**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, April 23, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 23, 2018, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairperson; Erin Schofield, Vice-Chairperson; William O’Dell, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; John C. Bento, Brian Bradshaw, Diana Campbell, Adam Ramos and John Saviano; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Silva stated that one person signed up to make Public Comment which is related to one of the Superintendent’s Recommendations. That person was asked to make his public comment during that portion of the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

1. Personnel Recommendations #S2018-29

There was no need for an executive session.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2018-29:** 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will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member requests, in which event the items will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda. Hearing none, Chairperson Silva asked for a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

 **S2018-29 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 of Secretary as listed below:

1. Emily G. Fox Secretary – Pupil Personnel

 Effective: April 3, 2018

 Reason: To fill a vacancy
 (Retirement – V. Chaves)

 Funding: Operational Budget

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. Debra J. D’Angelo Senior Child Care Provider (Part**

 **Time)

 Effective: Immediately, for the**

**remainder of the 2017-18 school**

**year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding:Parent Fees/ Self- Sufficient**

**2. Katelyn S. McCanna Senior Child Care Provider**

 **(Part Time) Effective: Immediately, for the**

 **remainder of the 2017-18 school**

 **year, pending satisfactory**

 **completion of pre-employment**

 **requirements

 Reason: To fill a vacancy

 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-**

 **Sufficient

3. Samantha L. Ferreira Child Care Provider (Part Time)
 Effective: Immediately, for the**

 **remainder of the 2017-18 school**

 **year, pending satisfactory**

 **completion of pre-employment**

 **requirements

 Reason: To fill a vacancy

 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-**

 **Sufficient

4. Shea C. McDonough Child Care Provider (Part Time)

 Effective: Immediately, for the**

 **remainder of the 2017-18 school**

 **year, pending satisfactory**

 **completion of pre-employment**

 **requirements

 Reason: To fill a vacancy

 Funding: Parent Fees/Self-**

 **Sufficient

5. Elizabeth A. Powers Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

 Effective: Immediately, for the**

 **remainder of the 2017-18 school year,**

 **Pending satisfactory completion of**

 **pre-employment requirements

 Reason: To fill a vacancy

 Funding: Parent Fees/Self- Sufficient

C. KINDERGARTEN SCREENING TEACHERS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Kindergarten Screening Teachers for the 2017-18 school year only:

 Name
1. Maria Grace Arruda
2. Diane Gallison
3. Susan Abilheira
4. Caroline Anderson
5. Paula Richards-Sousa
6. Theresa Silva
7. Margaret Ballirano
8. Jacqueline Taylor
9. Daria Champlin
10. Jane Farnsworth
11. Angela Hawkins
12. Judith Liner
13. Karen McCanna
14. Trisha Minnella
15. Jessica O’Neill
16. Kimberlie Peecher
17. Kelly Servant
18. Deborah Trindade

D. 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 2017-18 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

 SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH
 Sport Position Coach
1. Golf Head Coach Christopher Munzert\*
2. Golf Asst. Coach Neale Ross

 INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE
 Sport Position Coach
3. Baseball Asst. Coach Matthew Shaker

 \*Reappointment

E. 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 Cert. #
1. Frank A. Devall, Jr.
2. Kimberly J. Conterio
3. Noel L. Weldon
F. CLASSIFIED 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 classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

 SECRETARIAL
1. Valerie A. Chaves

 TEACHER ASSISTANTS
2. Kristine C. Marziale

G. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant an extension of a leave of absence for one Elementary Educator as follows:

1. Sheila H. Shenhav Speech Language Pathologist – Hugh Cole**

 **Effective: May 7, 2018 through**

 **May 26, 2018

 Reason: Parental leave in accordance**

 **with Article 21, Section L2 of**

 **the Master Agreement

H. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of February 12, 2018 as to the following listed teacher:

 Name 2017-2018 Assignment
1. Emily N. Coyne Grade Four Teacher (LOA) - Rockwell**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES
RECOMMENDATION #S2018-30**: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Annual Budget Policy (DB)

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Annual Budget Policy (DB); seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos asked for clarification of whether the Annual Budget Policy, as presented, essentially consolidates several School Committee policies. Mrs. Schofield responded that the Annual Budget Policy consolidates the Fiscal Year Policy and the Budget Deadlines and Schedules Policy into the Annual Budget Policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation #S2018-31** - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve deleting Fiscal Year Policy (DBB) from the School Committee Policy Book.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to delete Fiscal Year Policy (DBB) from the School Committee Policy Book; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Schofield stated that the Fiscal Year Policy simply contained one sentence with the dates of the fiscal year. The sentence from this policy was included in the Annual Budget Policy which was just approved for a first reading. Consolidating these budget related policies will make information pertaining to the budget process timeline easier to locate.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation #S2018-32** - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve deleting Budget Deadlines and Schedules (DBC) from the School Committee Policy Book.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve deleting Budget Deadlines and Schedules Policy (DBC) from the School Committee Policy Book; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Schofield reiterated that this is another policy that relates to the budget timeline and was consolidated into the Annual Budget Policy to make for easier location of information pertaining to the budget process timeline.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2018-33: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Agenda Preparation and Dissemination Policy (BDDC).

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the first reading of the Agenda Preparation and Dissemination Policy (BDDC); seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell asked why the School Committee Chairperson was deleted from the process for submission of agenda items. Mrs. Schofield responded that at the last Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee came to the realization that the policy wasn’t referring to the submission of agenda items, but the submission of supporting documentation and reports related to the agenda items. Mrs. Schofield further clarified that the School Committee Chairperson does not collect and disseminate supporting documentation, but is the function of the Superintendent’s office. Mrs. Campbell offered further clarification.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-34 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the Projector System RFP.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Projector System RFP; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on whether the School Committee was approving “going out to bid” for a Projector System or the “winning bidder”. Mrs. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance, responded that the School Committee is voting on the “winning bidder” which recommendation is Whalley Computer Associates.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on the pricing listed on the bid results regarding unit vs. interactive. Mrs. McBride offered clarification. Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on whether the District was purchasing interactive units. Mrs. Muller responded that the District did not request interactive units, but because other schools in the State have requested interactive units, they offered pricing for the interactive units. Mrs. Muller stated that the District will have access to free apps that allows the projector system be used as an interactive unit.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on whether Whalley Computer Associates is on the approved list of vendors. Mrs. Muller responded that Whalley Computer Associates is on the approved list of vendors.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on how many units were being purchased. Mrs. Muller responded that 70 projector system units are being purchased. Mrs. McBride further clarified that the projectors that are being purchased will be used at Kickemuit Middle School.

Mr. O’Dell commented that he recently toured several different classrooms within the District and was impressed with the updated technologies currently being used in the classrooms.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Silva rearranged the order of business.

Recommendation #S2018-36 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the Resolution Supporting School Construction General Obligation Referendum.

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting School Construction General Obligation Referendum; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride stated that as long as she has been on the School Committee, both the Towns of Bristol and Warren have been very supportive of maintaining and repairing buildings. Mrs. McBride expressed her frustration that the communities of Bristol and Warren have paid their taxes to support school building repairs, but now will have to “pick up the check” for other schools in the State. Mrs. McBride clarified that she understands that there are schools in the State that are in terrible shape and will vote yes to approve the resolution. She thanked everyone in the District who “ponied up” in the past to pay taxes to support building repairs and construction.

Mr. Saviano stated he agreed with Mrs. McBride’s comments and added further that the State of Rhode Island is one of thirteen states that do not have written in their constitution that students have a right to an education. The Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) has been pushing for a number of years for their to be a constitutional amendment to include a child’s right to an education. He added that currently RIASC has a request before the legislature to adopt the principle that every child has a right to an education.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-35 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2018-2019 school calendar

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson Silva stated that the 2018-2019 school calendar agenda item was tabled at last month’s School Committee Regular Business Meeting. Chairperson Silva clarified that the calendar before the School Committee at that time included a March vacation only. In accordance with the School Committee’s rule of order, the motion returns to the School Committee with the same calendar that was being voted on at the March business meeting which was to approve the school calendar with a March vacation.

Chairperson Silva asked Brian Chidester to come forward with his public comment.

*Public Comment*

*Brian Chidester, Bristol, RI*

Mr. Chidester introduced himself as a Mt. Hope High School teacher, Vice-President of the BWEA and a district parent.

Mr. Chidester explained that a survey was created to seek responses from parents and teachers regarding school vacation preferences including the traditional February and April break; March only vacation or April only vacation.

Mr. Chidester shared the results of the survey. He also highlighted several comments that were included with the survey results.

Mr. Chidester also shared the frustrations that were provided by those taking the survey.

Mr. Chidester stated that the survey concluded that a majority of teachers and a plurality of parents would like to see the vacation schedule go back to the traditional February and April breaks.

Mr. Chidester stated that he personally does not believe any compelling reason was given by the School Committee for only one vacation in March, and that he still doesn’t see any compelling reasons.

Mr. Chidester stated that conversely he does see compelling reasons to go back to the traditional February and April breaks. He believes these are worthwhile to consider.

Chairperson Silva stated that the District’s calendar survey results were available for audience members. Mr. Chidester passed those out.

Chairperson Silva thanked Mr. Chidester for his input.

School Committee members shared their views regarding the school calendar. The views shared by School Committee members were both in support of March vacation and against March vacation.

Several School Committee members shared the feedback they have received from community members.

*Linda Rimoshytus, Bristol*

Requested clarification concerning the District’s survey results as the copies are in black and white and make it difficult to distinguish categories. Chairperson Silva offered clarification.

Mr. Bento shared findings from research he personally conducted regarding school vacations. He closed by stating that he is not in favor of “knee-jerk” reactions. He believes the School Committee needs to do a better job at getting the facts straight.

Chairperson Silva stated that he received a unique email from a teacher outside of the District who was in support of a March vacation. Chairperson Silva read a portion of the email

Chairperson Silva closed by sharing the following:  *“Over the course of the last month or more, I have heard from quite a few people. Some employees, some parents and some students. I have taken the time to review the results of the survey that was sent out as well.

Even with all of this, nothing is conclusive. Opinions go either way, depending on what group or fraction of a group you listen to. All of that being said;

In this District and under Mario’s leadership we pride ourselves on being innovative, creative and a leader in educational changes. We have instituted new programs, new structures and new ideas. When doing so we have committed to allowing these innovations to develop and settle in before we evaluate these initiatives to determine if they are beneficial or not. We have done this many times in the course of my time serving this district. When we hire or promote employees we are reminded by our superintendent that before we judge their performance we need to allow to time for others to become used to the new individual or change and we have to allow time before we can get a true read on the outcome.

To me, this issue is very much the same. The School Committee received information that moving the vacation week from April to March would be educationally beneficial to the students in our district. This information and opinion was given by our educational leader, our superintendent. We followed that advice as we have on numerous occasions. When we made this decision we discussed that it would be run this was for a few years before we could determine if it was better or worse that the previous calendar. At this point we have only run this calendar for one year and that year is not yet over. In keeping in line with our vision of being an educational leader we need to give this issue its due chance as well.”*

Chairperson Silva stated that he has no issue with the School Calendar that reflects one vacation in March.

The motion passed with a 5-4 vote; Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Ramos, Mr. Saviano and Mrs. Schofield dissenting.

Chairperson Silva thanked everyone who participated in the calendar surveys and for their input.

**SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES**

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mrs. McBride reported that the Subcommittee is still working on the budget. She stated that information is being gathered on contracts for next year. Mrs. McBride stated that the budget is still a work in progress.

Mrs. McBride stated that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee just approved new playground equipment for Rockwell School that is being purchased through grant money.

Mrs. McBride thanked the School Committee for approving the purchase of new projector system units.

Mrs. McBride reported that the next Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be held the third Monday in May.

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Schofield reported that the next meeting of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee will be held on Monday, May 7th at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building on State Street in Bristol. All are welcome.

Mrs. Schofield stated that the Policy Subcommittee will be continuing to work on the Emergency Closings policies which are currently being updated. She stated that a communication piece for notifying parents in the event of a potential threat at the school will also be discussed.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Chairperson Silva reported that C94 negotiations are ongoing, and asked Mrs. McBride to share an update. Mrs. McBride stated that negotiations are going “just great”. She added that it has been wonderful to work with the members of C94. Mrs. McBride stated that there is a C94 meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Wellness Committee

Mr. Ramos reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 5th at 4 p.m. in the Oliver Administration Building. Mr. Ramos stated that the meeting will be conducted as a workshop to develop strategies and goals for the Wellness Committee for the upcoming school year. Mr. Ramos encouraged anyone who is interested in health and wellness initiatives to attend the meetings and participate. All are welcome.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2) for the following:

1. Superintendent’s Evaluation

Chairperson Silva stated that there was no need for an executive session due to the fact that not all Superintendent Evaluation results were handed in. He requested that any School Committee members who had not completed and submitted their Superintendent’s Evaluation worksheet to do so by tomorrow morning. He asked Mrs. Campbell to compile the results once all worksheets were received. Chairperson Silva stated that an executive session will be held during the next School Committee meeting to discuss the results.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:17 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd