

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Tuesday, August 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 7:03 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair; John Bento, Vice-Chair (7:47 p.m. via teleconference), Karen Lynch, Secretary; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, and John Saviano; Melinda Thies, Superintendent; Mario Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1, Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; and Pauline Silva, Director of Finance and Administration

Absent: Susan Rancourt, Treasurer, Lynn Wainwright

OPENING BUSINESS

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

Chairman Silva stated for the record that John Bento, Vice-Chairman, who is currently serving our country, will be joining tonight's meeting

via teleconference. Chairman Silva asked for the audience's indulgence and patience in accomplishing this.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

TENNIS/ATHLETICS PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Chairman Silva asked Ms. Belisle to step up to the podium to give background concerning the issue regarding the boy's tennis team.

Mrs. Belisle stated that a group of young men came to her office at the beginning of the year asking whether or not a high school volleyball team could be established. At that point, Ms. Belisle agreed to bring on a JV program which is basically a club program to assess interest. As a result, it was determined there was enough interest for volleyball. Ms. Belisle said she knew if a varsity program was added, a boys program would have to be eliminated. After looking to those available, Ms. Belisle realized a spring athletic program would have to be removed at which time she chose boys tennis due to declining interest. Ms. Belisle then informed the Rhode Island Interscholastic League of the direction Mt. Hope High School was going concerning this and that a varsity program was instated for volleyball. Ms. Belisle added, at this point in time, they are looking at the possibility of keeping tennis as a spring co-ed club which would keep the District in compliance with Title 9. She added that the School Committee would have to vote on whether to fund

bussing for this program.

Chairman Silva asked if there is a coed tennis club, will the girls' tennis club still run. Ms. Belisle responded it would be separate. Mr. Saviano asked Ms. Belisle, for the sake of the public, to explain what in Title 9 "requires" not having a boys' tennis team at this time. Ms. Belisle responded that sports offerings are based on student ratio. Currently, Mt. Hope High School is a 50/50 school which puts the District in the place of having an even number of offerings for boys and girls. Ms. Belisle added that there cannot be more opportunities for boys because of the ratio of numbers at the school. She continued that it is also about the level of interest in a sport. Title 9 asks the high school to determine the students' interest and serve the students needs. Ms. Belisle closed by stating that these are the determining factors for the situation with boys' tennis.

Mrs. Campbell asked if there is a girls' volleyball and tennis team. Ms. Belisle responded that yes there will be a girls' varsity team in tennis and volleyball, but that the co-ed tennis team would not remove the girls tennis varsity team. Mrs. Lynch asked if the girls can play in the fall as well as in the spring club. Ms. Belisle replied as long as it is not the same coach.

Mr. O'Dell asked for clarification whether there could be a boys' tennis team. Ms. Belisle said there can be, but another sport would need to be eliminated to be in compliance with Title 9. Ms. Belisle

commented that the public perception that boys tennis will never come back is not true. Ms. Belisle added that if a girls program were added, boys tennis could be reinstated. Mr. O'Dell commented that Title 9 is good in a lot of ways, but is detrimental in a situation like this. Mr. O'Dell stated that the District should find any way possible to bring boys tennis back. He added there are students who want to play this sport, and we are saying no to them. Mrs. McBride commented that she and Mr. O'Dell disagree on Title 9. She said she knows how important and beneficial Title 9 is. Mrs. McBride commented that if it was an issue with stipend money, she would have no problem with that.

Mrs. Campbell asked if there was a way to apply for a waiver to continue boys tennis in lieu of the possibility of a girls field hockey team in the future. Mrs. Belisle stated that there is no waiver process built in to Title 9. Mrs. Thies commented that Ms. Belisle teaches a course on Title 9 compliance and is clearly the expert when it comes to the requirements.

Ms. Belisle stated that there are a lot of boys' sports at the high school level that have an unlimited roster which means there is no cutoff. This is not true on the girls' side. She added that because of the unlimited roster, the numbers are always in flux.

Ms. Belisle said the issue with adding a future girls' field hockey team is that the District does not have the facility or proper turf to provide

for this. She added if the District had the surface to play on, a girls field hockey team could be added tomorrow.

Chairman Silva then opened the podium up for public comment concerning the boys' tennis program.

Judy Squires – Bristol resident: Ms. Squires is a former physical education teacher who has 35 years experience teaching. She also has coached in Barrington. Her father started the tennis program at Bristol High School. She stated that her daughters played tennis at Bristol High School and went on to play tennis at the college level. Ms. Squires is concerned that her grandchild would not be able to play tennis were the boys' tennis program to be dropped. She feels that once it is dropped, it will never come back. She does not feel that a club will work at the high school level based on her years of experience. Ms. Squires feels students want to play a sport that means something, where they can compete and reach for a goal. She stated that the turn out this evening for the meeting shows how much it means to students. Ms. Squires asked why golf wasn't eliminated as they have the same amount of students as the boys tennis program did. She then asked why boys tennis was eliminated. Chairman Silva responded that golf is a co-ed team, but boys tennis is not considered co-ed as defined by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. He added that boys tennis is often referred to as a co-ed sport because girls are allowed to play on the team, but it indeed is not. Chairman Silva stated that golf is actually a co-ed

sport and one of the few that RIL offers that is co-ed. Ms. Squires stated that tennis costs the least amount of money to run. It also offers an opportunity for those students who don't want to play a contact sport. She commented that it is good to add volleyball, but not at the expense of another sport. Ms. Squires requests not hurting tennis players to accommodate volleyball players. She believes that dropping the boys' tennis team would be a violation of Title 9 as it would diminish an opportunity for girls to play. Ms. Squires suggested adding an intermural team at the middle school level, but the students would need to know there was a varsity program at the high school level. Ms. Squires closed by saying that she hopes the School Committee's philosophy would be to keep as many sports as possible so as not to hurt even one athlete.

Tracey McGee: Ms. McGee stated that she would like to express her support for keeping the boys' tennis team at Mt. Hope High School. She said the sport taught her son gentlemanly sportsmanship. In tennis, an individual plays on their true ability, not on the opinion of a coach. She added that it is up to the player to do their best. Ms. McGee stated that her son has received a college scholarship for tennis. She commented that she highly respects Ms. Belisle and has had many conversations with her. Ms. McGee does not believe a full year before the start of a team, a prediction can be made for the future roster. She believes that tennis is a lifelong sport. In Ms. McGee's experience she cannot name one program that has been removed which has been reinstated. She does not believe there has

been declining interest for boys tennis. Ms. McGee stated she comes before the Committee in support of a decision that is in the best interest of the children, for the future boys who want to play tennis and for lifelong healthy students in Bristol.

Helder Silveira – Bristol Resident: Mr. Silveira stated he has an 11-year-old son who likes tennis. He would not want to tell his son he couldn't pursue something he is interested in because it is not offered at the high school. Mr. Silveira asked for clarification from Ms. Belisle on why boys volleyball was chosen over boys tennis. Ms. Belisle responded that interest surveys were taken by middle and high school students. Student interest was higher for boys volleyball than for boys tennis. Chairman Silva added that the decision was also based on the requirements of Title 9 that were mentioned earlier. Mr. Silveira disagrees with dropping boys tennis believing that a team should not be cut when there is a desire and willingness to play by students, and there are benefits tennis offers.

Matthew McGee: Matthew stated that he was a four year member of the high school boys' tennis team. He has also received a college scholarship to play tennis. He brought with him an email from Jarret Fortin who was a classmate that was also on the boys' tennis team. He is now a Private in the army and serving our country. Matthew passed copies of the email out to the School Committee and then read the contents. In the letter, Jarrett spoke of how much playing tennis shaped his future in the military.

Matthew then called up all those students present this evening in support of reinstating boys tennis.

(John Bento joined the meeting via teleconference at 7:47 p.m.)

Chairman Silva brought Mr. Bento up to speed on the current discussion.

Matthew closed by asking the Committee why they would cut a program that is still growing.

Daniel Simmons: Daniel stated that last summer he served as tennis instructor/counselor for the Bristol Recreation Department's Tennis Program. He worked with children ages 6-14. Daniel stated many children participated, and that he doesn't see them giving up on this sport as they keep coming back year after year. He said that it would be so rewarding to see them play in high school in the coming years. Daniel stated there is not the same level of commitment for a club team as there would be for a varsity team. He feels removing the boys tennis team would be a real negative to the MHHS athletic program. Daniel said that anyone can pick up the sport as you don't have to be athletic to join. This, he believes, is a huge plus to a lot of kids. He also mentioned how the girls team won the state championship. Daniel said that he is hoping what has been said tonight in support of reinstating the boys' tennis team will persuade

the School Committee and Ms. Belisle to keep boys tennis.

Leo Contente: Mr. Contente asked the Committee to look beyond the numbers to look at the people. He does not believe that Title 9's purpose is to do away with tennis for the kids. Mr. Contente stated that Title 9 was intended to have culpability. He commented that the District has tennis courts with a sign for Mr. Pottington who left a legacy to the school. Mr. Contente feels that it is a "slap in the face" to let Bristol go without tennis.

Mrs. Lynch asked Ms. Belisle how RIL classifies the boys' tennis team as this evening she has heard it referred to as a "spring sport" and a "co-ed sport". Ms. Belisle responded that it is a boys sport in the eyes of the civil office. Mrs. Lynch then reiterated, "In terms of Title 9, it is a boys sport."

Mr. O'Dell stated that there are two absurdities. He went on to say that there was a time the tennis courts were so unplayable they were chained and padlocked as they were unsafe to play on. The District rehabbed the tennis courts so the students could play tennis. Mr. O'Dell stated that tax payer dollars should not be wasted. He stated that if he were to ask for a show of hands, he knows that there wouldn't be one person who would not want boys tennis. Mr. O'Dell asked the Chair to take a consensus tonight of the School Committee for keeping boys tennis. Mrs. McBride said she did not disagree with Mr. O'Dell, but she feels that everyone would want boys volleyball

too. She said that she is looking to the Administration to have both. Mrs. McBride feels they have achieved a reasonable way to have both. She stated that it is important to look to the Administration in what they decide is best to do. She added that it is not up for a vote tonight, just a discussion. Mrs. McBride stated she does not feel that she could support it at this point in time because she likes both sports.

Mrs. Campbell, understanding the situation with Title 9, but also seeing the importance of keeping a sport that has been a part of the District for so long, stated that she would like to ask the volleyball team to wait another year to see if the District could work on adding girls field hockey as a program. Mrs. Campbell reiterated that the School Committee isn't making a decision tonight. She said she supports the boys' tennis team and the legacy of Mr. Pottington.

Mrs. Lynch stated that to "kick the can down the road" for another year would not be helpful as the bottom line is there is no field to play field hockey on. She added that the Bristol Recreation Department is not going to give us a field. She also said that until we either turf the field which up to this point has been a difficult task or even if money was available, it would be three to five years before field hockey could begin.

Tracey McGee: Ms. McGee summarized different opportunities to address this situation brought forward this evening. such as waivers,

volleyball going to a club, not making boys tennis a club, picking a different sport to eliminate (which she stated she would not support), waiting to put volleyball in place when the District adds field hockey. Ms. McGee understands that new administration brings new blood, but she thinks a new way could be done without cutting boys tennis.

Ms. Belisle responded that the decision to cut boys tennis was not a shortsighted one. She said it was not about her being there a year as an administrator . Ms. Belisle stated she takes her job very seriously. She based her decision on the last five years of data and not just a one year scheme. She reiterated that she did not look at a moment in time which was one of the reasons why she held off volleyball for a year to be able to look at the trend of the last five years.

Donna Riendeau: Ms. Riendeau asked if volleyball was considered a sport. She asked Ms. Belisle how many boys were on the roster for volleyball. Ms. Belisle responded there were 11 on the roster ending with 8.

Rhonda Fortin: Ms. Fortin stated that she was told by the Superintendent to address her questions/concerns to the Athletic Director. Ms. Fortin said that she requested documentation from the Athletic Director, but was told it was confidential. Ms. Fortin asked why golf or any other sport has not been addressed. She asked when the sign up for KMS occurred and how it was advertised. Ms. Belisle stated historically there is an interest piece at KMS where students

can sign up. Then all students are bussed to the high school cafeteria where they can sign up for the different clubs and athletics at the high school. Ms. Fortin asked what information is on the sign up sheet. Ms. Belisle responded, "name and contact information". Ms. Fortin does not agree that interest in boys tennis has declined over the last five years. She added the mean over that time has actually stayed the same. Ms. Fortin reported that RIL lists 62 team schools and of those, 30 play tennis, 23 play volleyball. She added that the 2011-2012 RIL Bulletin listed tennis as ranking #9 for schools and #8 for participants. She continued that volleyball wasn't even in the top 10. Ms. Fortin does not believe the numbers being presented are adding up and would like direction on where she can get information that will add up.

(Mr. Bento call dropped 8:27 p.m.)

Scott O'Hare: Scott shared his story that he had been a poor student until he joined the tennis team. He said it was a goal he felt he could work toward. Scott stated he was the worst player, but he enjoyed the sport. He felt it was a good bonding experience. Scott commented that his grades have improved since playing tennis. He said tennis was something he looked forward to and believes it helped him academically.

Stephen Riendeau Junior MHHS: Stephen reiterated what others have said believing there is interest in boys tennis. He asked where

the boys' volleyball team was this evening. Chairman Silva stated that the topic of discussion on the agenda was tennis. The volleyball team was not aware of the meeting because it did not concern them. Chairman Silva stated this was not a valid comment in this particular situation as everyone in tennis was invited to come to express their views. The other teams were not given that opportunity. Chairman Silva continued that those here may feel there is relevance, but the real issue is that the Athletic Director is telling the Administration that there is a growing interest in another male sport. He went on to say that due to the statistical analysis, the decision was made to eliminate boys' tennis. He added that due to Title 9, when looking at a sport to eliminate, it had to be a boys sport. A question came up earlier why wasn't golf eliminated. Chairman Silva answered because it is a co-ed sport, not a boys sport.

Chairman Silva addressed Mr. O'Dell's earlier comment about a consensus. He said that he appreciated Mr. O'Dell's earlier comments and agreed with many of them, but said that he would not ask for a consensus of the School Committee this evening. Chairman Silva stated he agrees with Mrs. McBride that it is not fair at this point in time to get a consensus without asking to keep volleyball. Chairman Silva stated that no one here wants to get rid of any sport.

Chairman Silva stated for the record that he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda because he was hearing different comments and numbers related to this situation from the public that were not

matching up. Chairman Silva wanted to have the issue discussed publicly so that everyone would hear the same thing from the Administration. Chairman Silva stated that he appreciates what tennis means to people, but the discussion at hand needs to center around whether we do something or don't do something. Chairman Silva continued that he shares most of Mr. O'Dell's views regarding rules that come down from government being detrimental. He understands that those rules had use at one time, but is not sure that would continue to be the case. Then as a people we are "stuck with them" and need to comply. Chairman Silva stated that the job of the Administration is to have the least impact on the students. We must have faith in the Administration. Chairman Silva stated he would like the Committee and Administration to consider the comments before anything is done one way or the other. Chairman Silva added that the Athletic Director and Superintendent make recommendations to the School Committee which we may or may not support. He continued that the best interest of everyone needs to be considered, but even in that case, someone will not be happy. He stated that the School Committee will listen to the final recommendation and take action fully informed with the information given to everyone at the same time.

Mrs. Thies stated she felt this was a very healthy discourse. She added that at the School Committee, town and national levels, folks are allowed to speak their piece. Mrs. Thies stated all factors are weighed in regards to decision making. She stated that she has had

many conversations with Ms. Belisle and the boys' tennis coach, Geoff Keegan. Mrs. Thies assured the School Committee and those present that she has a high regard for Ms. Belisle's decision making ability and her knowledge as she is very aware of the Title 9 legislation. Mrs. Thies also stated that it is the District's legal, moral and ethical obligation to comply with Title 9 legislation. She added that just because something is desired, we still need to follow guidelines. Mrs. Thies said to the best of our ability, the District follows regulations and makes sure to stay in compliance. Mrs. Thies acknowledged the many impassioned arguments presented and stated they are important to consider which is why this item was placed on the agenda. Mrs. Thies added that this is about human nature and what happens behind the statistics. She closed by stating that she and Ms. Belisle will discuss and make an informed recommendation.

Chairman Silva thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their views. Ms. Fortin thanked the School Committee and Administration for placing this issue on the agenda.

Mrs. Thies stated that civil discourse is the best of what we do. She commended Chairman Silva for allowing everyone to speak. Mrs. Thies commented what a wonderful foundation for our students to speak in a public forum to express their views.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES:

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-34 A-H – PERSONNEL

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve personnel recommendations.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Silva asked that section H be removed for a separate vote as he will need to recuse himself. He turned the meeting over to the School Committee Secretary, Mrs. Lynch.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve section H of the Personnel Recommendations; seconded by Mr. O'Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Silva returned as Chair of the meeting.

The motion to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-34 A-H – PERSONNEL :

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the

recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Secondary Science Teacher, Secondary Science Teacher (3/5 time), Elementary Health/Physical Education Teacher, two Elementary Teachers, two Elementary Special Educators and two Literacy Team Leaders as listed below:

1. Christine Bean Science Teacher – Mt. Hope High

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – S. Brosnan)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(5th Step)**

2. David Barr Science Teacher (3/5 Time) – Mt. Hope High

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Termination – C. Bean)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(10th Step)**

**3. Nathan A. Dell Health/Physical Education Teacher –
Guiteras**

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only, pending receipt of
certification and satisfactory
completion of pre-employment
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a leave of absence
vacancy (P. Kells)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(1st Step)**

4. Ann L. Corrado Grade Two Teacher – Hugh Cole

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year, pending receipt of certification**

**and satisfactory completion of
pre-employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a new position

**Funding: Operational Budget
(3rd Step/Masters)**

5. Chloe H. Paquette Grade Five Teacher – Hugh Cole

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only, pending receipt of
certification and satisfactory
completion of pre-employment
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a leave of absence
position
(J. Rowe)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(3rd Step/Masters)**

**6. Tiffany Bergeron Special Educator (Intensive) – Hugh
Cole**

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a new position

**Funding: Operational Budget
(3rd Step)**

7. Marissa L. Denice Special Educator – Rockwell

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Transfer – S. Breitmaier)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(3rd Step)**

8. Laura M. Evinger Literacy Team Leader – Colt Andrews

Effective: For the 2013-14 School

Year

Reason: To fill a new position

**Funding: Literacy Set-Aside/Grant
Funding**

9. Deborah A. Kearns Literacy Team Leader – Hugh Cole

**Effective: For the 2013-14 School
Year**

Reason: To fill a new position

**Funding: Literacy Set-Aside/Grant
Funding**

B. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Secondary Teacher Leader as listed below:

- 1. John J. Castriotta Science, Technology/Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Teacher
Leader – Mt. Hope High**

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

C. EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) SERVICES PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individual for the Summer 2013 session only of the Bristol Warren Regional Extended School Year (ESY) Services Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

1. Noreen Skrzypiec Occupational Therapist

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 2013-14 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 Kristin Furtado *

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 2. Golf Asst. Coach Wayne Lima ***
- 3. Lacrosse (Boys) Asst. Coach John Sharrott ***
- 4. Softball-Pitching/Catching Asst. Coach Nicole Clemens ***

ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH

- 5. Class of 2016 (Co-Advisor) Geoffrey Keegan**
- 6. Marching Band Director Christopher Lambert ****

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**** Pending execution of Terms of Employment**

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 application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

- 1. Laura DaSilva**

F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for

an Elementary Teacher, an Elementary Health/Physical Education Teacher, a Secondary Mathematics Teacher, a Middle School Science Teacher and a Secondary Foreign Language Teacher as follows:

1. Judith I. Rowe Grade Five Teacher – Hugh Cole

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year**

**Reason: Non-paid leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L3 of the Master Agreement**

**2. Peter J. Kells Health/Physical Education Teacher –
Guiteras**

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year**

**Reason: Non-paid leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L3 of the Master Agreement**

**3. M. Jessica Mulvena Mathematics Teacher – Mt. Hope
High**

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year**

**Reason: Non-paid leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L3 of the Master Agreement**

**4. Kathleen M. Marshall Science Teacher (7th) – Kickemuit
Middle**

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year**

**Reason: Non-paid leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L3 of the Master Agreement**

**5. Sarah E. Richards Foreign Language Teacher – Mt. Hope
High**

**Effective: September 2, 2013, for 6-8
weeks**

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

**Sarah E. Richards Foreign Language Teacher – Mt. Hope
High**

**Effective: Upon completion of
Maternity Leave through February 1,
2014**

**Reason: Parental leave in
accordance with Article 21, Section
L2 of the Master Agreement**

G. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Jamie L. Greene from the position of Elementary Librarian, George R. Whitehead from the position of PC Technician/Analyst, Laura S. Callahan from the position of Child Care Bookkeeper, Kate Lynn Sweeney from the position of Child Care Curriculum Specialist and Shauna L. Harrington from the position of Cross Country Coach as listed below:

1. Jamie L. Greene Library/Media Specialist – Hugh Cole

**Effective: End of the 2012-13 school
year**

Reason: Personal

2. George R. Whitehead PC Technician/Analyst

Effective: September 6, 2013

Reason: Personal

3. Laura S. Callahan Child Care Bookkeeper

Effective: July 30, 2013

Reason: Personal

4. Kate Lynn Sweeney Child Care Curriculum Specialist

Effective: August 15, 2013

Reason: Personal

**5. Shauna L. Harrington Head Cross Country Coach – Mt.
Hope**

Effective: August 19, 2013

Reason: Personal

H. TERMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of July 15, 2013 of the following listed auxiliary school personnel and appoint the listed personnel to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

- 1. Kathryn Almeida Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 2. Jillian Amato Teacher Assistant**
- 3. Cynthia Cadile Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 4. Lorie Kauffman Teacher Assistant**
- 5. Sherri Mallon Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 6. Cecelia Mellor Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 7. Melanie Michaud Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 8. Christa Resendes Teacher Assistant**
- 9. Darlene Rezendes Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 10. Denise Salamon Teacher Assistant**
- 11. Maria Serbst Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 12. Robin Shaw Teacher Assistant**
- 13. Laura Silva Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 14. Tami Stallings Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**
- 15. Deborah Young Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**

Mrs. Thies commented it is a tradition during School Committee meetings to introduce new members of the District to the Bristol

community.

Mrs. Thies introduced Nathan Dell who will be the PE/Health teacher at Guiteras filling a leave of absence. Mr. Dell has an undergraduate from RIC. He has been an adaptive PE teacher this past year.

Mrs. Thies introduced Ann Corrado who will be a 2nd grade teacher at Hugh Cole School. Ms. Corrado has a BA from UMASS Amherst in communications. She took a little hiatus in communications and moved forward earning a Masters in Education from Leslie University. For the past two years she has had two long-term subbing positions with the Bristol Warren Regional School District. She also provided support for a special educator.

Mrs. Thies introduced Chloe Paquette who will be a 5th grade teacher at Hugh Cole filling a leave of absence. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut in Elementary Education. She also earned a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from UCONN. Ms. Paquette has two years experience teaching 5th grade.

Mrs. Thies introduced Tiffany Bergeron who will be an Intensive Special Educator at Hugh Cole. She received her BS from RIC in Elementary Education. She has very rich professional experience in working with students with great need. Ms. Bergeron comes to the District with six years experience.

Marissa Denice was not present at the meeting this evening. Mrs. Thies stated that she will be filling the position of Special Educator at Rockwell. She received her undergraduate at Providence College. She comes to the District with two years experience in 3rd grade.

Mrs. Thies introduced Laura Evinger who will be the Literacy Team Leader at Colt Andrews. She received her undergraduate from Indiana State University and a Masters in Education from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Evinger worked at Hugh Cole this past year as a Literacy Specialist. She also holds a degree in Administration.

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-35

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint the School Dentist for the 2013-2014 school year.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to appoint the School Dentist for the 2013-2014 school year; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Dell stated he is pleased with the election of this person. He appreciated the time taken to prepare the letter of intent using a nice type written font that was very professional looking.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-36

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint the School Doctor for the 2013-2014 school year.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to appoint the School Doctor for the 2013-2014 school year; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Dell stated he does not know much about the doctor, but was not impressed with the Letter of Intent which is handwritten and illegible.

The motion passed by a 4-1 vote; Mr. O'Dell opposed.

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-37

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, award the Technology Bid.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to award the Technology Bid; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride commented that she agreed to move this forward at the Subcommittee level, but won't vote yes in the full committee.

Mr. O'Dell said that he was not in favor of this proposal as he does not see the necessity to provide a laptop for each student. He added that the District does not do that with other situations such as bussing where one bus is shared with three groups of people or that a 900 person cafeteria isn't built but instead there are staggered lunches. He stated that is economy. Mr. O'Dell stated that he doesn't understand why this can't be done with laptops for the 3rd and 4th grade students. Mr. O'Dell commented that a statement was made that students are learning at the same time. In response to that, Mr. O'Dell said that a lot of information coming off of the web is streamed. He believes the students can be staggered in their time on the laptops. In response to the argument that testing is given at the same time for all, Mr. O'Dell commented that those who provide the test could be contacted to see if an arrangement could be made where testing could accommodate students sharing laptops. Mr. O'Dell believes this can be done which would save money for the District and would not be a disservice to the students.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell made a motion to amend the proposed number of laptops purchased from 600 down to 300; seconded by Mr. Saviano.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Silva said he understands the desire to save tax payer dollars, but does not feel it would be practical or efficient for students to share a laptop. He added that he understands this will

be a cost to the taxpayer, but he believes it is a necessary cost. Chairman Silva said it is how the country is proceeding.

Mrs. McBride said she did not agree or disagree with Mr. O'Dell. She stated that the science curriculum will be taught via the laptop which will be staying in the classroom. She wondered if a child does not have a computer at home, if they would have an opportunity to complete homework. Mrs. McBride believes the work product should be able to go home with the student. Mrs. McBride said she understands that using computers for learning is the way of the future. She also understands that the PARK Assessment will be done via laptops. Mrs. McBride commented that the District is very lucky that Bristol Warren Regionals Administration did a good job in budgeting for the purchase of these laptops. She added that she seriously doubts whether half of the state will be on target to take the PARK Assessment because they don't have the budget to purchase the computers. Mrs. McBride said the reasons she outlined above is why she will be voting no.

Mr. Saviano said that he believes it is important to get into the 21st Century. He realizes that other districts are moving ahead further than what Bristol Warren Regional's District is beginning to do. Mr. Saviano supports the purchase of 600 laptops.

Mr. O'Dell commented that being in the 21st Century does not mean things have to be done in an uneconomical way.

The motion to amend the number of laptops purchased from 600 to 300 failed to pass with a vote of 1-4; Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. McBride and Mr. Saviano dissenting.

The motion to approve awarding of the Technology Bid to OM Office Supply passed with a 4-1 vote; Mr. O'Dell dissenting.

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-38

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve awarding the Bristol Landscaping Bid.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to award the Bristol Landscaping Bid; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

The motion passed unanimously. The landscaping bid will be awarded to Landscaping Services.

CHAIRPERSONS INITIATIVES

Academic Eligibility Policy

Chairman Silva said that he asked to have this item placed on the agenda because some issues came to light last week regarding this policy. Mrs. Thies responded to them immediately outlining actions that would be taken. Chairman Silva commented about an article that appeared in the paper about this issue. He stated for the record that

an error was made within that article. Chairman Silva stated that Mrs. Thies sent out a directive that the policy concerning academic eligibility that was in place last year would remain in place this year. Chairman Silva reiterated there will be no change in how a student can move forward regarding extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was a parent who attended the Sports Orientation meeting where she learned of the change to the handbook concerning academic eligibility. She was concerned because this change had never gone through the School Committee. Mrs. Lynch said she and others definitely would not have approved the inclusion of the new language relative to academic eligibility into the High School Handbook. She added that this particular policy has been in place for the last three years where a student cannot fail any classes and participate in extracurricular activities. Mrs. Lynch stated the only way to know if there needs to be a change to the academic eligibility policy is for Administration and the School Committee to work together.

Chairman Silva thanked Mrs. Thies for addressing the matter so quickly.

School Committee Goals

Chairman Silva stated that at the last meeting he asked Mrs. Campbell to compile data based on the responses of the School Committee to the School Committee Goals Self-Evaluation. Chairman Silva asked

Mrs. Campbell if she received responses from all members. Mrs. Campbell responded that she received 6 out of 8 responses. Chairman Silva addressed the committee and said that due to the late hour, he wasn't sure if it would be wise to address such an important matter now. He asked the School Committee what they would like to do. Mrs. Campbell made a suggestion to go through the comments page where she summarized everyone's comments and indicated by color code items that need attention, items where there was a difference of opinion and items where all agreed the Committee had done pretty well. Mrs. Campbell suggested going through each one of the goals to reach a consensus on whether it should stay and then she could offer a recommendation based on that feedback. She added she doesn't believe the exercise would take more than 20 minutes, unless there was deep discussion. Mrs. Campbell stressed it is important to have the School Committee's goals solidified as Mrs. Thies will be putting her goals together soon which are based on the School Committee's goals.

Mrs. McBride said she agreed it is time to go through the School Committee's Goals, but suggests discussing at the next meeting as the first item on the agenda to allow sufficient time and energy for the discussion.

Chairman Silva asked the School Committee's secretary to include School Committee Goals as the first item on the next agenda for discussion and action.

Mr. Saviano suggested looking into what the National School Board Association recommends. He said it may cost a few dollars for each board member, but believes it would be helpful for the exercise. Mr. Saviano said he could supply information to the School Committee's secretary. Chairman Silva asked Mr. Saviano to go ahead and do that. Once received, Chairman Silva will discuss any cost involved with Mrs. Thies.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Campbell said moving forward this academic year, she would like to see more opportunities to showcase the students of Bristol Warren by finding reasons to invite them to School Committee meetings to highlight something about them, especially for younger students where they don't always have opportunities to receive accolades.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:16 PM

MOTION: At 9:16 PM Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd