

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, November 25, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairman Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.**

**Present: Paul Silva, Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; 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**

**Absent: Susan Rancourt, Treasurer**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**There was no public comment.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

### **#S2013-62 A-H CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL**

**Chairman Silva stated that all items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the School Committee and enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member requests, in which event the item will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence on the agenda. Chairman Silva asked if it was necessary to remove any items. Hearing none, Chairman Silva reported the following change to the Consent Agenda: Heading D – Extracurricular Activities, item #8, Girls' Lacrosse Coach, should be listed under a Club Sport not Interscholastic.**

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

**MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to seal the Executive Session Minutes for the October 28, 2013 meeting; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **#S2013-62 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 Elementary Reading Specialist/Consultant (Part Time), Elementary English as a Second**

**Language Teacher (Part Time), Network Manager and two Teacher Assistants (Part Time) as listed below:**

**1. Maureen A. Clark Reading Specialist/Consultant (Part Time) -Rockwell**

**Effective: October 30, 2013**

**Reason: To fill a new position**

**Funding: Operational Budget  
(10th Step/M+30)**

**2. Paula Richards-Sousa English as a Second Language Teacher (Part Time) - Hugh Cole**

**Effective: November 21, 2013**

**Reason: To fill a new position**

**Funding: Operational Budget  
(10th Step/M+30)**

**3. Brian Coutu Network Manager**

**Effective: November 18, 2013**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy  
(Resignation – R. Melo)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**4. Kelly A. Kenny Teacher Assistant (Part Time) – Colt Andrews**

**Effective: November 12, 2013**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy  
(Transfer – C. Mellor)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**5. Shawn M. Hollands Teacher Assistant (Part Time) –  
Rockwell**

**Effective: November 12, 2013**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy  
(Transfer – C. Cadile)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**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. Megan Keeler 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**

**2. Megan E. Farrell 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. ESL/READING TUTORS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2013-14 school year only as ESL/Reading Tutors contingent upon grant funding:

**Name School**

- 1. Martha Genovesi Hugh Cole**
- 2. Angela Hawkins Hugh Cole**
- 3. Madlyn McArdle Guiteras**
- 4. Marilyn McFadden Colt Andrews**
- 5. Paula Richards-Sousa Colt Andrews**
- 6. Theresa Silva Hugh Cole**

**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. Gymnastics Asst. Coach Shanna Andrade \***
- 2. Swimming Asst. Coach Kelly Austin \***

**3. Wrestling Asst. Coach Keith Medeiros**

**SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH**

**Sport Position Coach**

**4. Baseball (Boys) Asst. Coach Michael Mazarella \***

**5. Softball (Girls) Asst. Coach Meredith Friedman**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE**

**Sport Position Coach**

**6. Basketball (Boys) Asst. Coach Nicholas Medeiros \***

**7. Cheerleading Asst. Coach Jessica Varrichione \***

**8. Lacrosse (Girls) \*\* Head Coach Michael Kane**

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

**\*\* Funded by parents group**

**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**

**1. Anna L. Burnham Elementary**

**2. Linda M. Dempsey Art**

**3. Veronica A. Gazeryan General Subject Matter**

**4. Dianne G. Matthews Registered Nurse**

**5. Darlene A. Nelson General Subject Matter**

**6. Roberta B. Portugal Registered Nurse**

**7. Jennifer L. Scott Elementary**

**8. Amanda M. Wordell Elementary/Sp.Ed.**

**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. Lisa A. Moore

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS**

2. Lisa A. Moore

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE**

3. Danny M. Terra

**G. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary Special Educator as follows:

1. Erin K. Letourneau Special Educator – Hugh Cole

**Effective: December 2, 2013, 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 Roberta I. Melchar from the position of Elementary Teacher, Celia R. Mello from the position of Teacher Assistant and Bruce L. Crespo and Meghan Schilling from the positions of Secondary Athletic Coach as listed below:**

**1. Roberta I. Melchar Grade Two Teacher – Hugh Cole**

**Effective: December 27, 2013**

**Reason: Retirement**

**2. Celia R. Mello Teacher Assistant – Hugh Cole**

**Effective: December 20, 2013**

**Reason: Retirement**

**3. Bruce L. Crespo Asst. Boys Basketball Coach – Mt.**

**Hope High**

**Effective: November 14, 2013**

**Reason: Personal**

**4. Meghan Schilling Asst. Girls Lacrosse Coach – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Reason: Personal**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-63: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the 4th of July Committee Proposal to modify MHHS fence pending town approvals.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the proposal to modify MHHS fence pending town approvals; seconded by Mr. Saviano.**

**DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Dell asked who would be paying for this work. Chairman Silva responded it is understood that the 4th of July Committee will fund this project. Mr. O'Dell asked if the Athletic Director and the parents are okay with these changes. Chairman**

**Silva responded, “yes”. Mrs. McBride added the Athletic Director and Mr. Simmons were present at the Budget Subcommittee meeting when this proposal was made.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-64: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the bid for the Guiteras School Doors.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the bid for the Guiteras School Doors; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright asked which bid has been recommended. Mrs. Thies responded M&J Construction has been recommended; they were the lowest bidder. Mr. O’Dell commented that Nadeau is the lowest bidder from the list provided. Chairman Silva stated that a mistake had been made with Nadeau’s calculations and therefore, they withdrew their bid.**

**Mrs. Wainwright asked when the start and end date would be. Mr. Simmons replied the work will be completed during winter break. Due to timing of meetings, Mr. Simmons was not 100% sure if all materials will be available in time. If that is the case, the project will be held off until February break. Mrs. Wainwright asked for**

clarification that the project would be already complete once the students return. Mr. Simmons responded, “yes”.

Mr. Saviano asked whether it was customary to name the bid award as part of the agenda. Chairman Silva responded typically the Superintendent presents all bids. Once the School Committee votes, the award is then announced. Mr. O’Dell expressed concern that without knowing the recommended award prior to the vote, he feels he is entering into it blindly. Mr. Saviano would like to see bids items on future agendas to include the name of the company and the bid amount citing other Boards include this information on their agendas.

Chairman Silva stated both those items are announced publicly once the vote is taken. Chairman Silva also stated that before a bid award could be stated publicly, it must be voted upon by the full School Committee. Mrs. Silva commented that all bid results are placed on the District website.

Mrs. Wainwright asked if M&J Construction has done work for the District before. Mr. Simmons responded they have not. He clarified this company is not to be confused with MJ Construction. Mr. Simmons has researched M&J Construction and found them reputable in their dealings with other area schools.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Silva stated for the record that the bid for the Guiteras

**Doors will be awarded to M&J Construction at \$30,538.00.**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-65: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the bid for the KMS School Doors.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the bid for the KMS School Doors; seconded by Mr. Saviano.**

**DISCUSSION: Chairman Silva stated for the record that M&J Construction is the recommended bid. Mr. O'Dell asked if the School Department will enjoy a discount since two bids were accepted from this company. Chairman Silva responded since the bids went out as one package, he assumes that was taken into consideration. Mr. Simmons added he can try his best. Mrs. Wainwright commented she thought the bid for KMS would have been higher than for Guiteras as there is more construction involved. Mrs. Lynch responded due to the historic nature of Guiteras and the fact there is a window involved, the job would be more expensive to complete. Mrs. Campbell stated for the record that the School Department is not overspending on the doors as they are being installed for security reasons to maintain safety for the students. She added that walls will be affected as part of this project which makes it more costly. Mrs. Wainwright stated that the new doors were recommended by the Police Chiefs from the Towns of Warren and Bristol.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Silva stated the bid for the KMS Doors will be awarded to M&J Construction at \$27,745.**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-66: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the bid for Snow and Sand Removal.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the bid for Snow and Sand Removal; seconded by Mr. O'Dell**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride clarified that the bid for snow and sand removal only covers Kickemuit Middle School and Hugh Cole School, not the entire district. The Town of Bristol provides snow removal for the buildings located in Bristol. Mr. O'Dell asked if this was the same company that was utilized last year. Mr. Simmons responded yes stating the bid amount is the same as last year. Mrs. Wainwright asked for clarification that if it snows between 2-6 inches, to clear both parking lots the amount would be \$395. Mr. Simmons responded, "yes". Mrs. Wainwright asked with each new snowfall another cost is incurred. Mr. Simmons responded, "yes".**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Silva stated the bid will be awarded to MJ Construction for the amount detailed in the bids posted on the website.**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-67: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve a stipend amount of \$1500 for DECA Advisors.**

**MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the DECA stipend amount of \$1500; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.**

**DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright stated according to the information piece concerning DECA Advisors, two advisors will be needed. She asked if each of those advisors would be receiving \$1500. Chairman Silva responded the amount will be split between two advisors. Mrs. Lynch expressed her support for this particular stipend stating the DECA Club works very hard, traveling statewide and across the nation. She stated that the club does great things and deserves to be in the same category as the rest of the school clubs. Mr. O'Dell asked if this was the last remaining club that doesn't have a stipend attached to it. Chairman Silva stated he couldn't say; there could be other clubs. The DECA Club came before the Budget Subcommittee in the spring, but the stipend won't be formally approved until tonight. This stipend has not been paid yet. Mr. O'Dell felt the request for this club's stipend amount came up randomly. Chairman**

**Silva responded that at a Budget Subcommittee meeting in the spring all clubs and organizations of the District were reviewed. The administrators checked over to make sure these were aligned based on time spent with students and number of meetings per year. At that time, DECA did not make the list which is why it is being brought forward now. This was not randomly selected, but pointed out at the beginning of the year to the Budget Subcommittee. Mrs. Wainwright commented she has mixed feelings about giving stipends to all the advisors as she is concerned down the road with the funding formula and possible cuts what will happen if stipends need to be taken away and how that will effect the morale of the advisors. Mrs. Wainwright stated she feels the advisors do tremendous work with the student, but there is another group that gives to the students, the parents, yet they do not receive a stipend. Mrs. Wainwright gave the example of the elementary school science fair.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-68: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee approve the first reading of the School Improvement Team Policy (CN).**

**MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the School Improvement Team Policy (CN); seconded by Mrs. McBride.**

**DISCUSSION:** Chairman Silva stated it was his understanding that the School Improvement Team Policy as written is just a reprint of what Rhode Island General Law states. He asked if it would make more sense to have the Rhode Island General Laws listed as an attachment making reference that these laws are amended from time to time to avoid having to amend the School Committee Policy each time this happens. Chairman Silva stated if the laws are listed as an attachment, when the laws are updated, the attachment will be updated as well. Mrs. McBride stated they are not attachments, but are called “exhibits”. Mrs. McBride would like to see the first reading pass with changes to go on to a second reading. Mrs. Campbell pointed out that it becomes very cumbersome when information is online especially for someone who is looking for information about a policy. She would agree to say “as stated below” where changes could be made in the body of the policy when necessary. Mrs. Campbell wondered if with the new website, hyperlinks to all the exhibits could be placed right on the policies. All felt this would be a very good idea. Mrs. Campbell stated this project would be excellent for an intern to work on. Mrs. Thies stated she would speak with Kim Aguiar to start a framework for this.

Mrs. Wainwright asked how the School Committee conducts #2 of the proposed SIT Policy. Mr. Saviano responded the individual SIT Teams choose their community members. Mrs. Wainwright stated the wording states that the School Board shall review membership of

each SIT Team. Mrs. McBride replied that in past years the School Committee received this information, but recently had not. Mrs. Wainwright asked why this was not being received any longer. Mrs. McBride responded it slipped through the cracks and needs to be corrected. Mrs. Wainwright asked who is responsible. Mrs. Thies responded as part of the annual grant policy, SIT plans must be submitted regarding Title 1 funds. When this law was first enacted, it was a very new principle in terms of having site based management along with parent and community members involved. The process has run fairly smoothly since initiation. Because of this, less oversight by the School Committee was needed. Mrs. Thies commented that membership information could easily be assembled.

The motion passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION #S2013-69:** That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee approve the first reading of the School Admissions Policy (JEC).

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the first reading of the School Admissions Policy (JEC); seconded by Mr. Saviano.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. O'Dell stated the recommended policy changes came to the Policy Subcommittee at the request of administration. Mrs. Thies stated there were internal protocols that were not

necessarily detailed in the School Committee Policy. Evidences for proof of residency for Bristol and Warren students prior to registering into the District needed to be tightened up. Those changes are detailed in the policy. Mrs. Wainwright asked what was meant by “notarized outside of District”. Mrs. Thies stated the District has a number of employees who are notaries. In order to avoid conflict of interest, it would be necessary for an incoming student’s family to have the affidavit of residency notarized outside of the District. Mrs. Wainwright stated she thought it meant outside of the Towns of Bristol and Warren. Mrs. Thies stated the language for this will be cleaned up for clarity.

Mrs. Campbell asked what happens to policies once they have been approved at first reading. She cited towns will publish policies after the first reading so community members can weigh in. Mrs. Thies stated these are internal policies that the Subcommittee works through. Community members have opportunity to weigh-in at the Policy Subcommittee meetings. Mrs. Campbell stated one of the goals of the School Committee is to be more transparent with the public and unless they attend a meeting, often times they will not see what is being voted on. Mrs. Campbell stated she brought this suggestion forward in the spirit of being more transparent.

Mr. O’Dell stated the Policy Subcommittee will clean up the language concerning notarizing.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

### **February/April Vacation**

**Chairman Silva stated there has been discussion among state superintendents concerning changes to school vacations. Chairman Silva felt it would be helpful to let administration and the public hear the views of the School Committee regarding school vacations.**

**Mr. O'Dell stated he has always been a proponent of doing away with February and April vacation to have just one in March. Mrs. Thies commented if a change is made, it must be done statewide. Chairman. Silva added if February and April vacations were eliminated opting for one March vacation, Bristol Warren would be the only district using the shared services at that time. He stated if either February or April was eliminated, it might be a little easier. Mr. O'Dell stated his pet peeve is that the school calendar has more to do with vacations and less to do with educational purposes.**

**Chairman Silva suggested due to the number of Professional Development Days within the District, eliminating February vacation and scheduling PD days for a Friday and a Monday in February would give the students and teachers a break with a four day weekend. Mrs. McBride responded she understands the logistics of this, but feels it is difficult for administrators, teachers and students to go from January until April without a break. Mrs. McBride feels that a single**

**vacation in March makes the most sense. Mrs. McBride would like to see the Superintendent convey to others in the state the importance of taking a look at the issue of school vacations.**

**Mrs. Lynch is in support of one vacation in March stating the difficulty for students to get back into the “swing of things” after each vacation. She added it can also be difficult for parents who work to find placement for their children during multiple vacations.**

**Mrs. Wainwright stated she came from California where there was year round school with periodic breaks that worked very well. Mrs. Wainwright asked what Mrs. Thies would like to see in a “perfect world”. Mrs. Thies responded, in a “perfect world”, she feels it is absolutely necessary to have more instructional time in an ongoing continuous fashion. She cited several models in California and Colorado that have school year round with periodic breaks. Mrs. Thies stated students at greatest risk regress more during summer months. Mrs. Thies stated years ago the political will was not in place to address the issue of vacations. Recently, there is more support among the professional organizations Mrs. Thies is a part of. Mrs. Thies stated she will continue to pursue this conversation with her colleagues. She commented that she would be in favor of one vacation in March emphasizing that this could only occur if a number of other districts joined in.**

**Mrs. Campbell stated she is in favor of status quo. She stated there**

will be the issue of finding funding to accommodate more time served by the teachers. Otherwise, cuts will need to take place. Mrs. Thies responded that this would come with a price tag and there will be a need to think in terms of what the fiscal model would look like. Mr. Saviano stated from a Negotiations Team standpoint, there would be a great deal of effort necessary to implement this type of change unless there was cooperation across the state. Mrs. Campbell stated adding a week of February instruction will move the last day of school earlier into June which will then make for a longer summer break. Based on earlier comments, this could cause issues for the students being away from instruction longer.

Mrs. Lynch asked for clarification of what the shared services entail. Mrs. Thies responded there is a statewide transportation program. Mr. Silva stated if the Bristol Warren Schools went off schedule with one vacation in March, only in-district students would be off the cycle making the impact minimal. He stated that extra busses would need to run for those private school students that the District provides transportation for.

Mrs. Thies stated research would need to be done in terms of interscholastic and athletics to see what impact this would have on competitions. Chairman Silva stated to make a change of this nature, all aspects would need to be researched, especially those smaller details that don't happen as frequently.

**Mr. Saviano asked if it would be beneficial to bring up at the RIASC meeting. Mrs. Thies and Chairman Silva both agreed that would be an excellent idea. Mr. Saviano stated he will add to the RIASC agenda and report back.**

**Mrs. Thies reiterated there is definitely more interest throughout the state on the subject of more instructional time to insure a better instructional model. Mrs. Wainwright asked if there is a reason why there is a changing attitude. Mrs. Thies responded that she believes public education is truly a transparent and accountable system. As such, there is acknowledgment that this would be in the best interest of the students. She reiterated that a united voice with a consensus across the state will strengthen the position.**

**Mr. Saviano suggested asking RIDE what their opinion is. Mrs. Thies stated recently RIDE indicated this would be a local decision.**

**Mrs. Thies stated in recent discussions with professional colleagues, a consensus for one March vacation is evident. In addition, there has been consensus on having the start of school begin after Labor Day.**

**Mr. Saviano stated it would be important to give a year's headway before fully implementing a change such as this to allow families to plan accordingly. Mr. O'Dell added there are some who teach in the District but live in another District where their children attend school. This could cause a conflict in vacation times within a family. Mr.**

**O'Dell commented it is important to have union buy-in from around the state.**

**Mrs. Campbell asked when there will be a discussion regarding state assessment requirements waivers. Chairman Silva responded the high school will be presenting at the January workshop when this will be addressed. Mrs. Campbell stated it would be good to have a School Committee Professional Development session in order to learn about the new regulations and the impact on high school curriculum. This would satisfy the School Committee Goal requirement**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INITIATIVES**

**Budget/Facilities Subcommittee: Chairman Silva stated that Mrs. Rancourt was not present due to an illness in her family. He stated there was nothing new to report other than the bids that were awarded this evening.**

**Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee: Mr. O'Dell stated the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December, 2nd. He stated the following items would be on the agenda: Health & Wellness Policy, School Admissions Policy (JEC), Proposed Administrative Procedure, SIT Team Policy (CN), and School Committees of the Subcommittee Policy (BCE-R). Mr. O'Dell announced to those who were interested in attending for the**

**Administrative Procedure Policy** portion that it would be discussed around 7 p.m.

**Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee:** Chairman Silva reported a couple of meetings of the Negotiations Team have taken place to review proposed changes and suggestions. Those are being consolidated and put together to create the School Committee's initial proposal. Chairman Silva stated he was pleased to report that the District lawyer, Mr. Henneous, has been contacted by the Union. They are in the process of putting things together and will be ready to meet some time in the middle of December. Chairman Silva stated there have been many changes since the last BWEA negotiations including the representative from the State Union which is why they may need more time before sitting with the Negotiations Team.

**Wellness Committee:** The Health and Wellness Subcommittee had its second meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at the Herreshoff Community Meeting Room. Mrs. Wainwright stated she was pleased that KMS administrator Jeff Howlett and Hugh Cole educators Tracy Earl and Tracy Lima have joined the Subcommittee. Mrs. Wainwright appreciates their commitment to health and wellness for the Schools and the District.

Currently, the Subcommittee is working on developing a Wellness Page for the District's website, and evaluating the recently completed Wellness Checklists for the individual schools. The areas evaluated

**included: communications, staff, cafeteria, meal programs, foods outside the cafeteria, fundraising, curriculum, physical activity, food safety, best practices, and areas needing improvement.**

**With the Checklists there will be a need to determine if the Health & Wellness Subcommittee will develop a district Action Plan based on the results or if individual schools will develop their own.**

**Mrs. Wainwright stated much of the meeting was spent reviewing changes to the Health & Wellness Policy concerning deletions, most of which were curriculum related, that came from the recent Policy Subcommittee meeting. Mrs. Wainwright stated she wasn't quite sure why this action was taken. As a result, she reviewed the video from the School Committee meeting on October 28, when the First Reading motion came before the School Committee. During the discussion, Mrs. Rancourt asked a question of Superintendent Theis, "if it's more curriculum based can it be in the school committee policy? There's a lot of references toward education." Also as part of the discussion on October 28th following the vote approving the First Reading, Chairman Silva asked that the Subcommittee take a look at anything to do with the curriculum to make sure toes are not being stepped on, and if so, to remove those sections. Chairman Silva requested the Administration to do the same.**

**Mrs. Wainwright stated she does not feel there was any due-diligence done prior to the Policy Subcommittee meeting regarding Chairman**

**Silva's request. As a follow-up to the request, Mrs. Wainwright asked the Policy Subcommittee to refer to an e-mail that was received with the District's Attorney's recommendations for changes. There were a total of nine minimal changes that involved a deletion of a word here and an addition of a word there. Nowhere were there comments or recommendations to delete anything involving curriculum.**

**Mrs. Wainwright addressed those who had not read the 2010 Healthy, Hunger –Free Kids Act, urging them to do so because it involves goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, and other school based activities. In addition, it is requirement to measure periodically and make available to the public an assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy, which schools are in compliance, and describe the progress made in attaining the goals.**

**In July 2014, the new USDA "Smart Snacks" regulations take effect. RIDE's goal is to have a report and recommendations completed by January 30, 2014, to present to the RI Board of Regents and then to the RI General Assembly in February.**

**Mrs. Thies commented she spent a delightful afternoon attending a matinee of Bristol Warren's theater group who presented Ladies of the Garden Club. It was a seamless production with many students involved. She congratulated Carol Schlink and the students for a**

great job. Mr. Saviano added he attended the Saturday night show and stated it was a phenomenally flawless show.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:17 PM**

**MOTION:** There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd