

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, April 13, 2015

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 13, 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 7:09 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 Andrew Henneous, District Solicitor

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. O'Dell apologized to the School Committee for a recent letter to the editor he wrote which School Committee members found offensive. Mr. O'Dell stated that it was not his intention to "point fingers" at individual members of the School Committee, but that he

was speaking in reference to School Committee's across the country.

Mr. O'Dell stated that although he is entitled to present his position, he should have given a courtesy phone call to Chairman Bento alerting him of the action he was going to take. Mr. O'Dell stated that he usurped the Chairman's authority. Mr. O'Dell stated that his opinion should have been stated in a better way; one that would not have been offensive to the local body. Mr. O'Dell asked for forgiveness from the School Committee members.

School Committee members thanked Mr. O'Dell for coming forward and accepted his apology. Members thanked Mr. O'Dell for always wanting what is best for the students.

Chairman Bento addressed those who were present to comment on the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy draft stating that no decision would be made concerning the policy at this time. A hold has been put on the CAS policy. In the meantime, open forums will be conducted at some point in the future to continue the dialogue concerning the CAS Policy

Kristen Quinn, Bristol – Submitted a prepared statement, for the record, which will be reviewed by the School Committee members.

Tracy Ramos, Bristol – asked the School Committee members whether her request from last Monday's Policy & Curriculum

Subcommittee meeting to review Tiverton School's Assessment System Policy will be addressed. Mrs. Ramos had requested that the School Committee specifically look at the provision for students to opt out of testing included in Tiverton's Assessment System Policy. Mrs. Ramos would like Bristol Warren's Comprehensive Assessment System Policy to adopt similar language to Tiverton stating that "students are expected to participate in state assessment, but are not required."

A concern was also raised by Mrs. Ramos as to why the CAS Policy was removed from the District website. She would like to see any policies that are being reviewed to remain on the website until they are approved.

Chairman Bento stated that because this item was not included on the agenda, he could not solicit comments from members of the School Committee. Chairman Bento stated that those making public comment concerning the CAS Policy will be contacted this week about their questions.

For clarification purposes, Dr. Andrade explained the purpose of the recent protocol for posting proposed policies. He added that moving forward, pending policies will be provided through a link from the District website.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

School Committee Goals

Chairman Bento turned the discussion concerning School Committee Goals over to Mrs. Campbell.

Mrs. Campbell explained the purpose of the School Committee Goals. She reviewed the process, to date, for developing the goals.

Mrs. Campbell stated that for tonight's review of the School Committee Goals, wordsmithing would not be addressed. The focus will be to go through each of the goals and the tasks listed. Mrs. Campbell issued a disclaimer that the tasks listed under each of the goals are not comprehensive, but include some actions that could be taken to satisfy each goal.

Mrs. Campbell read through each of the goals. A discussion ensued.

Specific comments related to the review of the School Committee Goals were as follows:

- Because of his background, Mr. Bento stated he would like to be involved with reviewing and developing district safety plans.**
- Mrs. Wainwright stressed the importance of School Committee members attending RIASCs Professional Development programs.**
- Dr. Andrade clarified for a school committee member the timeline for**

the Strategic Plan which will begin in the August to September timeframe. Mrs. McBride added that the Strategic Plan involves everyone in the community. She encouraged the public to come out and help with the Strategic Plan.

Chairman Bento stated that he will meet with Dr. Andrade and Mrs. Campbell to work on finalizing the School Committee Goals. Once a finalized draft is completed, School Committee members will have an opportunity to review. Chairman Bento stated that the vote to approve the School Committee Goals will occur at the April business meeting.

School Committee members commended Mrs. Campbell for her hard work on the School Committee Goals.

Shout Out Successes

Mrs. Wainwright shared highlights from the Funtastic Health & Wellness Expo which was held this past weekend.

Mrs. Wainwright received permission from several students to share the colleges they were accepted to which include, Cornell University, Harvard and Boston University. She also shared the story of a student's journey to the United States Naval Academy.

Mrs. Campbell praised the District All Choral Concert and the talented students who participated. She commended the music staff for their

efforts.

Mrs. Sanna shared information about the upcoming Take Charge of your Child's Digital Life Presentation to be held on May 6th from 6-8 p.m. at Colt School Auditorium.

Dr. Andrade commended Mrs. Almeida, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Sanna and Mrs. Silva for their hard work adding that they are the people behind the great successes of the District.

Mrs. Schofield thanked parents in the audience who came to share feedback stating that she is happy to have the parents involved.

Chairman Bento thanked Mrs. Campbell for her facilitation of the School Committee Goals and the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Chairman Bento acknowledged Mr. Saviano who two weeks ago was elected president of RIASC. He presented Mr. Saviano with a card and a gift from LaSalle Bakery.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:03 P.M.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a)(1)(2) for the following:

- 1. Superintendent's Evaluation**
- 2. Warren Litigation**
- 3. Potential litigation re: employee issues**

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bento stated that the Executive Session will be conducted to receive legal updates and to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation. No action will be taken. The open session will commence at the conclusion of the Executive Session only to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.; seconded by Mr. O'Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:18 PM

MOTION: At 9:18 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd