

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

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, October 28, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairman Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Lynn Wainwright, Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Deployed: John Bento, Vice-Chairman

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Mr. Silva commented that the Executive Session would be moved to the end of the meeting. He stated nothing needed to be discussed in Executive Session prior to moving forward with agenda items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Chairman Silva stated that all items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the School Committee and will be enacted in one motion unless a School Committee Member would like an item pulled for a separate vote. Mrs. Thies stated for the record that she would be withdrawing item E6 from the Personnel Recommendations.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Dell brought up a concern that Vice-Chairman Bento is shown as "absent" in the meeting minutes when in fact he is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Chairman Silva asked the School Committee secretary to amend past meeting minutes to show John Bento as deployed not "absent".

S2013-58 A-H: CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the

recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Security Systems Technician (Part Time) and Title III Family Involvement Coordinator (Part Time) as listed below:

1. Thomas Raso Security Systems Technician (Part Time) -

Kickemuit Middle

Effective: October 7, 2013, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – C. DeTatto)**

Funding: Operational Budget

2. Gloria N. Turilli Title III Family Involvement Coordinator (Part Time)

Effective: For the 2013-14 school year only

Reason: To fill a vacancy in

accordance with grant funding

Funding: Title III Grant

B. 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. Elizabeth A. Raducha Child Care Curriculum Specialist
(Part Time)**

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – K. Sweeney)**

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Michelle-Lee Pacheco Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

3. Amanda Zambetti Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

4. Emily J. Heney Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion

of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

C. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2013-14 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

- 1. Caitlin Booth Mathematics Teacher**
- 2. Karen Cunha Mathematics Teacher**

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. Hockey Asst. Coach Kyle Gasior**

ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH

- 2. Art Club/National Art Society Kerri Sloat**
- 3. Choral Director Virginia Boyle**
- 4. Class of 2015 Sarah Richards**
- 5. Class of 2017 Tory Meneses**
- 6. Gay/Straight Alliance Kirsten Ziari**
- 7. Jazz Improvisation Vocal Ensemble (JIVE) Virginia Boyle**
- 8. Robotics Ryan Garrity**
- 9. Science Olympiad Glenn Valentine**
- 10. Student Council Barbara Palumbo ***
- 11. Sustainability Club Robert Arsenault**

ADVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 12. Art Club (Co-Advisor) Mary Arsenault**
- 13. Art Club (Co-Advisor) Susan Cardente**
- 14. Mentoring Coordinator Patricia Ryone**

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

E. 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

8. Brittany A. Mello Registered Nurse

9. John A. Menke III General Subject Matter

10. Wayne R. Morrison General Subject Matter

11. Rachael M. Patterson General Subject Matter

12. Melissa E. Rosato General Subject Matter

13. Lindsey A. Saez General Subject Matter

14. Ryan M. Sarasin General Subject Matter

15. Timothy N. Thorpe General Subject Matter

F. 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. Jean M. Coelho

2. Kathleen K. Ibbotson

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

3. Donna M. Amaral

4. Susan A. Yardeni

G. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for a Secondary Library/Media Specialist as follows:

1. Laura A. Cabral Library/Media Specialist – Mt. Hope High

Effective: February 25, 2014, for 6-8 weeks

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

H. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Roger B. Melo from the position of Network Manager, Lisa J. Davis from the position of Middle School Science Teacher and Gina M. Bernier from the position of Child Care Provider as listed below:

1. Roger B. Melo Network Manager

Effective: October 25, 2013

Reason: Personal

2. Lisa J. Davis Science Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: October 4, 2013

Reason: Personal

3. Gina M. Bernier Child Care Provider

Effective: October 3, 2013

Reason: Personal

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-59 – Home School Requests: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of (6) Bristol Families and (1) Warren family to home school their children for the 2013-2014 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Home School Requests; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Saviano commented that it seemed like the District has been receiving more home school requests lately. He asked the Superintendent if she knew why this was the case. Mrs. Thies responded that Dr. Andrade's monthly report to the School Committee provided a comprehensive overview of the legislation and federal law in regard to home schooling. The report also contained the District's application of that law. Also included were trends over time within the District. Mrs. Thies reported those trends as follows:

2008 33
2009 29
2010 25
2011 31
2012 27
2013 28

Mrs. Thies stated that she had concerns about these trends as well and met with Dr. Andrade to review each of the home school applications and the District Protocols for Home Instruction. Mrs. Thies added this was discussed within the RISSA organization and there is an increasing trend within the state of Rhode Island. She commented that Bristol Warren's home school applications are relatively stable. Mrs. Thies explained that the reason the seven families on the agenda were coming at a later date was due to the rigorous application requirements in regard to home instruction. Dr. Andrade stated that further investigation into home schooling trends will be conducted. As part of that investigation, he said they will look into the profile of a home instruction student and whether there is a trend. He added that some of the questions logically asked would be whether students are trying to get out of NECAP testing at the high school age. Dr. Andrade cited two 12th grade students within the District who had already passed NECAP, had good grades and met the high school graduation requirements minus the credits in the Core. These students were in good standing and had their own

reason for choosing home instruction for their 12th grade year. Dr. Andrade said this was comforting to learn. Dr. Andrade reported that of the 28 students applying for home instruction this year, 11 are new applicants and new to the District. He added that many of those new families home schooled in the previous state or District they were in and desired to continue in that vein.

Dr. Andrade stated moving forward the District would look at a block policy so that Bristol Warren's home instruction policy would be similar to neighboring town's policies. He would then look to RISSA for their input. Dr. Andrade stated that in RI General Law 16-19-2 there is one line that the District's attorney is researching in regards to measuring quality education. He continued it is important to ensure that the home instruction student have the same opportunity and rigor for education as compared to public school. Mr. Saviano asked whether the requirement in the State of Rhode Island for measuring home school student's education is ample enough or should it be looked into further. Dr. Andrade responded that this will be the next step to involve attorneys and look into legislation. He added that if there needs to be a modification of the law, he would like to see RISSA work with legislation on modifications.

Mr. O'Dell asked if home school students renew every year. Dr. Andrade responded that they do. He stated that in his report it shows data over the years for individual home school families. He stressed that no identifiable information regarding a family is listed on the

report and all privacy laws are adhered to. He added that the District collects required information twice a year.

Mrs. Wainwright commented that it is interesting to look at the curriculum the home instructed student uses and what it involves. She recently met a student who was home schooled their entire 12 years and is now a student at Boston University.

Mr. Saviano asked whether the fact that so many curriculums are offered online could be the reason for an increased trend in home schooling. Dr. Andrade responded that he has conducted research and contacted families on why they homeschool. The feedback showed family preference, religious choice or social phobias. Dr. Andrade said there are indeed a lot more choices and programs that are virtual and rigorous. He offered to conduct research into that further. Dr. Andrade stated because so much is offered online, it is important to be careful how we define school and what its purpose is. He asked if learning is more than bricks and mortar; is there a social aspect or is it sitting in front of a computer.

Mr. Saviano asked whether a home instruction student can participate in sports and after school activities. Dr. Andrade responded that those programs are open to home school students. Mrs. Thies added that students of the District are offered the programs first and if there is availability, a home instructed student can then participate.

Mr. Saviano asked if home school students have to take the NECAP test. Dr. Andrade responded, “no”.

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

CHAIRPERSON’S INITIATIVES

ACTION: APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S GOALS

Chairman Silva reported that about a month ago the Superintendent sent her goals to the School Committee for review. He stated that everyone had an opportunity to review and that two School Committee members sat down with Mrs. Thies to discuss them in detail. Mrs. Campbell stated that she was away for the month of October and hadn’t had an opportunity to review the goals. Mrs. Thies responded that she has already been reflecting upon the feedback she received thus far from the two School Committee members she met with. As a result, she stated there won’t be major changes within the goals, but more an adjustment in the target. Additionally, Mrs. Thies stated that a request was made for more detail in one of the goals to provide more enrichment experiences for students. To that point, Mrs. Thies commented that she just returned from a conference concerning gifted and talented students where she received a wealth of best practices. She added that she is excited to develop a model at the elementary and middle school level. Mrs. Thies stated she would like to make some adjustments to the Superintendent’s goals and send out an updated version reflecting

the recommendations received. Mrs. Campbell commented concerning the goal related to the SIT process that the word “monitor” should be changed to a stronger word such as “guidance” so there is more parity. Mrs. Thies responded that she will duly note that. She thanked everyone for their recommendations.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s Goals with recommended changes; Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INITIATIVES

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee: Mrs. Rancourt reported that the Budget Subcommittee met last Monday regarding the completion of an outdoor lunch area at Kickemuit Middle School. She said it was through the hard work of many that this beautiful space was created and offered public thanks. Mrs. Rancourt also thanked Lane Sparkman who went above and beyond in her efforts to see the project to completion. Mrs. Rancourt stated that next month’s meeting will be on Monday, November 18th with the following agenda items: bid for KMS doors, bid for work at Guiteras, and an update for the FY14 Budget Timeline. Mrs. Rancourt commented that she sent out feelers to the Chairman of the Joint Finance Committee to set up meeting dates. A suggestion was made on how to better ensure total participation in these very important budget meetings.

Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee: Mr. O'Dell reported that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be Monday, November 4th. He asked the Chairs of the Subcommittees to review Policy BCE-R, Subcommittees of the School Committee in order to have a conversation regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Subcommittees. Mr. O'Dell stated that the Policy Subcommittee will be discussing the Health and Wellness Policy hoping to put the final tweaks on it. Mr. O'Dell stated that the Subcommittee will also be discussing Academic Eligibility and the roles and responsibilities of the SIT Team.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee: Chairman Silva reported that correspondence has been sent to the Union representatives to confirm a meeting date to begin the negotiation process. He added that the District's attorney has been asked to be aggressive in getting a meeting date as the Subcommittee is anxious to meet soon before the contract ends. Chairman Silva said there will be an Executive Session at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30th for the BWEA Contract Negotiations Team of the Personnel Subcommittee where contract issues will be discussed.

Wellness Committee: Mrs. Wainwright reported that the Wellness Committee had their first meeting on October 8th where the Health and Wellness Policy was discussed. She stated that the School Committee secretary provided a "clean copy" for the Wellness Committee to review. She added that the policy is now down to five

and a half pages. Mrs. Wainwright commented that she hoped everyone had a chance to read the 2010 Healthy Hunger Free Act as well as the law for the Health and Wellness Subcommittee. Mrs. Wainwright stated that the Wellness Committee asked Dr. Andrade if each of the schools could fill out a wellness checklist to look at best practices as a means for the Wellness Committee to provide support. Mrs. Wainwright reported that the Wellness Committee is looking into doing a speaker series that will coincide with the COZ Fair in April. She also commented that the Wellness Committee is looking into messages to be added to the District website related to Health and Wellness and are currently looking into the best way to do this. Mrs. Wainwright stated the Wellness Committee is working on a logo. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12 from 4-5:30 in the Herreshoff Community Meeting Room at Rogers Free Library.

Mrs. Thies commended Mrs. Silva for a two hour presentation she made this weekend at a national conference regarding the Uniform Chart of Accounts stating that it was very well received. She added that attendance was quite diverse from many states. Mrs. Silva elaborated on her presentation stating she spoke on UCOA from implementation to data management and how this data is used to tie in student outcomes, teacher evaluations and the whole process. She commented that the presentation was received very well especially from the neighboring State of Connecticut stating they were impressed with Bristol Warren's budget. They commented that their state doesn't have the legislative power behind it as Rhode

Island does. Mrs. Silva stated great questions were received from the crowd. Mr. Silva thanked Mrs. Silva for always making the District look good and commended the great staff behind it.

Mrs. Thies commended Dr. Andrade for moderating the recent community forum on Common Core Standards. She stated that the energy in the room that evening was incredible. Mrs. Thies commended the confidence and expertise of the District's educators who are currently implementing Common Core Standards in the classrooms. She added that even though the District is in a transition process, there is a sense of positivity in moving forward. Mr. Saviano commented on how impressed he was with the presentation and stated how proud he is to be a part of the District.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:44 PM

Pursuant to Open Meetings Law 42-46-5 (a)(2) for the following:

Litigation: status update re: Bristol Warren Regional School District v. Town of Warren, CA No 12-4653.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:16 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd