

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, March 9, 2015**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, March 9, 2015, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.

**Present: John Bento, Chair; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Erin Schofield and Lynn Wainwright; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew Henneous, District Solicitor**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**There was no public comment.**

**ASSESSMENT LITERACY PRESENTATIONS**

**Dr. Andrade gave a brief history and overview of the Bristol Warren Regional School District's Assessment Literacy Program which is a three year initiative, currently in its second year. Assessment Literacy strategies and methods are being implemented throughout all the Bristol Warren schools.**

### **Guiteras School**

**Dr. Andrade introduced Ms. Sonya Whipp, Principal of Guiteras School. Ms. Whipp began her presentation by introducing Guiteras School's Assessment Literacy team.**

**Ms. Whipp stated that a determination was made by the Guiteras Assessment Literacy team regarding a need for deeper comprehension of the CCSS "Integration of Knowledge and Ideas" strand within the 4th Grade population.**

**Ms. Whipp, along with members of the Guiteras Assessment Literacy Team, shared the process for determining how the use of questioning strategies increases student ability to analyze text and develop a deeper understanding of material read.**

**School Committee members asked several questions which were answered by the Guiteras Assessment Literacy Team.**

### **KMS School**

**Assistant Principal, Christine Homen, introduced KMS's Assessment Literacy Team. Ms. Homen shared that during the 2014-2015 school year, teachers of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, grades 6-8, completed action research in the area of assessment. The purpose of the study was to increase student engagement and motivation in order to improve achievement through student-led tracking, assessing and goal-setting.**

**Assessment Literacy Team members shared tools and strategies used to motivate students and improve achievement.**

**Mrs. Homen closed by stating that KMS's future main goal for Assessment Literacy will be to build professional learning communities.**

**School Committee members praised the work of the Assessment Literacy Teams.**

**Dr. Andrade reiterated the benefits of the Assessment Literacy Program and praised the good work of the Assessment Literacy Teams.**

**Mrs. Sanna informed those present that all Assessment Literacy Presentations can be viewed at [www.ebecplc.org](http://www.ebecplc.org). Mrs. Sanna praised the impressive work that is being accomplished throughout the Bristol Warren schools through the Assessment Literacy**

**Program.**

**Chairman Bento asked if the different strategies utilized through Assessment Literacy target each learning level. Mrs. Homen responded that the Assessment Literacy strategies which are used push each student's learning level.**

**Chairman Bento thanked the Assessment Literacy Teams from Guiteras and KMS for presenting this evening.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Chairman Bento stated that there was no need for an Executive Session.**

### **RECOMMENDATION #S2015-15 - Personnel**

**That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Personnel Recommendations.**

**MOTION: Mr. Silva made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **S2015-15 A-B: PERSONNEL**

**A. DIGITAL LEARNING TEACHERS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the**

**following individuals as Digital Learning Teachers for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year and the 2015-16 school year only:**

**Name School**

- 1. Katharine Barker Colt Andrews**
- 2. Rachel Beagan Hugh Cole**
- 3. Amanda Berard Rockwell**
- 4. Laura Cabral Mt. Hope High**
- 5. Susan Castigliero Hugh Cole**
- 6. Ann Corrado Hugh Cole**
- 7. Paula Faria Mt. Hope High**
- 8. Nicole Galipeau Guiteras**
- 9. Amanda Giorgi Hugh Cole**
- 10. Emily McCaffrey Kickemuit Middle**
- 11. Kelly Metzger Kickemuit Middle**
- 12. Christopher Munzert Mt. Hope High**
- 13. Pamela Oliveira Rockwell**
- 14. Jennifer Saarinen Kickemuit Middle**
- 15. Donna Stouber Kickemuit Middle**

**B. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Beth S. Hayes from the position of Middle School Principal as listed below:

- 1. Beth S. Hayes Principal – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: March 9, 2015**

**Reason: Personal**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2015-16**

**That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy. (Policy includes PARCC/State testing).**

**MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.**

**DISCUSSION: Chairman Bento stated that there have been good discussions concerning PARCC testing conducted at the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee level, the recent PARCC forum and through individual parent discussions with the Superintendent.**

**Chairman Bento stated that the second reading of the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy will be voted upon at the April Workshop. He added that the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy will be reviewed again by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee on Monday, April 6th, prior to the second reading. He encouraged School**

**Committee members to attend the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee meeting if they have further questions or concerns after tonight's discussion.**

**Mr. O'Dell shared his belief that rather than mandate students to participate in state assessments, the better approach would be to have the Superintendent share his knowledge to persuade parents on the benefits of state assessments. He commended Dr. Andrade, Superintendent, for the great job he did educating parents and answering their questions at the recent PARCC Forum.**

**Mr. O'Dell asked that the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee reconsider the use of the statement "all students are required to participate in the designated local and state assessments...". The main objection is the use of the word "required". Mr. O'Dell feels that the response to assessment testing by parents might be better received through educating them rather than mandating that the students participate in the state assessments.**

**Mrs. Schofield agreed with Mr. O'Dell that instead of "requiring" students to participate in state assessments, the Superintendent should educate the parents on the benefits of state assessments to alleviate any pushback.**

**Several School Committee members shared their concerns about not mandating student state assessment participation.**

**Mrs. Wainwright stated that she believes that mandating student participation in state assessments opens the door for advancement of the educational system in Rhode Island.**

**Chairman Bento reiterated his earlier comments encouraging School Committee members to attend the next Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee meeting on Monday, April 6th, where the above issues will be discussed and worked through.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

### **School Visits**

**Chairman Bento spoke about his recent visits to the schools within the District. Specifically, he shared the top two “celebrations” and “needs improvement” for each of the schools based on conversations with the school’s principals and staff.**

**Mr. Saviano, who also attended the school visits with Chairman Bento, shared additional “celebrations” and “needs improvement” from several schools.**

**Mrs. Schofield shared an overview of the Reach for the Stars Program commending the benefits to the students.**

### **Shout Out**

**Chairman Bento stated that Mrs. Wainwright suggested calling the**

**“Shout outs” portion of the Agenda “Shout Out Successes (SOS)” where School Committee members will be encouraged to share successes they are aware of throughout the Bristol Warren schools.**

### **Shout Out Successes**

**Mrs. Wainwright commended Jock Hayes, Chairperson, of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation, for the amazing opportunities he provides for the Bristol Warren schools.**

**Mrs. Wainwright shared highlights from the recent Bodacious Bee sponsored by the BWEF where 1% of the proceeds were donated to the Anthony Quinn Foundation which is a scholarship program to help local students.**

**Dr. Andrade shared highlights of the recent successful Professional Development Day focusing on digital learning.**

**Dr. Andrade congratulated Mr. Paul Morris for being inducted into the Warren High School Hall of Fame.**

### **School Committee Goals**

**Chairman Bento stated that Mrs. Campbell will be facilitating the School Committee Goals discussion.**

**Mrs. Campbell thanked School Committee members for providing their goals to her. She explained the process she used for**

**collaborating the raw data based on School Committee input.**

**Mrs. Campbell went through the following School Committee Goals draft:**

**Safety: Continue to create policy, explore programs, and provide oversight to insure the safety, security, and well-being of staff and students.**

**Acknowledge police merit and efforts to increase safety in our schools and review contingency plans and training exercises to improve police and administrative /teacher readiness to respond to threats on school grounds.**

**Work with Administration to decrease the incidents of bullying in our district, and to improve administrative reporting to be timely and accurate.**

**Community Relations: Continue to explore and implement opportunities to improve relations between the School District and the community, including, but not limited to, parents & families, local and state government officials, and business leaders.**

**Continue talks with leadership of both towns relative to the budget to increase collaboration and find a more equitable way to fund education in the district, while addressing impact of State funding formula**

**Improve community outreach to elected officials of the State, Bristol Warren, and neighboring Towns.**

**To identify and implement strategies (i.e. improved district website, district e-newsletters, social media, etc.) for improving communication between the Bristol Warren Regional School District and the parents and taxpayers of Bristol and Warren, and to develop new ways of providing opportunities for the community to participate. To end each SC workshop and meeting by inviting SC members to Shout Out Successes (SOSs) relative to school/district activities and students/personnel**

**To encourage SC attendance at all school promoted functions**

**Improve communication with the community so that the public can be more aware of the accomplishments of the School District and the children in it.**

**Work with the Superintendent to explore ways to educate the community and public officials about the process for governance of the school district in terms of setting policy, establishing budgets, implementing programming and, achieving its educational goals.**

**Professionalism: Continue to explore opportunities to improve the professionalism and effectiveness of the School Committee membership as individuals and as an organization**

**To more actively participate in the school community by visiting each school at least once every two years, attending at least one PTO/school improvement from each school every two years, attending JFC Meetings and visiting at least one of their own town council budget meetings each year.**

**Ensure we incorporate our goals into Superintendent goals and our**

**next strategic plan.**

**To fulfill RI SC PD recommended hours as described in 16-2-5.1, by increasing attendance at professional development programs, with each member attending at least two weekend training opportunities per year.**

**To come to meetings fully prepared by reviewing/reading all information to be discussed**

**To avoid conducting personal business during SC related meetings so that electronic devices do not create disturbances during SC business**

**To come to SC meetings dressed in a professional manner**

**Continue to operate openly and with transparency as a public body.**

**Strategic Planning: Support and participate in the process to develop the District's Strategic Plan as a guiding policy for the next five (5) years.**

**To continue to look for ways to address ever-growing student enrollment at our districts' schools**

**Work with the Superintendent to ensure that the Strategic Plan is comprehensive in nature, reflecting the needs, culture, and goals of the community as it strives to prepare its children for their future success.**

**Ensure that the Strategic Plan includes overall goals for non-academic programming including the Arts, Athletics, Extra-curricular offerings, and Enrichment opportunities.**

**Work with Superintendent to reevaluate the amount of time our**

**students are missing of instructional time due the amount of testing that is done each year in all our schools.**

**Provide support to the administration and staff to maintain and improve the high level of education that is being provided to the children of the community, which should help to produce an increase in the high school graduation rate as well as increased test scores and state rankings.**

**Continue to look into block scheduling/ 6 period day at Mt. Hope.**

**Investigate opportunities to create or modify current program of studies to create new graduation requirements for all students that will address the very basics of traditional, non-academic life challenges.**

**Review and confirm direction for MHHS with regards to programming and function**

**Incorporate conservation lessons, reflected in real-life improvements to school facilities, into the curriculum.**

**Fiscal Responsibility: Continue to work with the Administration and Staff to explore and implement opportunities to maintain fiscal responsibility for the District, including, but not limited to, cost-saving measures and investments in energy efficient facilities and infrastructure.**

**To continue to seek out ways to save money through renewable energy projects at all schools throughout the district**

**Maintain fiscal responsibility, operating in a responsible and prudent manner in watching out for taxpayer expenditures while providing an**

**excellent educational opportunity for the children of the community**

## **Miscellaneous**

**Continue to move forward with high school field project**

**Move forward with finding an experienced Middle School Principal.**

**Re-look at Athletic Department especially as it relates to the position at KMS.**

**Improve the substitute teacher issue district-wide by making our wages for substitutes more competitive.**

**To insure all district properties follow American Flag etiquette and encourage sites to promote that info among students**

**Mr. Silva suggested that the School Committee members take the next month to digest the information presented this evening and refer any comments or changes back to Mrs. Campbell in order for her to revise the School Committee Goals document and present at the School Committee Workshop in April.**

**School Committee members commended Mrs. Campbell for the great job she did collaborating the School Committee Goals.**

**Related to the Safety category within the School Committee Goals, Mr. Saviano reported that RIASC is having a seminar on Saturday, March 14th to speak about the safety system called ALICE. He requested that Mr. Simmons, Facility Director, be in attendance. Dr. Andrade responded that a representative from the District will be**

**present.**

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**No new future agenda items were discussed.**

**Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that in the future, all questions must be directed through the Chair and not to other School Committee members.**

## **ADJOURNMENT – 9:26 PM**

**MOTION: At 9:26 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**