

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 13, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair; John Bento, Vice-Chair; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer (7:09 p.m.); Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell and Lynn Wainwright; Melinda Thies, Superintendent; Mario Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; and Pauline Silva, Director of Finance and Administration

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

Chairman Silva shared a letter he received from the Association of School Business Officials International congratulating Mrs. Silva who

recently achieved the Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO) certification by the Association for School Business Officials International (ASBO). SFO Certification is granted to highly qualified individuals who fulfill multiple requirements, including proving eligibility (through work experience and education), passing a comprehensive two-part exam that tests competency in accounting and school business management topics, and adhering to the ASBO International Certification Code of Conduct. Chairman Silva personally congratulated Mrs. Silva. Mrs. Thies added that she is very proud of Mrs. Silva's expertise and her hard work.

AGENDA FOCUS

Rhode Island Growth Visualization Model

Dr. Andrade introduced the Rhode Island Growth Model stating that it is a statistical model that measures each student's academic growth based on state assessment results. This growth is not expressed in gains or losses on test scores, but through Student Growth Percentiles (SGP). A Student Growth Percentile (SGP) describes a student's current achievement relative to his/her academic peers who scored similarly on previous state assessments. The end-result is a normative comparison rather than an absolute one. A low percentile could still signify growth. Academic history is the only factor by which students are grouped, and at least two consecutive NECAP scores are needed to calculate the Student Growth Percentile (SGP). Mrs. Wainwright asked if it is deceiving for a parent to find out their child is in the 99 percentile, but they only got an 80. Dr. Andrade

showed charts illustrating how growth is calculated to answer that question. Mrs. McBride asked if some students need a longer time to complete an exam or need help to finish the task, how are they equal?

Dr. Andrade responded that the growth model is based on performance thereby leveling the playing field. Mrs. Thies added that students are compared to all peers across the state scoring at “that level”.

Dr. Andrade stated that the Rhode Island Growth Model enables the district to look at growth in addition to proficiency to get a fuller picture of student achievement. This tool provides data on the progress of districts, schools and students and aids in determining gaps in growth between subgroups. The tool also allows for comparison between districts across the state.

Dr. Andrade stated that the growth model has a “stretch” which means students at the very bottom of the proficiency scale have an equal chance to obtain a high SGP as students at the very top of that scale. The growth model encourages students, schools and districts with low proficiency to demonstrate high growth. Focusing on growth discourages complacency among high performing students, schools and districts.

Mrs. Wainwright asked if this type of model will be useful for teachers. Mrs. Thies stated that the District will receive data showing student’s baseline growth and projections for different growth levels.

The teachers will know from September to June what the expectation is for a student's growth. Dr. Andrade added that the Growth Model Visualization Tool uses median Student Growth Percentiles to summarize data for districts, schools and other student groups. A median Student Growth Percentile is the number at which half of the students in the group have a higher growth percentile and half have a lower percentile.

Dr. Andrade gave a demonstration navigating through the Rhode Island Growth Model Tool's public domain's data. He also showed an example of what principals and teachers have access to through a secure password pertaining to individual students.

Mrs. Wainwright asked who is responsible for entering data for the students into this growth model tool. Dr. Andrade responded that it is part of the scheduling process where the data goes into SchoolMax and then is uploaded into RIDE.

Dr. Andrade's objective for the presentation was to familiarize the School Committee with the Rhode Island Growth Tool.

Mrs. Thies made a clarification that the growth of the individual school and growth of the students is one part of a 100 point accountability system. Additional components balanced in this equation are absolute proficiency, number of students proficient with distinction, closing of gaps, and progress toward targets. Mrs. Thies

stated that the district is making progress and there is much to celebrate. In the next week or so information regarding schools in the state will be released by the Department of Education and will be made public through the media.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES:

S2013-17 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):

ADVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 1. Community Service Club Jeffrey Grifka**
- 2. Debate Team Brad Rodrigues**
- 3. Drama Club Samantha Medeiros**
- 4. Jazz Band Jeffrey Brackett**
- 5. Lego Robotics Stephanie Wirth**
- 6. Peer Mentoring Patricia Phillipino**
- 7. Science Fiction Club Dayna Achilli**
- 8. Student Government Jane Swift**
- 9. Young Mariners Club Manuel Perry**

B. KINDERGARTEN SCREENING TEACHERS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Kindergarten Screening Teachers for the 2012-13 school year only:

Name

- 1. Maria Grace Arruda**
- 2. Diane Gallison**
- 3. Angela Hawkins**
- 4. Emily Spinard**
- 5. Theresa Silva**

C. LEAVE 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. Karen McCanna Grade Four Teacher – Guiteras**

36 Fairview Avenue

Warren, RI 02885 Effective: For the 2013-14 School Year

Reason: Promotional Position

D. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote(s) of

February 20, 2013 as to the following listed teachers and appoint the listed teachers to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

- 1. Kristin Correia Elementary Special Educator**
- 2. Stacey Meredith Elementary**

Recommendation #S2013-16 – Stipends for Kickemuit Middle School Advisors: That the school committee upon the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee and supported by the Superintendent approve stipends for Kickemuit Middle School Advisors.

Chairman Silva clarified that even though the document states it is a “Consent Agenda”, these motions will be enacted as individual action items.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve stipends for Kickemuit Middle School Advisors; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell asked for clarification on whether coach advisor positions at Kickemuit Middle School had stipends before. Mrs. Thies responded that coaches are compensated, but assistant coaches have never been posted. Mrs. Thies added that the extracurricular advisors at the middle level had not received stipends before and were voluntary. The goal this year was to equalize between the middle school and high school according to scale and to

have parity in compensation. Mr. O'Dell asked why some positions on the stipend list say "vacant". Mrs. Thies responded those positions had never been posted before. Mrs. Wainwright asked who comes up with the stipend amounts. Mrs. Thies stated that she and Mrs. Silva received a formula from Mrs. Belisle, Athletic Director, which they adapted to generate an internal formula based on whether a club, competitive activity or activity drew a number of students and/or whether the club had large scale events. Mrs. Thies responded additionally the high school stipend list was reviewed and then adjusted to scale for the middle school stipend amounts. Chairman Silva reminded everyone that although the listing provided shows both the high school and projected middle school stipend amounts, the purpose of the meeting is to only discuss the middle school stipends. Mrs. Wainwright asked if the Kickemuit Middle School stipend amounts are competitive with other middle schools. Mrs. Thies responded that this is the first time the District is offering a stipend at the middle school level for extracurricular activities. To compare Kickemuit Middle School with another middle school would not be a fair comparison because of the issues of scale. Mrs. Wainwright asked when these stipends will be paid. Mrs. Thies responded the stipends will be paid in June and will be retroactive per diem according to the number of days the activity ran. Mrs. Silva stated the total amount being paid out for the middle school stipends is under \$9000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2013-17 A-D – Personnel: That the school committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve personnel recommendations.

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s personnel recommendations; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2013-18: That the school committee upon the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and supported by the Superintendent approve the second reading of the Dating Violence Policy (JGF).

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Dating Violence Policy (JGF); seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell stated that one change was made per recommendations from previous school committee meeting changing “obligated” to “have a responsibility”.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2013-19: That the school committee upon the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and supported by the Superintendent approve the second reading of the Tobacco, Alcohol

and Other Drug Policy (JFCH).

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the second reading of the Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Policy (JFCH); seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Lynch asked what the difference between a "1st Class prepaid letter" and "a letter" was and whether it would require a signature. Mr. O'Dell stated a 1st Class Prepaid letter would not require a signature. Mrs. Lynch stated she wanted to be sure that all attempts to notify a parent are utilized. Mrs. Thies responded that a phone call is the first point of contact. If for some reason that conversation doesn't happen, the letter is an important additional means of making contact. Mrs. Thies added it is incumbent upon the parent to make contact with the school once notified. Chairman Silva asked whether adding a certified letter in addition to a 1st Class Prepaid letter goes against Mr. Henneous warning. Mrs. Thies responded that she believes this is appropriate notification and that the District is going above and beyond to notify the family and that the family has a responsibility in this process as well. Chairman Silva stated he is not questioning the diligence of the district, but whether there will be an issue implementing a penalty if only one letter is received where it stated two will be sent out.

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to amend policy JFCH Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Policy to replace "1st Class Prepaid letter

and a Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested – Restricted Delivery letter” to “1st Class Prepaid letter and/or a Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested – Restricted Delivery letter”; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion passed unanimously to approve the second reading of the Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Policy (JFCH).

Recommendation #S2013-20: That the school committee upon the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and supported by the superintendent approve the first reading of the Entrance Age Policy (JEB).

MOTION: Mr. O’Dell made a motion to approve the first reading of the Entrance Age Policy (JEB); seconded by Mr. Bento.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Theis stated there was an error in the original policy which was corrected.

The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. O’Dell stated that the Policy Subcommittee has been looking at the Roles and Responsibilities of the School Committee. As this relates to nine members of the school committee, Mr. O’Dell would like to include discussion of these on a future workshop agenda.

Chairman Silva would like to have the committee members review the document prior to the meeting and then come together at a future workshop with recommendations.

Mrs. Wainwright would like to hear about the class of 2013 achievements and goals for the future. Mrs. Thies agreed this would be a worthwhile topic for a future meeting once all data is received. Mrs. Thies reminded everyone that during a past meeting a suggestion was also made to give opportunity to individual schools with their administrators, teachers and/or students to present a “state of the school” at a future workshop meeting.

Chairman Silva encouraged school committee members to attend many of the wonderful events coming up at the various schools such as the Science Fair, Student Government and election of officers, National Honor Society Induction and the beginning of graduation activities.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 PM

MOTION: At 8:10 PM Mrs. Lynch motioned to adjourn; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd