

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Tuesday, October 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 7:02 PM.

Present: John Bento, Chairperson; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairperson; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano (7:09 p.m.), 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 & Finance

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

Nicholas Silva, Bristol

Mr. Silva expressed concern regarding the restriction of students who are not enrolled at Mt. Hope High School from attending the

Homecoming Dance including students from schools that are currently partnered with MHHS such as the Met in Providence. Mr. Silva cited that the MHHS Handbook does not mention any mandate which would prevent non-MHHS students from attending the homecoming dance.

Mrs. McBride stated that it was her understanding that if a MHHS student notified administration that a guest from another school was going to attend a dance, permission would be granted.

Chairman Bento stated that he would look into the situation further and discuss dance attendee protocol with the Superintendent and the Policy Subcommittee Chair.

AGENDA FOCUS:

Guidance Presentation

Donald Rebello, MHHS Principal, stated that the goal of tonight's presentation is to bring the School Committee up-to-date on services provided by the Guidance Department, and to provide data showcasing progress made within the department.

{John Saviano arrived at 7:09 p.m.}

Mr. Rebello then introduced Jennifer Copeland, MHHS Assistant Principal. Ms. Copeland continued with the presentation.

Ms. Copeland thanked the School Committee for inviting the Guidance Department to present. She then introduced members of the Guidance staff.

Ms. Copeland shared an overview on the focus of the Guidance Department, and expanded upon the following:

- Improved SAT Scores**
- College & Career Readiness Accomplishments**
- College & Career Readiness Data**
- Naviance Data – 2016 Graduating Seniors**
- New Guidance Initiatives {2015-2016 academic year}**
- Listing of colleges applied to by MHHS students**
- MHHS students college acceptance rates**
- Financial Aid Night**
- Presentations given by returning MHHS graduates on college life**

Kristina Lynch, MHHS alumna, shared information about the Alumni Network, including goals, upcoming events and possible future events. She encouraged any alumni present to join the Alumni Network by filling out the available forms.

Mr. Rebello stated that the Alumni Network forms will be disseminated and made available through many mediums to expand the network in every possible way. Mr. Rebello added that the high school has pledged to give Kristina all the help and support she

needs.

Dr. Andrade stated that the District has been trying to establish an Alumni Network for years. Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance, stated that in June a non-profit Alumni Network group for Mt. Hope, Bristol and Warren was incorporated and just today received 501c3 status.

Dr. Andrade congratulated Kristina for her inspiration to develop an Alumni Network for the Bristol Warren schools and for coming forward and presenting the idea to the School Committee. He commented that with the 501c3 status in place, the Alumni Network will be able to move forward.

Dr. Andrade recognized the strong team members of the Guidance Department, and commended the continuous improvement exhibited over the years. Dr. Andrade stated that the Guidance Department is certainly a worthy investment with a great academic return.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she has been waiting for a Guidance Department like the one that is in place now. She commended the hard work of the Guidance Team in helping students do great things through exposure to more opportunities.

Chairman Bento thanked the Guidance Team.

Athletic Department Presentation

Dr. Andrade introduced Ms. Christy Belisle, Athletic Director. He commended the transformation of the Athletic Department over the past three years under Ms. Belisle's direction.

Ms. Belisle stated that the purpose of tonight's presentation is to bring an update to the School Committee on several aspects of the Athletic Department - teaching the art of competition, leadership and balancing academics.

Ms. Belisle expanded upon the following points:

- Branding the "7 Year Husky"**
- New Athletic Department Initiatives**
- On-line registration and communication**
- Husky Programming**
- Boosters and Development**
- Continuous Improvement**

Several questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Silva brought up his concern about the class start and end-time shift instituted at the high school this year and how it is affecting students, especially students participating in athletic events who miss the last period of class. He would like the School Committee to

revisit the time change and feels a discussion is warranted regarding reverting the students class start and end-time back to what it was originally.

Mrs. Lynch would like the Athletic Department included as an item on a future Budget/Facilities Subcommittee Agenda for the purpose of having a discussion to review the recent changes to the Athletic Department, ie., making the Athletic Director a full-time position and creating a secretarial position for the Athletic Director, to ensure all the pieces are working well and to ascertain any areas that may need adjustment.

Chairman Bento asked Mrs. Belisle if there was anything the School Committee could do better to support her position.

Ms. Belisle emphasized the importance of the School Committee being familiar with the Coaching Staff Evaluation Tool and the coaching staff themselves. It is important that the coaches know the District is invested in them.

Mr. Rebello commended Ms. Belisle for how she handles situations that come up regarding coaches. He supports the Athletic Director being a full-time position adding that it is a real necessity.

Dr. Andrade commended Ms. Belisle on her leadership and the rebranding of the “7 Year Husky”. Dr. Andrade stated that the

Athletic Department epitomizes support of the whole child.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

School Committee Goals

Chairman Bento stated that the School Committee approved the School Committee Goals in April. Chairman Bento stated that at that time, he mentioned that the School Committee Goals would be revisited in the Fall.

Chairman Bento stated that the Strategic Planning Group has begun meeting and as a result, for the purposes of tonight's meeting, asked the School Committee to focus on the Strategic Planning section of the School Committee Goals first.

Chairman Bento opened up the floor for discussion.

Several points of clarification were discussed. Several changes and one additional bullet item were agreed upon.

The remaining sections of the School Committee Goals were reviewed. Several changes were discussed and agreed upon.

A discussion ensued regarding who within the School Committee ensures implementation of the individual goals.

Chairman Bento stated that he will give his recommendations for

individual goal oversight assignments at the November Workshop. Mrs. McBride asked Chairman Bento to include the Superintendent with each individual goal assignment.

Chairman Bento stated that the School Committee Goals will be carried over to the November Workshop for a vote.

School Committee Executive Board Roles & Responsibilities.

Chairman Bento stated that several School Committee members have brought the subject of the Exec Board Roles & Responsibilities to his attention for discussion.

Chairman Bento shared about the history of the Executive Board, the officers that comprise the Executive Board and the purpose of the meetings.

Chairman Bento opened the floor for discussion.

School Committee members shared opposing and supporting views regarding the Executive Board.

School Committee members who opposed the current function of the Executive Board have requested that the Executive Board either become a subcommittee which would require an agenda and be open to the public or that it cease to meet in its current capacity.

Chairman Bento stated that no action will be taken this evening. Chairman Bento added that he will discuss the situation with the District's lawyer, and report back to the School Committee. Chairman Bento commented that the Executive Board has not met for the past three months due to suspension of meetings until a decision is made on Executive Board protocol.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:50 P.M.

MOTION: At 9:50 PM Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd