

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 28, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Mr. Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairman; John Bento, vice-chairman, Karen A. Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, 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 Ben Scungio, Esq., District Solicitor

Guests: Victoria Boyle, Jock Hayes, Guy Murgo, Don Rebello

Absent: John Saviano

OPENING BUSINESS

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

ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the following Mt. Hope High School students who were chosen as one of three finalists for the song they co-wrote and performed at the Stand-up to Bullying 2012 Conference Anti-bullying Song Contest:

Turell Finona-Boyd Cody Thomas

The students performed a portion of their song for those present and were received enthusiastically. Mrs. Campbell stated that these students are a part of the Youth Experiencing Success Program, and took it upon themselves, under the supervision of Colleen Powers, to address bullying by creating a group called ARC (Antibullying Resolution Coalition). She commended them for their efforts in such an important matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

Jock Hayes presented on behalf of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation which is a private, non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to supporting high quality education through funding grants. One of the most noteworthy ways funds are raised is through the Bodacious Bee Contest which will be held this year on Saturday, March 9th at Roger Williams University. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by a dinner. Mrs. McBride encouraged the school committee members to form a team this year and requested to hear from them in the next couple of days. Mrs. Thies as

well as school committee members thanked Mr. Hayes and the foundation for the tremendously talented people who work countless hours for the children of the district and who have been a wonderful partner over the years. Mr. Hayes said that they very much appreciate the support from the administration at Bristol Warren Regional.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to seal the minutes to the December 10, 2012 Executive Session; Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INITIATIVES

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee: Mrs. Rancourt reported that at their last meeting a presentation of FY2014 was given. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m. The last few meetings there has been a lot of reaching out to community members as shown by their attendance. Mrs. Rancourt encouraged school committee members, town council members and members of the community to come out to future meetings.

Mrs. Thies also commented that the district is hosting an open house

on March 5th and is encouraging town administrators, town council members, PTO members, community members, and school committee members to participate. Formal invitations will be sent out.

Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee: Mr. O'Dell reported that the subcommittee is currently working on the Health and Wellness Policy which has been a slow process as they are revisiting it line by line, but is hopeful to have it completed in the next couple of meetings. The subcommittee is also going to be looking at the High School Handbook as well as internal policy for coaches. All of these items will be discussed a week from tonight.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee: Mr. Silva stated there was nothing significant to report at this time. The initial process of organizing and scheduling of the evaluation has commenced. Another meeting has been scheduled with Mrs. Thies, Mrs. McBride and myself to finalize scheduling of the evaluation and to insure the process is going as it should be.

Wellness Committee: Mrs. Wainwright reported that she was pleased to report that at their last meeting of the ten attendees that participated, two of them were students. The committee is looking to schedule a wellness week at all schools the week of April 29th to May 3rd to coincide with ACES which is on May 1st. Mrs. Wainwright stated her first action item is to review the Wellness policy to

determine whether it falls in line with the state's guidelines. The next meeting will be held at Rockwell School on Wednesday, February 27th from 4:30 to 5:30.

Chairperson's Initiatives:

Mr. Silva brought up the issue of the school committee packets and a recent discussion of the school committee where it was determined after researching other schools to do things electronically and to set up a district secure website. To accommodate school committee members, appropriate electronic devices were distributed. By moving away from hardcopy dissemination, it was felt this approach would be cost effective as well as making for timely receipt of information. Mr. Silva said it was recently brought to his attention that more than half of school committee members are back to receiving hardcopy packets delivered via courier. Mr. Silva opened this up for discussion. Reasons for preferring hardcopies were: technical difficulties in accessing information; resources for printing a large amount of copies; the ease of having a hardcopy to refer to and make notes on. Suggestions made: have the agenda projected on a screen where everyone could reference it; only have important hardcopy documents given to those who request them; have individual school committee members print at home those documents that would be noteworthy; possibly email packets to individuals (this might be a confidentiality issue). Mr. Silva closed the discussion by saying that during the committee's discussions of their school committee goals, we addressed this very issue and all agreed

the best way to save the district time and money was to use the technological route for dissemination of documents. Mr. Silva thanked everyone for their input.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

S2013-2 A-G: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A. 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. Kate E. Gannon Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Kathleen M. Coccio Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

3. Sally DaLuz Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

4. Jillian M. Costa Child Care Intern (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

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

WINTER COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Basketball (Girls) Asst. Coach Randy Tavares ***

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 2. Lacrosse (Girls) Asst. Coach Richard Osgood ***
- 3. Softball-Pitching/Catching Asst. Coach Donald Silva ***

**HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA
SUPERVISORS**

4. Supervisor (Spring) Thomas DelSanto
5. Supervisor (Spring) Gerard Spence
6. After School Gym Area Supervisor (Quarter 3) Debra Lopes
7. After School Gym Area Supervisor (Quarter 4) Debra Lopes

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

Sport Position Coach

8. Basketball Coach Paul Castigliero
9. Volleyball Coach Emily McCaffrey

WELLNESS CENTER SUPERVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

10. Supervisor (Winter) Laurie Cadman
11. Supervisor (Spring) Laurie Cadman

ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH

12. Class of 2015 (Co-Advisor) Sarah Coyne
13. Gay/Straight Alliance Kirsten Ziari
14. Literary Magazine (Co-Advisor) Lauren Enjeti
15. Literary Magazine (Co-Advisor) Patrick Jackson
16. Marching Band-Color Guard (Co-Instructor) Jennifer Metthe *
17. Sustainability Club Robert Arsenault

* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

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

appoint the following individuals for the 2012-13 session only of the Kickemuit Middle School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

- 1. Richard Ferreira Credit Recovery Special Educator**
- 2. Jennifer Harrigan Credit Recovery Special Educator**

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. Nancy A. Barboza General Science**
- 2. Alice J. Burke General Subject Matter**
- 3. Scott M. Corain Social Studies**
- 4. Zachary A. Cooper General Subject Matter**

5. Tyler C. Dixon, Jr. Social Studies

6. Marianne F. Muller Elementary

7. Holly M. Pacheco Early Childhood

8. Jacqueline Reynolds Elementary

9. Chelsea A. Saunders Elementary

10. Jenna L. Theriault General Subject Matter

11. Jon L. Tyler General Subject Matter

12. Debra A. Waddell 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. Martha M. Higham

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

2. Marilyn J. Costa

3. Martha M. Higham

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

4. Cesar Calouro

5. Julio F. Goncalves

F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the

recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for a Secretary, Teacher Assistant and Custodian as follows:

1. Elizabeth Patton Secretary – Mt. Hope High

**Effective: December 24, 2012 through
March 31, 2013, pending
release from physician**

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

2. Linda Castigliero Teacher Assistant – Colt Andrews

**Effective: February 1, 2013 for approximately
one year**

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

3. Peter Machado Custodian – Mt. Hope High

**Effective: December 25, 2012
through April 30, 2013, pending
release from physician**

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

G. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Hilary Grieve-McDermott from the position of Middle School Special Educator, Elizabeth Tavares from the position of Secretary and Donna Crowell from the position of Child Care Provider as listed below:

1. Hilary Grieve-McDermott Special Educator – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: December 21, 2012

Reason: Personal

2. Elizabeth Tavares Secretary – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: December 31, 2012

Reason: Retirement

3. Donna Crowell Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: December 18. 2012

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S2013-03: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve posting of a Security Technician Job.

Mr. Silva asked if there was any discussion related to the above recommendation. Mr. O'Dell asked how many new employees there would be? Mrs. Thies responded that there would be six employees total; three at Mt. Hope High School and three at Kickemuit Middle School. She also stated that a job description has been sent out. It is a new, part-time, non-union position to the district and will not be entitled to healthcare or benefits. It will be housed within our Technology Department. The amount of dollars to cover six individuals will be approximately \$70,000.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve posting of a Security Technician Job; Mrs. Rancourt seconded. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.

Recommendation #S2013-04: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve moving \$40K from the

General Fund's health insurance line to the safety equipment line to cover the card readers and card machines.

Mr. Silva asked if there is any discussion on the above recommendation. Mr. O'Dell asked how many buildings would be involved. Mrs. Thies responded that it will involve five of our six buildings. (Colt School already has this feature.) He then asked why this was not coming from the Capital Projects line. Mrs. Silva responded because this would be deemed a fixture and not a renovation. Mr. O'Dell was concerned that this would affect our positive fund balance. Mrs. Silva responded that at this time, this was the most prudent use of that money.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve moving \$40K from the General Fund's health insurance line to the safety equipment line to cover the card readers and card machines; Mrs. Rancourt seconded. The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES DISCUSSION

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. Arsenault for coming to help clarify a few things that were questioned during our last School Committee Workshop. Mr. Arsenault began by giving a history of the language in question of requiring a music student to participate in all performance activities, even those outside of school hours, to earn a passing grade in that class (even though that student may be failing another academic class). He stated that this language has been contained within the

Program of Studies since at least 2001. Mr. Arsenault then gave the definition of the word “extra-curricular” which is: not falling within the scope of a regular curriculum. He then clarified that the above mentioned performances outside of regular school hours are indeed a required part of the scope of the regular curriculum and are not deemed extra-curricular. These performances are an authentic assessment of the student’s comprehension of the whole course. He also went on to state that many schools locally and around the country have the same requirement as is currently in our Program of Studies for their music curriculum whether a student is failing another class or not. School Committee members voiced their concerns that they feel that these performances should be deemed “extra-curricular” and would not want to see a student suffer in other academic classes if they are required to participate in all performances as it could take them away from a class they are already having trouble in. They also stated it doesn’t seem fair that a football player is penalized and can’t participate in a game if they are failing another class, but this does not apply to the music department, ie. a band player. A majority of the school committee members want to see the main focus on academic courses and to insure all students are not at a disadvantage by missing classes for music performances, especially if they are failing another class. Mr. Arsenault assured the committee members that they do everything possible to be sure that their students are passing in all areas, not just music, to the point of making sure those students get help in any areas necessary. They will also talk to their other teachers and ask

them if there is any reason a specific child shouldn't perform. He also stated that you will find a very, very small drop out rate, and he believes it is a tribute to the curriculum they have in performing arts. Mr. Murgio commented that when they examined their drop-outs, there is one thing they have in common and that is they never once participated in an extracurricular activity. This was more common than any other trait. "Extracurricular activities" supply tremendous support to children and it builds responsibility and an expectation that you must participate. Mr. Arsenault stated there is a great deal of rigor in the academic portion of their music program. Mr. Silva summarized by stating that the music core curriculum is indeed academic; it is just that the tests for the music department are administered outside of the classroom by means of a performance. Mr. O'Dell stated that as a committee our job is to listen to the educators and administrators as they are the experts. Mr. Silva also stated that legally it is not the job of the school committee to deem what should be in the individual curricula. Mr. Scungio reiterated that the school committee's chief responsibility is to develop policy and oversee the superintendent's activities, not to determine content of curriculum. Mr. Scungio also stated that the school committee would need to see data to make a judgment on any of this. Mr. Rebello stated that the administration made an attempt last year to present data. He believes the teachers in the music program are some of the most cooperative teachers. They have gone above and beyond to be sure their students are successful. He emphasized that there is a timeline for this program of studies and requested that the school

committee pass this tonight by trusting them to insure that all students are doing well academically across the board. He reiterated that the requirement for outside performances has been the most successful way to assess the children. He would be happy to have future discussions on how we can improve. Mrs. Thies thanked Mr. Arsenault for his presentation and stated that he was speaking from a level of expertise with care and compassion for his students. She stated that she finds it disturbing that there seems to be a pitting of one curriculum against another, and agreed with Mr. O'Dell that we are all individuals who have different needs and ways we learn. At this district, we provide multiple opportunities for students to be successful. A few committee members spoke and said it was never their intention to make anyone look bad, it was more to ensure academic success throughout. They stated they would vote yes, but are holding Mr. Rebello to his word that he will have future discussions with the school committee to look into ways to improve. Mr. Silva would like to see early next school year that the Program of Studies appear on the agenda so that any issues that need to be worked out are addressed in a timely manner prior to voting time.

Recommendation #S2013-05: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Mt. Hope High School 2013-2014 Program of Studies:

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Program of Studies; Mr. Bento seconded. The motion passed with a

7-1 vote with Mrs. McBride voting no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:41 p.m.

Mr. Silva stated for the record that an executive session is being called pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) for the following: Discussion of first year administrator contracts. All parties to be discussed have been notified in advance. No action will be taken during this meeting, and we will only be returning to adjourn.

MOTION: At 9:41 p.m., Mrs. Lynch motioned to go into executive session; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed with a vote of 8-0.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to extend the school committee meeting until 10:15 p.m.; Seconded by Mr. O'Dell. The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

(Mrs. McBride left at 10:19 p.m.)

(Mrs. Campbell left at 10:21 p.m.)

MOTION: At 10:23 p.m., Mr. O'Dell motioned to end the executive session; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0..

ADJOURNMENT – 10:25 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Lynch

motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 PM; seconded by Mr. Bento.

The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd