

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, April 18, 2016**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 18, 2016, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. Chairman John Bento called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.**

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

**Absent: Diana Campbell**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM**

**There was no public comment.**

**AGENDA FOCUS:**

**Dr. Andrade shared a brief introduction for tonight's presentations.**

### **Guiteras Garden Project**

**Shannon Rozea and Brooke Merriam commented that it was a pleasure to present on something they are passionate about – The Guiteras Garden Project.**

**Ms. Rozea stated that the Discovery Garden is a piece of a larger master plan for the Guiteras landscape. Ms. Rozea stated that both she and Ms. Merriam are landscape design professionals, and created the design.**

**Ms. Rozea and Ms. Merriam worked with the Bristol Town planner who secured a RI DEM grant and matching funds from the Town in order to implement the first phase of the master plan. The first phase focused on storm water remediation, as well as parking and circulation improvements (both vehicular and pedestrian) which work was completed last summer.**

**The next phase of implementation is the Discovery Garden which Ms. Rozea and Ms. Merriam hope will be built in the next year through fundraising. Ms. Merriam explained in detail the plans for the Proposed Guiteras Discovery Garden with timeline and stages of completion.**

**Ms. Rozea stated that the inspiration for the Guiteras Discovery**

**Garden was the transformative work of the outdoor spaces at several Boston area schools achieved through the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.**

**Ms. Merriam shared details of two outdoor initiatives currently taking place at Guiteras: GASP Discovery Garden Designers and Audubon Environmental Education.**

**Ms. Merriam shared the Guiteras Learning Landscape Mission.**

**The three main project goals of the Guiteras Discovery Garden are:**

- 1. Foster environmental literacy and stewardship by providing unique ways for the students to interact with the landscape.**
- 2. Improve the overall health of the landscape surrounding Silver Creek**
- 3. Provide a park for the greater community to utilize.**

**Ms. Merriam stated that outdoor curriculum pieces are being created to work in tandem with the science curriculum already in place at Guiteras in an effort to empower teachers to use the outdoor space.**

**Ms. Merriam stated that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Guiteras School Learning Landscape will be on Friday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m.**

**Several School Committee members raised concerns regarding**

**long-term maintenance of the Guiteras Learning Landscape and Garden.**

**Mr. Simmons responded that Facilities has been actively involved in the Guiteras Learning Landscape project since day 1. Mr. Simmons commented that the plantings in the garden have low to zero maintenance requirements. Mr. Simmons added that due to how centralized the nature's classroom is, and the use of raised beds, only low maintenance would be required.**

**Ms. Merriam stated that maintenance of the Guiteras Learning Landscape has been their primary concern from the inception of the project. The landscape has started out with very manageable spaces. The storm water project came with a care manual. The gardens have guidelines in place as well. Ms. Merriam stated that they are looking to ensure that a good group of volunteers are in place to maintain the landscape for years to come.**

**Ms. Merriam added that a Discovery Garden Committee has been formed. Ms. Merriam added that they have looked to other schools which have similar outdoor classrooms in place for guidance. Ms. Merriam reiterated that they are going to work very hard to make sure that maintenance is covered.**

**School Committee members commended Ms. Rozea and Ms. Merriam for their great work on the Guiteras Learning Landscape.**

**Mrs. Schofield thanked Ms. Rozea and Ms. Merriam for their hard work and the time that they poured into the Guiteras Garden Project over the last few years. She also thanked them for taking the time to meet with her at Guiteras last August to walk her through their vision.**

**Mrs. Schofield stated that she was inspired by their project and appreciated their efforts in creating an outdoor learning space for the students. Mrs. Schofield congratulated Ms. Rozea and Ms. Merriam for being named two of Rhode Island Monthly's Rhode Islander's of the Year in 2015.**

**Ms. Merriam and Ms. Rozea thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to present.**

**Chairman Bento requested that Ms. Merriam and Ms. Rozea invite all of the District's PTOs to the ribbon cutting ceremony.**

**Chairman Bento thanked Ms. Merriam and Ms. Rozea for a great job.**

#### **Pupil Personnel Office**

**Ms. Anderson thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to present.**

**Ms. Anderson introduced her presentation by stating that she would be sharing five vignettes of projects that the Pupil Personnel Office has been involved in for the last five years:**

**&#61607; Bristol Warren Living and Learning Center**

**&#61607; Bristol Warren Regional Preschool**

**&#61607; Assistive Technology Integration**

**&#61607; Intensive Intervention**

**&#61607; Registered Behavior Technician Program**

**Leslie expanded upon the following points:**

**&#61656; BWRSD Living and Learning Center**

**&#61656; Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Certification –  
{Bright Stars, CLASS, RIDE}**

**&#61656; BWRSD – Warren Performance by Standard**

**&#61656; Assistive Technology Integration**

**&#61656; Assistive Technology Devices and Services in Special  
Education**

**&#61656; Student Demonstrations**

**o How does technology help you?**

**o Reverse inclusion**

**o Whole group writing**

**o Composing music**

**&#61656; National Center for Intensive Intervention (NCII)**

**&#61656; Intensive Intervention**

**&#61656; BWRSD Data Base Intervention Timeline Initiative over the  
past four years**

**&#61656; National Center for Leadership in Intensive Intervention**

**(NCLII)**

**&#61656; Pilot Intensive Intervention Certificate Program**

**&#61656; Paraprofessional Development Opportunity Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)**

**Mrs. McBride asked how the autistic children are addressed within this program. Ms. Anderson responded that autism is a project that is currently being addresssed outside of the School Department. She added that Dr. Andrade has worked with a variety of different autism workshops for parents. Ms. Anderson emphasized that the needs of autistic children in the BWRSD are absolutely met. She explained the protocols and procedures to ensure this.**

**Mrs. Wainwright asked whether the students attending the Living and Learning Center age out at 21. Ms. Anderson responded that Living and Learning Center students are eligible for services up until the day before their 21st birthday.**

**Mrs. Wainwright commended the great work being done by the Pupil Personnel Office.**

**Chairman Bento commended Ms. Anderson for an excellent presentation.**

**Dr. Andrade commended Ms. Anderson for her wonderful presentation. Dr. Andrade stated that Ms. Anderson has showcased**

**this evening “what is special about special education”. He also commended Ms. Anderson’s work at the national level with NCLII - National Center for Leadership in Intensive Intervention.**

**Chairman Bento thanked all of tonight’s presenters.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:33 P.M.**

**MOTION: At 8:33 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O’Dell**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**