**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, September 24, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, September 24, 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; Marjorie J. McBride, Treasurer; William M. O’Dell, Secretary; John C. Bento, Brian Bradshaw, Diana Campbell, Adam M. Ramos, and John P. Saviano; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Raquel Pellerin, School Business Administrator; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Paul Silva, Chairperson

**OPENING BUSINESS**

All present were invited to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public comment

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

1. Personnel Recommendations #S2018-67

Vice-Chairperson Schofield asked if there was a need for an executive session. There were no requests made for an executive session.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2018-67:**

Vice-Chairperson Schofield stated that all items listed with an asterisk on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the School Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member requests, in which event the items will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda. There were no requests for a separate vote.

Vice-Chairperson Schofield asked for a motion.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

The motion passed unanimously.

**S2018-67 A-H: CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL  
  
A.** APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position Secondary Foreign Language Teacher (3/5 Time) as listed below:  
  
1. Gabriela A. Mendez Foreign Language Teacher – Mt.

Hope  
 (3/5 Time)   
   
 Effective: For the remainder of the

2018-19 school year only  
   
 Reason: To fill a new position   
   
 Funding: Operational Budget  
 (12th/Masters)  
  
B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):  
   
1. Danielle N. Kane Senior Child Care Provider (Part

Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/ Self-

Sufficient  
  
2. Emily Sansyshyn Senior Child Care Provider (Part

Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
3. Julia R. Lucchesi Senior Child Care Provider (Part

Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
  
4. Dana G. Bent Senior Child Care Provider (Part

Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
5. Nicole C. Eggeman Senior Child Care Provider (Part

Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
6. Samantha E. Anton Child Care Provider (Part Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
7. Kelly A. Mahoney Child Care Provider (Part Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
8. Brittany Greene Child Care Provider (Part Time)  
   
 Effective: Immediately, for the

remainder of the 2018-19 school

year, pending satisfactory

completion of pre-employment

requirements  
  
 Reason: To fill a vacancy  
  
 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-

Sufficient  
  
C. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Part Time Special Education Consultants for the 2018-19 school year only contingent upon funding and student needs:  
  
 Name Position Funding  
1. Kathleen Diehl-Boylan Child Outreach Screener Preschool IDEA  
2. Stephanie E.C. Kelley Speech/Language Pathologist IDEA/Oper.

Budget  
  
  
D. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2018-19 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:  
  
 Name Position  
1. Gregg M. Burke Social Studies Teacher  
  
E. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2018-19 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):  
  
 FALL COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH  
 Sport Position Coach  
1. Soccer Asst. Coach John J. Spina   
  
 CLUB COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH  
 Sport Position Coach  
2. Cheerleading (Football) Head Coach Lauren Simons \*  
  
 WINTER COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH  
 Sport Position Coach  
3. Wrestling Asst. Coach Michael Perreira\*  
4. Basketball (Girls) Head Coach Victor Kashouh\*   
5. Basketball (Boys) Head Coach Jeffrey Grifka  
6. Special Olympics Co-Coach William Wilson\*  
7. Swimming (Boys) Head Coach Kasey O’Connor\*  
  
 ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH  
8. Robotics Assistant Matthew Silvia  
9. Class Advisor (Freshman) Peter Kells  
  
 OTHER SUPERVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH SCHOOL  
10. Wellness Supervisor (First Quarter) Gerard Spence\*   
11. Wellness Supervisor (Second Quarter) Gerard Spence \*   
12. Wellness Supervisor (Third Quarter) Gerard Spence\*   
13. Wellness Supervisor (Fourth Quarter) Gerard Spence\*   
14. Wellness Supervisor (Fourth Quarter) Thomas DelSanto\*   
15. After School Supervisor (First Quarter) Scott Nailbow\*  
16. After School Supervisor (First Quarter) Michael Rosa\*   
17. After School Supervisor (Second Quarter) Scott Nailbow\*  
18. After School Supervisor (Second Quarter) Michael Rosa\*   
19. After School Supervisor (Third Quarter) Scott Nailbow\*  
20. After School Supervisor (Third Quarter) Michael Rosa\*   
21. After School Supervisor (Fourth Quarter) Scott Nailbow\*  
22. After School Supervisor (Fourth Quarter) Michael Rosa\*  
  
 ADVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE  
23. Yearbook Club Emily McCaffrey  
  
 INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE   
 Sport Position Coach  
24. Wrestling Head Coach Jason Grifka \*  
25. Soccer (Boys) Asst. Coach Taniel Borges  
  
 INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE   
 Sport Position Coach  
26. Flag Football Head Coach Paul Castigliego \*  
27. Basketball Head Coach Paul Castigliego\*  
  
 \* Reappointment  
  
F. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:  
  
 CERTIFIED  
 Name   
1. Lauren J. Ferreira   
   
  
2. Amy L. Ewing   
   
  
3. Hailie O. Dion   
   
4. Dean E. Lapham   
   
5. Dorota A. Zilion General n/a  
   
6. William B. Lee General n/a  
   
G. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:  
  
 SECRETARIAL  
  
1. Kristen M. Ramos  
   
H. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for Secondary English Teacher as follows:  
  
1. Kerry A. D’Angelo English Teacher – Mt. Hope   
 .  
 Effective: February 24, 2019 for up

to 13 weeks  
  
 Reason: Maternity leave in

accordance with Article 21, Section

L1 of the Master Agreement

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**Recommendation #S2018-68 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy (JEDB)

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy (JEDB); seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride reiterated her concern that the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy is still not equal across all schools within the District. Mrs. McBride additionally commented that she has a major issue that the individual school handbooks vary regarding early dismissal of students as well. She believes that School Committee Policy does not have the right to deny a parent who has requested permission to have their child walk home. Mrs. McBride feels that the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy should be tabled until more discussions take place.

Mrs. Campbell responded that the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy is the same across the board as far as age restrictions, but that the procedures for the individual schools differ due to the differing layout and location of each school building.

Mrs. Schofield shared the background for how the building principals determined the ages and grade restrictions for students to be allowed to walk home.

Mrs. McBride reiterated her position that a parent should have the right to determine when their child can walk home regardless of their location and proximity to the school as long as a proper note has been supplied to the administration.

Mr. Ramos asked what the current student dismissal practice is and what the rationale is for determining age and grade restrictions.

Mrs. Sanna responded that the elementary school principals worked together on the handbooks. The handbooks include a lot of common elements. Mrs. Schofield added that the handbooks differ slightly regarding age and grade restrictions due to the location of the schools.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Several school committee members stated that they do not believe that the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy infringes on a parents rights. Mr. Ramos added that although a parent or guardian may desire their child to be allowed to walk home, it is an appropriate role of the District, when it comes to the safety of children, to say no to a request for a child to walk home.

Mrs. Schofield added that this policy isn’t about taking parents rights away, but following along with procedures that are already in place, and making sure that the Student Dismissal Policy and the student handbooks are aligned together.

Mr. Ramos pointed out that the permission form states that “there will be no exceptions”, but the point of discussion this evening is an exception.

A discussion ensued.

The motion to approve the first reading of the Student Dismissal Precautions Policy passed with a 6-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

Recommendation #S2018-69 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve deletion of the Student Dismissal Procedures Policy (JEDB-R) from the School Committee Policy book.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the deletion of the Student Dismissal Procedures Policy (JEDB-R) from the School Committee Policy book; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride raised a concern about deleting the current Student Dismissal Procedures Policy before the revised Student Dismissal Policy has passed the second reading. Mr. O’Dell agreed stating that content from the original policy has been included into the newly revised policy.

Mrs. Schofield stated that deletion of the Student Dismissal Procedures Policy (JEDB-R) will be tabled until approval of the second reading of the revised Student Dismissal Precautions Policy.

Recommendation #S2018-70 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy; seconded by Mrs. Campbell

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell asked for a point of clarification regarding parent notification in the case of child abuse that has taken place outside of the home. Mr. Henneous, the District’s Attorney, clarified that steps will be taken to notify the parent.

Mr. Chidester spoke on behalf of the Bristol Warren Education Association (BWEA) who has been discussing the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy recently and raised the following concerns:

1. Unable to locate online that the law regarding reporting known or suspected child abuse and/or neglect has indeed changed.

*Mr. Henneous responded that the law has indeed changed and that the*

*policy reflects the law. He stated that he will provide a link which shows*

*the change in the law at the State level.*

2.Policy content concerning contacting the police and how that violates

the ethics of social workers.

*Mr. Henneous stated that a statute was put into the policy to address social*

*workers concerns and was changed to address that concern so that they*

*are not the ones making the call.*

3. Language concerning a teacher’s further employment if that teacher was

found in non-compliance after signing off on the policy.

Why must teachers sign off when they are already bound by the law and

already have a contract with the school?

*Mr. Henneous stated that teachers are required to sign-off as a*

*precautionary step to ensure that they are aware of the law and the*

*seriousness of the matter if found in non-compliance. Signing off is*

*important for liability reasons as well as the teachers own protection.*

Dr. Andrade stated that he has been in discussions with union leadership regarding the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy and that there hasn’t been full agreement yet on everything. He added that there is a lot tied up in this policy for BWEA.

Mr. Henneous stated that his firm advised the District about this policy in order to make sure that educators are clear on why they are contacting DCYF. He added that the policy is in compliance with the law.

A discussion ensued regarding police involvement in reporting known or suspected child abuse.

Dr. Andrade commended both the Bristol and Warren Police Departments for their level of cooperation, sincerity and follow through. He added that the police have been very professional in their receipt of these types of phone calls and conducted themselves with due diligence. Both police chiefs are aware of this policy and its requirements. The Police Departments commend the Bristol Warren Regional School District for enacting it.

A question was raised regarding the intent of what is to be communicated to the Police Departments.

Mr. Henneous responded that the intent of the policy is to put police on notice. Whatever they do with that information is their decision. He added that the language regarding contacting police is above and beyond the statutes.

Dr. Andrade clarified how the police may respond to a report of known or suspected child abuse. He also shared what is communicated to the parents which, he added, is almost verbatim to what is communicated to DCYF.

Mrs. Schofield asked for further clarification regarding the language on the teacher sign-off form which states that “compliance is expected as part of my continued employment with BWRSD”.

Mr. Henneous responded that the person who signs off on the form, presumably a teacher, has been made aware that they must bring this information to the principal. He commented that if a person signs off on the form, but does not follow the protocol, there still could be job consequences.

Mr. O’Dell encouraged at least another conversation between the union representatives and administration between now and the second reading.

The motion to approve the first reading of the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-71 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the Town of Warren Landscaping and Snow Removal Bid.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Town of Warren Landscaping and Snow Removal Bid; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: A question was raised on whether there was only a single bidder. Mrs. McBride responded that yes there was only one bidder which was the company that originally did the landscaping and snow removal and who had done a great job. The company currently being used by the District was the lowest bidder at the time and did not work out as well which is why a decision was made to go out to bid again. Mrs. McBride reiterated that the bidder before the School Committee has a very good history with the District.

Mr. Ramos asked a clarifying question concerning the extensions listed on the bid. Mrs. McBride offered clarification.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-72 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of twenty-three (23) families to homeschool their children for the 2018-2019 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the homeschool requests; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell commented that approving homeschool requests continues to frustrate him stating that it is a family’s choice and their right under Rhode Island law to homeschool.

Mr. Bradshaw asked if the amount of homeschoolers has increased or decreased compared to previous years.

Mrs. Sanna responded that ten families are new to homeschooling and ten are new to the area.

Dr. Andrade stated that these are the most homeschool requests the District has received in the last nine years. Close to 60 families have submitted paperwork.

Mrs. Schofield asked why the numbers of homeschoolers have increased. Dr. Andrade responded that homeschool movements are increasing now and are much more organized then they were ten years ago. There are more options for homeschooling such as online programs which is attracting more families. Dr. Andrade stated that all BWRSD homeschool families comply with the regulations set forth.

Dr. Andrade stated that 98% of homeschool families do so for philosophical reasons and belong to a real network.

Mr. Saviano asked for clarification on what options are available to homeschool children through the public school. Dr. Andrade responded that by law if there is room in an elective class, homeschool students can participate. They can also participate in sports.

The motion passed unanimously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES**

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mrs. McBride stated that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee will be discussing the revenue side of the budget at the next full Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Draft copies of the new revenue reporting documents will be reviewed by the Subcommittee which will then be brought before the full School Committee in October for review.

Mrs. McBride stated that the budget is moving along, and that the Subcommittee is learning new things which has been a delightful experience.

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Schofield reported that the next Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2018 at the Oliver Administration Building on State Street in Bristol.

Mrs. Schofield stated that the Subcommittee will be continuing work on the Crisis Management Policy.

All are welcome to attend

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Mrs. McBride stated that she did not receive any information to report out.

Wellness Committee

Mr. Ramos stated that the Wellness Committee meeting schedule has been set for the year. He stated that the first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Oliver Administration Building.

Mr. Ramos reminded everyone that the Wellness Breakfast will be held on October 9th. He encouraged everyone to attend and learn about the exciting health and wellness initiatives being talked about in the industry.

Mr. Ramos stated the Wellness Committee will also be working again with Emily Spence for a follow-up performance on the presentation Raising Resilient Children in an Age of Anxiety which will be held on November 8th. Mr. Ramos stated that he will be providing updates and more details for this event.

Mr. Ramos stated that the Wellness Committee is always looking for folks who are interested in health and wellness to contribute to the discussion and initiatives.

Chairperson’s Initiatives

Mrs. Schofield stated that the Chair could not be in attendance this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:23 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Saviano motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM; seconded by Mrs. Bradshaw. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd