**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Vice-Chairperson, Erin Schofield, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

Present: Erin Schofield, Vice-Chairperson; William O’Dell, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; John Bento, Brian Bradshaw, Adam Ramos and John Saviano; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Raquel Pellerin, School Business Administrator

Guests: Miranda Carpenter, Colt Andrews Assistant Principal; Cindy Giroux, Hugh Cole School Principal; Deborah Kearns, Colt Andrews School Principal; Tara McAuliffe, Rockwell School Principal; Renee Reis, Hugh Cole School Assistant Principal; and Cindy Sadler, Guiteras School Principal

Absent: Paul Silva, Chairperson; and Diana Campbell

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2018 meeting; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA FOCUS:**

*1. Elementary Principals: Presentation on Responsive Classrooms*

Mrs. Sanna, Assistant Superintendent, shared a brief introduction on Responsive Classrooms.

Mrs. Sanna commented that she is appreciative of the school principals for bringing the Responsive Classrooms program to the District and is also appreciative of Mrs. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1, for supporting the District in this program.

Mrs. Sanna stated that the responsive classroom recognizes the need for social and emotional learning. She commented that the responsive classrooms are funded through Bristol Warren Education Foundation (BWEF), and through federal and local funding.

Mrs. Sanna stated that all principals, teachers and teacher assistants have been trained in the responsive classroom program. She mentioned that several teachers are becoming district trainers for the purpose of promoting sustainability of the program.

Mrs. Sanna stated that the program is very well researched in supporting academic development along with social and emotional growth of students.

She closed by stating that the program is one of the most evidenced based available.

Mrs. Sanna turned the meeting over to Mrs. Cindy Sadler, Principal Guiteras School.

Mrs. Sadler shared that the Responsive Classroom Program began about 35 years ago. She expanded upon how it began.

Mrs. Sadler shared the benefits to students who sit in a responsive classroom.

Mrs. Sadler expanded upon the Responsive Classroom parent informational packet as well as an informational flyer which was provided to the School Committee members at the start of the meeting.

Mrs. Sadler explained about what a Responsive Classroom looks like.

Mr. O’Dell asked for clarification on what social and emotional learning entails.

Mrs. Sadler clarified that students haven’t had a lot of opportunity to learn about being a responsible, compassionate, team player type person. The goal is to teach students to be more balanced and intentional as people.

Mrs. Sadler expanded upon the guiding principles of a responsive classroom.

Mrs. Sadler explained what types of calming approaches are used for redirecting a student.

Ms. Tara McAuliffe, Rockwell School Principal, expanded upon the following classroom practices:

* Morning Meeting
* Rule Creation
* Interactive Modeling
* Positive Teacher Language
* Logical Consequences
* Academic Choice

Ms. McAuliffe closed by sharing a video of a morning meeting which was held in one of the District’s classrooms.

Ms. Deborah Kearns, Colt Andrews School Principal, expanded upon Rule Creation and Rule Generation within the Responsive Classroom.

Ms. Kearns expanded upon Interactive Modeling, and closed by sharing a video which demonstrated interactive modeling within one of the District responsive classrooms.

Ms. Cindy Giroux, Hugh Cole School Principal, shared her own positive experience utilizing interactive modeling and how it positively impacted students.

Ms. Renee Reis, Hugh Cole School Assistant Principal, expanded upon Positive Teacher Language which utilizes reinforcement, reminders and redirection. She then shared a video which demonstrated positive teacher language.

Ms. Cindy Giroux expanded upon Logical Consequences and shared an example on how reteaching and remodeling would be used in the classroom.

School Committee members asked questions related to reteaching and remodeling which were answered by Ms. Giroux.

Ms. Miranda Carpenter, Assistant Principal Colt Andrews, expanded upon Academic Choice within the Responsive Classroom.

Mr. Bradshaw asked about the success of the Responsive Classroom.

Ms. Reis shared the reasons why the Responsive Classroom has been a success for the District adding that the initiative is off to a great start.

Mr. Bradshaw asked about areas for improvement. Mrs. Sanna responded that this is an initiative that always has opportunities for growth adding that there are many layers to the Responsive Classroom Initiative. Mrs. Sanna stated that a districtwide approach is very beneficial.

Mr. Bradshaw asked whether there are any supports for parents for maintaining and reinforcing responsive classroom tenets at home.

Several of the elementary school principals shared how they are educating parents to carry over the responsive classroom language at home.

Mrs. Schofield commented that she thought that the videos showcasing different aspects of the Responsive Classroom would be good to share with parents.

Mr. Bradshaw asked whether the Responsive Classroom approach is being used at the Middle School and High School.

Mrs. Sanna responded that the Responsive Classroom approach is a K-8 program. She commented that they did not believe that implementing the Responsive Classroom initiative at the middle school and high school levels would be the right piece for the District. Mrs. Sanna added that at the Middle School and High School levels, restorative practices begin and that it is important to give those programs time to “get their feet on the ground”. She closed by stating it is important to continue to support restorative practices.

Mrs. Schofield thanked all presenters.

Ms. Giroux talked about the energizer piece of the Responsive Classroom initiative which encourages student movement throughout the day.

Mr. O’Dell asked for clarification on where the Responsive Classroom program is at this point in time and where it will be two years from now. Ms. Giroux shared when the Responsive Classroom initiative started at each school. Mr. O’Dell emphasized that he feels it is important that all elementary schools are offering the same opportunities for all students. Ms. Giroux responded that the District has worked to that end utilizing the same practices from school to school.

Mr. O’Dell asked if the social and emotional skills being taught to the students is positively impacting bullying. Ms. Giroux cautioned whether a direct coorelatioin could be made between improvement in bullying incidents and the Responsive Classroom. Ms. Reis added that she attended a course in her previous position regarding prevention of bullying. Ms. Reis continued that the initiative is only in its second year, but that that a resource for the prevention of bullying could be looked into.

Mr. Saviano asked Ms. Kearns whether she believed there was a direct coorelation between having participated in the Responsive Classroom Initiative the longest and being elected as a Blue Ribbon School. Ms. Kearns responded that she absolutely believed there was a direct coorelation. She stated that the initiative promotes a positive culture of learning.

Mr. Saviano thanked and congratulated the staff.

Mr. Ramos thanked everyone for presenting and for their outstanding work in dedicating themselves to the program.

Mr. Ramos asked what the biggest challenge has been in implementing the Restorative Classroom Initiative and what was the approach for overcoming that challenge.

Ms. Sadler responded that the first year she found the biggest challenge to be training the teachers because there is so much to the program. Ms. Sadler expanded upon an approach that will be implemented to help in this area. She closed by stating it is important to make sure the principals and teachers have the resources.

Ms. Reis stated that the biggest challenge from a teacher’s perspective is shifting from the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) approach to the Responsive Classroom approach.

Mr. O’Dell asked if there is grant funding available for teacher training. Mrs. Sanna responded that there is not grant funding that is new or extra, but federal funding through Title IV does allow funding for social and emotional training and stays as a line item on an annual basis. She added that the District will continue to make sure there is funding for the Restorative Classroom Initiative.

Mr. Saviano asked Ms. Giroux if Hugh Cole School is still a Feinstein school. Ms. Giroux responded that they are still a Feinstein school. Mr. Saviano asked if Hugh Cole School still receives checks from Alan Feinstein. Ms. Giroux responded that yes they do. Mr. Saviano suggested that the District look into initiatives such as Feinstein schools. Mrs. Sanna responded that she is not sure whether Alan Feinstein gives funds to districts and thought he might only give to individual schools.

Mr. Bento stated that he hopes to visit the elementary schools in the next few months and will be looking for indicators which showcase positive impacts.

Mrs. Schofield thanked all those who presented for coming and for all that they do.

**ADJOURNMENT - 8:22 PM:**

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m., Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

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