**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, January 14, 2019**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 14, 2019, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson, Erin Schofield, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 PM.

Present: Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Adam M. Ramos, Vice-Chairperson; John P. Saviano, Secretary; Brian Bradshaw, Treasurer; John C. Bento, Victor Cabral, Sheila O. Ellsworth, Marjorie J. McBride, and Carly N. Reich; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1; and Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Guests: Deborah DiBiase, MHHS Principal; Michelle King, MHHS Asst. Principal; Rosemary Burns, MHHS Asst. Principal; Matthew Yates, KMS Asst. Principal; Cindy Giroux, Hugh Cole Principal; Renee Reis, Hugh Cole Asst. Principal

**OPENING BUSINESS**

Chairperson Schofield invited all to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

Chairperson Schofield stated that the School Committee is honoring three of the outgoing School Committee members, two of which are present this evening.

She invited Mrs. Diana Campbell and Mr. William O’Dell to come forward.

Chairperson Schofield first honored Mr. O’Dell by stating he had served with the School Committee for 20 years. She shared the offices that he held during his tenure and how he continues to be involved in the local community. Chairperson Schofield presented Mr. O’Dell with a token to acknowledge his years of dedicated service to the District.

Mr. O’Dell responded that he appreciated the gesture very much. He added that he is excited for the new committee and for the “new blood” that has entered into the District.

Chairperson Schofield then honored Mrs. Campbell by stating that she served for 12 years on the School Committee. Chairperson Schofield shared the offices that Mrs. Campbell held during her tenure. She also shared about her employment with Mosaico Community Development Corporation and her positive contribution to the community through that endeavor. Chairperson Schofield presented Mrs. Campbell with a token to acknowledge her years of dedicated service to the District.

Mrs. Campbell thanked the District saying that it has been an honor to serve on the School Committee, to serve the District and to work with Dr. Andrade and all of the Administrators. Mrs. Campbell stated that she appreciates her colleagues and the new School Committee members. Mrs. Campbell stated that her next endeavor will be to work on the opioid epidemic at the adult level. Mrs. Campbell stated that she appreciates being honor.

Chairperson Schofield stated that Mr. Silva was unable to be in attendance to be honored at tonight’s meeting. She stated that Mr. Silva was a member of the School Committee for 24 years. She shared the offices that he held during his tenure. Chairperson Schofield stated that Karen Del Tatto, Secretary to the School Committee, has a prepared statement from Mr. Silva to read publicly.

Mrs. Del Tatto read the following:

*“First let me say, “Thank you, for taking the time to recognize those of us no longer serving as sitting School Committee Members.”*

*When I decided to run for School Committee in 1994, I did so because I was a believer in public education and the value that a good public education system brings to a community. I was the father of 3 children during my first campaign and I wanted to help our newly regionalized school system to succeed. When the results of that election were certified and the voters had chosen me to represent them. I was honored and thrilled as well as apprehensive about what lay ahead. Over the next 24 years and 5 more successful elections I watched this school district emerge as one of the best in the state, often looked at by other school districts as an educational system to be modeled after. Getting to that point did not happen overnight, nor did it happen by the work and effort of one individual alone. It took the collective efforts of an entire community, School Committee members, Administration, Teachers, Staff and community members. Together they have all solidified the quality of our educational system.*

*From the beginning of the time that I served as a School Committee member through to today, this system has attracted and hired highly qualified Administrators, Teachers and Staff. Each successive School Committee would strive to “do better” when hiring new staff for this district. We realized that no one was perfect but, with the right “team” in place, the system could be perfect. It is my belief that collectively we currently have one of, if not the best, staff of any school district in the state! I want to thank all of them for their hard work and dedication to the children of this community.*

*I am proud to have been a part of everything that has been accomplished throughout my time as a School Committee member. It has been an honor to serve this community for the last 24 years.”*

Chairperson Schofield thanked Mr. Silva for his 24 years of service on the School Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting; seconded by Mr. Bento.

The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA FOCUS:**

*1. Mt.. Hope High School Program of Studies Presentation*

Michelle King, MHHS Assistant Principal, stated that she is happy to be presenting the 2019-2020 Program of Studies.

Ms. King shared a little bit about the process and the collaboration involved in developing the Program of Studies.

Ms. King detailed the goals that have been established for the development of the Program of Studies.

Ms. King shared highlights from the 2019-2020 Program of Studies.

Ms. King shared about the following notable changes to the Program of Studies for the 2019-2020 school year:

* School Counseling Department
  + Language changes to reflect ASCA terminology
* AP Testing Policy
  + Changes to registration schedule
* New Courses
  + Humanities, Math and Performing Arts

Ms. King shared about the following new courses included in the Program of Studies:

1. College Algebra
   1. RWU Coursework: Students will receive RWU college credits
2. Acting and Directing in Film
   1. Opportunity for students who are interested in acting but do not want to be on a stage
3. Humanities
   1. English
   2. Social Studies
      1. Courses with a focused, literacy based approach

Ms. King shared about how the Program of Studies and curriculum information are disseminated to parents and students.

Ms. King fielded questions from the School Committee regarding the Program of Studies which were answered and clarified by Dr. DiBiase, Mt. Hope High School Principal, and by Ms. King. The following subjects were addressed and discussions held:

AP Course testing charges

AP course enrollment and AP classes in general

Course deletions from Program of Studies, and the criteria for dropping a course

History behind the addition of the Acting and Directing in Film course

Criteria for determining new course additions

Mass communication systems used to communicate about courses and the Program of Studies

Building of Engineering and Business Marketing internship partnerships

Existing business partnerships

Pathway to the new college algebra course

Consideration of Italian as a language course offering

Alternate Class Selection for students who chose a class that didn’t run due to lack of participation

Building Program and teaching the trades

School Counseling Department

Proficiency-based Graduation Requirement (PBGR)

Chairperson Schofield thanked Ms. King and Dr. DiBiase for the Program of Studies presentation and for answering the questions raised by the School Committee.

2. *Bristol Warren Regional School District Accountability Presentation*

Mrs. Sanna began the presentation by stating that she will be presenting the annual report on student achievement tests results. Mrs. Sanna stated she will also be sharing the individual school report cards for 2018.

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon key performance indicators.

Mrs. Sanna shared that the purpose for Rhode Island School Accountability is to provide clear, actionable information to families and community members about district and school performance

* How is the school doing?
* What support does the school need?

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon the following points:

* Rhode Island School Performance Measures
* Performance Rating Details
* Rhode Island Accountability Star Ratings

Mrs. Sanna shared highlights from the 2017-2018 School Report Cards for each school within the District with the following individual star ratings.

Colt Andrews - 4 star

Rockwell - 5 star

Guiteras - 5 star

Hugh Cole - 3 star

KMS - 3 star

MHHS - 3 star

Mrs. Sanna then shared strategies that have been implemented to address areas which need improvement within the star ratings.

Mrs. Sanna fielded questions from the School Committee regarding School Report Card results. Administrators fielded questions and provided clarifications and answers to specific questions regarding:

Truancy, Suspension, Bullying, Resources needed from the School Committee to help continuous improvement in the schools; Growth Measurement Standards, any surprises from report card results; realignment to new assessments; district analyzation of effectiveness strategies in place for curriculum.

Mrs. Sanna continued the presentation by expanding upon the following points:

* Rhode Island State Assessment Requirements
* 2018 RICAS Assessment
* RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
* Explanation of what is being assessed on RICAS testing in ELA
* RICAS ELA testing format
* 2018 RICAS ELA results for grades 3-8 comparing Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD), Rhode Island and Massachusetts
* Overall results of the 2018 RICAS ELA testing by grade level
* BWRSD’s ELA percentage results by each grade level
  + *Mrs. Sanna shared celebrations from these results*
* ELA Achievement by school level for elementary grades
  + *Mrs. Sanna shared celebrations from these results*
* ELA growth by school comparing BWRSD, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Mrs. Sanna provided definitions for “low growth” “typical growth” and “high growth”.
  + *Mrs. Sanna shared celebrations from these results*
* High School ELA PSAT and SAT Results.

Mrs. Sanna fielded questions from School Committee members regarding the ELA results. Administrators provided clarifications and answers to specific questions regarding:

Addressing scores that have “nose-dived”; PSAT/SAT score expectation markers

*(John Bento left at 9:32 p.m.)*

Concern about lower scores for ELA Achievement at Hugh Cole School compared with the other elementary schools within the District and what might account for that; student training in multiple choice testing.

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to suspend the policy requiring all meetings to end by 10:00 p.m. in order to continue this important discussion; Mr Saviano seconded.

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

Mrs. Sanna continued her presentation by talking about what is being assessed with RICAS Mathematics.

*(Mrs. McBride left at 9:54 p.m.)*

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon the following points:

* RICAS Math Format
* RICAS Math Results grade 3-8 comparing BWRSD, Rhode Island and Massachusetts
* BWRSD Math: Achievement at Each Level
* Math Achievement by School - Elementary
  + *Mrs. Sanna celebrated that Rockwell scored highest in the State.*
* BWRSD Math: Growth by School. Mrs. Sanna shared celebrations from these results.
* High School Math Results PSAT & SAT

Mrs. Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, came forward to talk about the following intervention supports:

* Systematic
* Data Based Decision Making
* Effective Leadership
* Meaningful Family Involvement

Mrs. Anderson shared a detailed explanation about data-based individualization, and explained about data meetings and what that means for each student.

Mrs. Anderson highlighted pictures of success regarding growth rates for students who participate in intervention supports.

Mrs. Sanna shared an example of an individual student report for parents and guardians.

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon the following points:

* How RICAS results inform improvements
* Next Steps: Continuous Improvement
* Local Assessment Data

Chairperson Schofield announced that the camera recording the School Committee meeting ran out of storage and as a result, the meeting would need to be adjourned. Chairperson Schofield stated that the Math Assessment portion of the presentation would be carried over to another School Committee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT - 10:11 PM**

MOTION: At 10:11 p.m., Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Saviano, Secretary

/kd