 1: Support and engage all students to reach increasingly higher levels of proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics and science strengthening their pathway to graduation and post secondary goals.

- **Align curriculum K-12 with Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts**
- **Develop and strengthen assessment programs**
- **Monitor progress of all students and targeted sub-groups and implement appropriate intervention systems to ensure attainment of AMOs. (Math at all three levels has been a concern. We have made progress, but still need to make an effort. We made gains in Science, but still have a lot of work to do there as well.**
- **Align 2014-2015 to a RIDE designed system of assessment as well as curriculum and learning, but will need better technology for this. As a result, we will have to determine how technology will be allocated through state bond, but we are responsible for hardware.**

It would be advantageous to reconvene the technology committee which requests input from the community, school committee members and district in regard to our administrative staff.

- Strengthen Professional Learning Communities by providing quality professional development for all educators with one of the focuses being, “How do we integrate technology into curriculum?”**
- Improve competitive ranking of MHHS with other high schools in the state by increasing SAT performance in English Language Arts and Math by five points a year**

Goal 2 Develop and sustain a Professional Learning Community that is efficient and fiscally responsible.

- Develop three-year fiscal plan**
- Redesign instructional support positions and part-time supervisory positions within Council 94**
- Research, market and implement supervisory system at secondary level**
- Actively and aggressively pursue grant sources and funding**

Goal 3 Effectively communicate vision, mission and goals of the BWRSD to create a climate of trust and collaboration with the district and community, to respond to community needs, and to leverage resources to support the needs of the district.

- Redesign district website and maintain accurate, current**

information

- **Expand Facebook presence through consistent postings**
- **Research and implement a Superintendent's Blog for dissemination of district news and progress.**
- **Attend Warren Town Council meetings when educational or community issues are discussed**

Mrs. Campbell asked whether the state has indicated an end date when we need to have something in place related to the Rhode Island Evaluation System. Mrs. Thies responded that the first year we were fully implemented. We are learning from this process. Mrs. Campbell asked Chairman Silva what our next steps are now that we have gone over these goals. Mr. Silva said we will discuss as subcommittees to get closer to a timeline prior to evaluation. Mrs. Campbell would like to see this as an item on our next School Committee Agenda

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

S2012-49 A-D: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. 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 2012-13 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

4. Darryl S. Forbes General Subject Matter

5. Derek S. Gomes General Subject Matter

6. Tristan A. Lewis General Subject Matter

7. David A. McGeorge General Subject Matter

8. Sue A. Mungovan School Nurse

9. Michael H. Neckritz Special Educator

10. Kayla M. Parker Early Childhood

11. Kathleen M. Seguin General Subject Matter

12. Teresa A. Tortolani Registered Nurse

13. John J. Wolf Social Studies

C. 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:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Mary M. Brown

2. Gail M. DeCosta

3. Karen A. Park

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

4. David V. St. Pierre

D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary Teacher as follows:

1. Lynn DellaGrotta Grade Four Teacher – Hugh Cole

Effective: February 16, 2013, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with Article 21, Section L1 of the Master Agreement

Recommendation #S2012-50: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Mr. Silva asked if there was any discussion related to the audit report. Hearing none, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to accept the audit report for year ending June 30 ,2012; Mrs. Campbell seconded.

Mrs. McBride stated there should be an adjustment on the wording of the motion to reflect the caveat that this vote is contingent on some minor typographical corrections being made to the footnotes of the audit which in no way effects the budgetary numbers and those numbers will stand as voted on today.

AMENDED MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to accept the audit report contingent upon minor corrections made to the footnotes section which will in no way effect the budgetary numbers reflected in the audit report being voted on today; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The amended motion passed by an 8-0 vote.

Mr. Silva congratulated Mrs. Silva that very few changes were needed as a result of the audit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:13 p.m.

Mr. Silva stated for the record that an executive session is being called pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) for the following: Litigation involving Warren Town Council refusal to comply with the Joint Finance Committee budget update. No action will be taken during this meeting, and we will only be returning to adjourn.

MOTION: At 8:13 p.m., Mrs. McBride motioned to go into executive session; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: At 8:23 p.m., Mrs. Campbell motioned to end the executive session; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:25 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd