**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, March 12, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, March 12, 2018, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson, Paul 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; Brian Bradshaw, Diana Campbell and John Saviano; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance;

Guests: Kerri Larson, MHHS Student, Deborah DiBiase, MHHS Principal

Absent: John Bento and Adam Ramos

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**AGENDA FOCUS**

*Senior Privileges Presentation*

Kerri Larson, MHHS Student Council representative, presented a proposal regarding Senior Privileges, a program which does not currently exist at the high school. Ms. Larson shared the rationale behind the Senior Privileges Proposal.

Ms. Larson outlined the proposed senior privileges and the criteria for eligibility.

Ms. Larson addressed the safety concerns of having students leaving and arriving during school hours.

Ms. Larson shared the application process for senior privileges.

Several concerns were raised by School Committee members concerning how low the grade level criteria is to be eligible to receive senior privileges.

Mr. Saviano asked how the Senior Privileges Proposal was developed. Ms. Larson described the process by which the Senior Privileges Proposal was developed and the research that was undertaken.

Mrs. Schofield requested additional information on civic and social expectations. She also asked how grade eligibility was determined.

Ms. Larson explained that the grade eligibility was based on the same criteria used for athletes.

Chairperson Silva thanked Ms. Larson for the presentation on Senior Privileges.

Dr. Andrade stated that he appreciated the opportunity for students to have a voice and agency in developing this proposal.

Dr. DiBiase commented that she was very proud of the work done by the MHHS Student Council on the Senior Privileges Proposal.

*Budget Development Presentation*

Chairperson Silva introduced Mrs. Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance, and asked that she address the questions that were raised by community members at the last Joint Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Silva provided a presentation on the contents of the electronic budget book that was shared with the School Committee. She reviewed the budget process, Mrs. Silva also shared budget data including enrollment, State Aid, staffing for the District and at the school level. Mrs. Silva also provided an overview of the Capital Projects, Technology and Debt Service categories. Mrs. Silva commented that a majority of the data is also available on the RIDE InfoWorks website.

Mrs. Silva addressed the concerns that were raised during the recent Joint Finance Committee meeting including the following:

* $3,000,000 shown in budget that is not being spent
	+ Mrs. Silva explained that the $3,000,000 amount was consistent with budgets in previous years, and described the difference between encumbered and unencumbered funds. These funds are typically used for costs related to substitutes, utilities and other unanticipated day-to-day operations.
* Bank balance of $12,859,000
	+ Mrs. Silva explained that this did not reflect the payroll costs for checks that had just been issued, and other set-asides related to school programs, the COZ program, and other school Committee approved reserves. All funds are committed
* Housing Aid
	+ Mrs. Silva explained how this is used to offset debt-service
* Investments
	+ Short and long-term to support for cash-flow

Mrs. McBride clarified the intent and purpose of reserves. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Silva provided an explanation of the two types of housing aid.

Mrs. McBride explained the impact of housing aid reimbursement in funding capital projects identified by the Building Committee.

Chairperson Silva clarified the membership of the Building Committee

Chairperson Silva described the implementation of the funding formula and reduction of state funding, based on the ability of the two towns to afford to pay more, based on RIDE’s calculation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:08 PM):** Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) for the following:

1. C94 Contract Negotiations Update

MOTION: At 8:08 p.m., Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to convene an executive session; seconded by Mrs. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the executive session; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:33 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd