**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 2018, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 PM.

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

Absent: John C. Bento and John Saviano

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ashlyn Giroux, Mt. Hope High School Student, Bristol, RI

The following prepared statement was read by Ms. Giroux.

*Good evening, my name is Ashlyn Giroux and Im a junior here at Mt. Hope
And I’m Alec Ellsworth and I’m a senior here at Mt. Hope.
I’m here to talk about the issue of guns in schools, and what we can do in the aftermath of these tragedies...
ON February 14, 2018 an armed former student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School walked into the building, armed with an AR-15 assault weapon and went on a 3 minute killing spree. In those 3 minutes, 14 students and 3 staff members were shot multiple times each and killed in fire while 14 others were injured. Of the teachers and students killed, most had opened the doors to let others in who were stranded in the hallways, afraid of being stalked and hunted down by the gunman. Even though this is not to be followed in a lockdown procedure, the natural instinct to save others came into full force from a community willing to sacrifice for each other. I remember Sandy Hook happening when I was in sixth grade in 2012 and hearing about all of the first and second graders that were killed in a merciless act. Those students were, and still are, too young to speak up against guns and school shootings but, In the wake of this ultimate obliteration, the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have called on us, as students, teachers, educators, administration, parents, and families to come together and walk. On March 14, we will participate in the Nationwide School Walkout at 10am and stand in silence for 17 minutes to remember Alyssa, Scott, Martin, Nicholas, Aaron, Jaime, Chris, Luke, Cara, Gina, Joaquin, Alaina, Meadow, Helena, Alex, Carmen, and Peter. Working with administration to be able to do this has been an ease, as they have been very cooperative and supportive of us students coming together to do this, and we thank them for that. We want this to be an educational and commemorative event, to be taken seriously in order for us to be able to process this without political views being involved, without violence breaking out, and without disliking one another for participating if you don't agree. We are doing this for the 17 that were taken too early, and for the students and staff that had to witness their peers being senselessly gunned down. We are doing this to honor their strength, and determination, and courage of becoming activists to challenge the NRA so soon after this tragedy to make a change in the anti gun agenda.

Our lockdown procedure that I have witnessed through my four years at this school is as follows. Teachers quickly glance outside to check for students who are not in a classroom, if so bring them into the room. Lock the door and instruct all students in the class to hide where they can’t be seen and stay silent. This is not good enough. I refuse to just sit in a corner and rely on some kind of hope to not get shot or stabbed or held hostage. We need to educate ourselves on ways to reduce even more casualties. I have done some research and found out from survivors of school shootings that there is even more we can do. For starters, once the door is locked we should barricade the door with the desks in the classroom. This would make it so much harder for an active shooter to enter a classroom. Students should also know to wear their backpacks on their backs, and try and find a textbook to put under their shirts, the reason being these two simple things can make the difference between life and death if shot. Teachers should be able to keep 20-30 palm sized sand bags somewhere in the classroom. If an active shooter manages to get into the room, have students throw the bags at the shooter, this will make it so much harder to be able to aim and shoot a student or teacher.*

Alec Ellsworth, Mt. Hope High School student, Bristol, RI

Mr. Ellsworth stated that he wished to address the subject of lockdown procedures. He shared about his current experiences with lockdown drills at the high school adding that he doesn’t believe the current procedures are effective. Mr. Ellsworth stated that his research revealed ways that students can protect themselves using their own backpacks, chromebooks or textbooks as a shield in the event of an active shooter. He believes students and staff should be educated on these additional ways to protect themselves during an active shooter situation.

Chairperson Silva thanked Ms. Giroux and Mr. Ellsworth for presenting their concerns.

Chairperson Silva stated that he would like to take some time to recognize the District staff members who went above and beyond during the recent extreme weather and winter storms. The maintenance and custodial staff have done an outstanding job.

We would like to recognize our dedicated Custodial and Maintenance Staff for all of their hard work, support and service. Their efforts and dedication are truly appreciated.

**A special “Thank you” to:**

**George Simmons: Director of Facilities**

**Scott Medeiros: Assistant Director of Facilities**

**Custodial Staff:**

 Emanuel Araujo

 Michael Santos, Jr.

 Jerry DeOliveira

 Paulo (Paul) Semiao

 Luis Silva

 Manny Teixeira

 **Maintenance Staff:**

 Jose (Joe) Fernandes

 Marco Antonio

 James (Jimmy) Santos

 Michael Santos

 Danny Terra

Dr. Andrade commended the work of the maintenance and custodial staff saying that they answered the call above and beyond for snow removal, flooding, and frozen pipes. He thanked the maintenance and custodial staff for their hard work.

The Mt. Hope High School Science Fair winners were also recognized.

The **2018 Mt. Hope High School Science Fair** was once again an impressive display of talent, hard work and thought. We extend a special thank you to the Mt. Hope science teachers for all the extra time put in to helping students, the students for continuing to improve their projects and presenting themselves in a professional manner, family members for their support, and the incredible turnout of judges from Roger Williams University, Bristol County Water Authority, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and several members from departments at Mt. Hope High School.

**Third Place Individuals**

Meghan Oliver Daphnia vs. Acid Rain

Madison Withers Sports Drink Bacteria & How to Kill It

**Third Place Teams**

Emilie Donato & Sara Johnson Determining whether or not someone is lying

Kaitlin Quinn & Jayme Foreman Soda CAN Calorimeter

Aliyah Carrion & Hannah Daniello Bust the Rust

Mackenzie DosSantos & Hannah Allen Lowest concentration of bleach that can kill bacteria

Nate Ramos & Abigail Ferreira Moldy Cheese

**Second Place Individuals**

Jade Ramos Effect of Antibiotics on Bacteria

Cameron Dutra West Coast vs. East Coast Sharks

Caley Patton Effects of different soaps on bacteria growth

Sarah McGregor Effects of Acid Rain on Aquatic Plants

Brooke Desmarais Hydration Levels in Varsity Athletes

**Second Place Teams**

Yvonne Ramos & Samantha Lombardo Effects of stem cell cream on planarian regeneration

Kyra Boucher & Nathan Januario Homeopathic effect of bacteria on honey

**First Place Individuals**

Meg O’Brien Phytoremediation of Heavy Metals in water

Laura Thurber Measuring the Photosynthetic Rate of Algae

Ellie Chabot Thawing and Cooking of Meat

Lila Saye Effects of flavonoids on antibiotic resistant bacteria

Meghan McGregor CRISPR

Emilie Signore The speed of sound through Colloids

**First Place Teams**

MacKenzie Boucher & Nick Januario Essential Oils against nematodes

Gianna Zompa & Katarina Fiore Algae-Edible food

Lauren Luk & Brianna Silvia Testing the artificial pancreas

Samantha Soares & Aliyah Vieira Amylase essay to identify “Anti-Diabetes” compound in plants

The Top Ten First Place Science Fair Recipients will be attending the Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair on March 17th for judging and March 18th for public viewing at CCRI in Warwick.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

1. Personnel Recommendations #S2018-10

There was no need for an executive session.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

**RECOMMENDATION #S2018-10:** 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: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

 **S2018-10 A-H: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the positions of Elementary Principal as listed below:

1. Deborah A. Kearns Principal – Colt Andrews Elementary

 Effective: Immediately

 Reason: To fill a vacancy

 Funding: Operational Budget

B. 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.Softball (Girls) Head Coach Craig Giarrusso

2.Track (Outdoor) Head Coach Kendra Kopecky-Bowden\*

3.Baseball (Boys) Pitching/Catching Joseph Simeone

 CLUB COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

Sport Position Coach

4.Lacrosse (Girls) \*\* Head Coach Morgan Chaves\*

\* Reappointment

 \*\* Funded by parents group

C. ATHLETIC EVENT SUPERVISORS/TIME CLOCK KEEPERS/TICKET TAKERS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individual for the 2017-18 school year only as Athletic Event Supervisor, Time Clock Keeper or Ticket Taker for the Bristol Warren Regional School District (pending funding and sufficient activities):

 Name Position

1. Melissa S. Benevides Athletic Event Supervisor

D. EVENT SUPERVISORS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to re-appoint the following individual for the 2017-18 school year only as Event Supervisor for the Bristol Warren Regional School District contingent upon sufficient activities:

Name Position

1. Patrick T. Guthlein Event Supervisor

2. Melissa S. Benevides Event Supervisor

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 application for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

#  CERTIFIED

#  Name Area/Level

1.Nancy M. Serapiglia School Nurse

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 application for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

 SECRETARIAL

1. Emily G. Fox

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

1. Amy E. McKenna Special Educator – Rockwell School

 Effective: 2018-2019 School Year

 Reason: Parental leave in

 accordance with Article 21, Section L2

 of the Master Agreement

H. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Mary Lynn Williams from the position of Special Education Teacher Assistant as listed below:

1. Mary Lynn Williams Teacher Assistant – Guiteras School

 Effective: February 28, 2018

 Reason: Retirement

Chairperson Silva recognized the appointment of the new Colt Andrews School principal.

Dr. Andrade stated that he was pleased to congratulate Mrs. Deborah Kearns, the new Colt Andrews Principal. He stated that she has been serving as the Colt Andrews interim principal for the past six months. Dr. Andrade commended Mrs. Kearns on her professionalism and dedication to the District. Dr. Andrade stated that he believes Mrs. Kearns will take Colt Andrews on to be a high achieving blue ribbon school.

Chairperson Silva wished Mrs. Kearns the best of luck on behalf of himself and the School Committee. He added that the School Committee is there to support and assist in anything that is needed.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES
RECOMMENDATION #S2018-06**: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of two (2) families to homeschool their children for the 2017-2018 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the homeschool requests for the purpose of discussion; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride stated that she will not vote to approve the homeschool requests because they were submitted so late in the year.

Mr. Ramos noted that two different applications were used for the two separate families and wondered if a new form has been developed. Mrs. Sanna responded that a new form has been created to include “New to District”; “New to Home Instruction” and “Renewal”.

Mr. Ramos asked for further clarification as to why these homeschool requests were submitted so late in the year. Mrs. Sanna shared the reasons for the delayed submissions.

Mrs. McBride clarified that Rhode Island General Law states that families have the right to homeschool. Her dissenting votes regarding homeschool requests are based on principal.

The motion passed with a 5-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

**RECOMMENDATION #S2018-07**: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the FY19 Budget Request

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the FY19 Budget Request; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride commented that during the last Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting there were some very spirited conversations held. She thanked all those who came out to share their thoughts and concerns. Mrs. McBride stated that it really does matter.

Dr. Andrade stated that he is proud of the FY19 budget. He commented that the Administration and building principals worked with Mrs. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance to create this budget whereby every line item has been justified. Dr. Andrade explained the process for making budgetary decisions.

Dr. Andrade expanded upon the following highlights of the FY19 budget request.

* Maintains five year technology plan
* Stronger focus on social and emotional supports
* College and Career Pathways
* Maintains the District’s Asset Protection Plan
* Shifting and reallocation of resources to provide the best public education system for our students

Dr. Andrade stated that the District is committed to innovation and transformation so that the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) can be the best in Rhode Island and New England.

Mr. Ramos asked that the particular funding challenges faced by the District when putting together the FY19 Budget Request be shared along with how the District is ultimately funded.

Mrs. Silva stated that the budgetary challenges to the District began in 2012 with the impact of the Funding Formula. She explained the criteria of the funding formula which criteria made BWRSD the “biggest loser” in the State. Mrs. Silva stated that the Funding Formula challenges will continue through 2021. Mrs. Silva shared the dollar amounts lost per year since the Funding Formula was enacted.

Mrs. Silva shared some of the priorities considered by the District when building the FY19 Budget Request such as ensuring there is a teacher in front of every 24 students.

Mrs. Silva closed by stating that the cumulative loss to the district over ten years will be $40 million. Mrs. Silva stated that the FY19 budget request represents a 3.97% increase.

Dr. Andrade shared the following breakdown of the FY19 Budget Request:

* Instruction 51%
* Instructional Supports 16%
* Operations 15%
* Other commitments *(which include out of district tuition; out of district transportation; transportation, debt service, retiree benefits, community service operations, etc.)* 13%
* Leadership 5%

Mr. Ramos asked how our budget request numbers compare to other districts in the State. Dr. Andrade stated that based on research, when approximately ten districts were contacted, most districts in the State are asking and receiving more than the BWRSD.

Mr. Bradshaw brought up the Hugh Cole School nursing assistant request that was made during the recent Budget/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting where a discussion ensued regarding the need for more social and emotional support.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to add a 2/5ths nursing assistant position at $25,000 to the FY19 Budget Request. Mr. Ramos seconded.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride recapped that during the recent Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting, it was reported that the Hugh Cole Administration did not feel it was necessary to add a nursing assistant.

School Committee members shared their thoughts both in favor of and against the proposal for adding a nursing assistant position to Hugh Cole School.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

The amended motion failed with a 2-4 vote; Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. McBride, Mr. O’Dell and Mrs. Schofield dissenting.

*Linda Rimoshytus,* audience member, came to the podium to express her concern that research has been ongoing for years regarding the addition of a nursing assistant at Hugh Cole School and does not believe additional research is necessary. She believes it would be in the best interest of the District to add a nursing assistant to Hugh Cole School.

Mrs. Schofield shared her reasons why she believes that it is important to make an informed decision before adding $25,000 to a budget request which budget request in all probability will not be met to anywhere near what is being requested. Mrs. Schofield reiterated that she is in favor of adding a nursing assistant to Hugh Cole School, but would like to look into different avenues for supplying such a position.

Chairperson Silva explained the budget process.

Chairperson Silva shared findings of a study done years ago by the American Pediatric Association which indicated that Hugh Cole School was well within the standards for providing nursing care at Hugh Cole School.

Mrs. Rimoshytus wondered if technology is the most prudent use of funds. She asked how parents can be involved in the budget process.

Chairperson Silva responded that all are welcome to the monthly Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meetings where their voices will be heard.

Chairperson Silva commented that the School Committee listens to the public when they speak, but at the end of the day, it only matters whether those monies are available to spend.

The District is reaching out to the elected officials in both the Towns of Bristol and Warren to come up with ways to fund the District to meet all its needs.

*Caitlin Caldwell, Warren RI*

Mrs. Caldwell expressed her concerns about class sizes and specifically mentioned the inclusion classrooms. She expressed the following concerns:

* Her child’s treatment by other students in the classroom
* Too much money spent on technology by the District
* Children not getting enough time outside during recess

{Mrs. Caldwell stated that she was informed by the Rhode Island Department of Education that her concern about students not getting 25 minutes of free play outside needed to be on record before they would address her complaints.}

Mrs. Caldwell stated, for the record, that the Superintendent and the School Committee know what is going on and are not doing anything about it.

Mrs. Schofield responded that it is not true that the Superintendent and the School Committee are not doing anything about the concerns raised by Mrs. Caldwell. Mrs. Schofield stated that she is a Hugh Cole parent. She added that the Hugh Cole administration is looking to add staff for emotional and social support. The bottom line is that the District just doesn’t have the money and will need to dig deeper and work together with the Towns.

Mrs. Caldwell closed by stating that she is frustrated and if these issues continue, their family will look into private school or moving.

*Peter Hewett*

Mr. Hewett asked whether or not it would be possible to take a full time nurse from one of the lower populated schools within the District and make that a part-time position that can also help out the Hugh Cole School nurse.

A discussion ensued regarding budgetary priorities both now and moving forward.

The motion to approve the FY19 budget request passed unanimously.

*(Mrs. Campbell left at 8:20 p.m.)*

Recommendation #S2018-13 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the second reading of the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy (IGBC).

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the second reading of the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos asked a clarifying question regarding there only being one reference to AP classes within the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy.

Mrs. Sanna responded that it is because there are many similarities between AP and Dual and Concurrent Enrollment classes.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification regarding the 3.0 GPA criteria for dual and concurrent class enrollment and whether a student who doesn’t meet this criteria would still have an avenue for enrolling.

Mrs. Sanna stated that the intent of the policy was to make it fair and consistent for all students. She commented that it is possible for a student to enroll in dual and concurrent enrollment classes depending on the course. Mrs. Sanna stated that the high school is trying to create consistent criteria.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-14 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Controlled Substances and Alcohol Testing for Employee - CMV Drivers Policy.

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the first reading of the Controlled Substances and Alcohol Testing for Employee - CMV Drivers Policy; seconded by Mr. O’Dell

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride expressed a concern regarding the length of the policy when it only applies to one person. Mr. Silva responded that the policy isn’t about the number of people, but the content.

Mr. Henneous stated that the policy was developed by the District’s insurer, The Trust.

Mr. O’Dell clarified that this policy is for a position, not to single out one person. Mr. O’Dell would like this signified in the title and suggested changing “employee” to “employees”.

Mr. Ramos asked what position is being referred to in this policy and what was the impetus for The Trust preparing.

Mrs. Schofield stated that the position is for a bus driver hired by the District, and does not apply to the bus drivers employed by the bus company.

Mr. Henneous commented that he is not aware of what precipitated The Trust to create this policy, but other Districts in the State have come forward with the same policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-15 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Technology Resources Responsible Use Policy GCQB (JFB)

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Technology Resources Responsible Use Policy GCQB (JFB); seconded by Mr. O’Dell

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos requested that page numbers be added to the Technology Resources Responsible Use Policy GCQB (JFB)

Mr. Ramos suggested that the criteria regarding copyright law infringement being a serious federal offense should be struck from the policy as he does not believe it is the responsibility of the District to name federal crimes.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to modify the policy to strike “is a serious federal offence” from the statement regarding copyrighted software; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the policy, as amended, passed unanimously for a first reading.

Recommendation #S2018-16 - That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, approve the first reading of the Naloxone (Narcan) Policy (JFCI)

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the Naloxone (Narcan) Policy (JFCI); seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride believes that the policy should include that Narcan will be available at the elementary schools as well.

Dr. Andrade stated that he has discussed this option with several school nurses. He added that he is not opposed to it. The District will need to provide Professional Development to elementary school nurses regarding the administration of Narcan and to ensure that dosages are available at the elementary schools.

AMENDED MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to include elementary schools within the policy; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos asked whether or not Narcan is safe to use in children at the elementary level. Dr. Andrade responded that the District would provide special training to ensure those questions are answered.

Mrs. Schofield stated that she did some research regarding Narcan administration to children at the elementary school level and found that across the nation, elementary schools do stock Narcan.

The policy amendment passed unanimously..

DISCUSSION: Mr. O’Dell asked why certain items were struck from the policy. Mrs. Schofield responded that those medical supplies were being taken out of stock and were being replaced with a different form of administration.

Mrs. Sanna clarified that the changes made to the Naloxone (Narcan) Policy came down from the State Department of Health.

Mr. O’Dell suggested putting the medication section of the policy under an auto-amend clause so that any changes would not need to come before the School Committee.

A short discussion ensued.

Chairperson Silva suggested that the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Chair meet with Mr. Henneous to discuss the best way to address Mr. O’Dell’s suggestion.

The policy, as amended, passed the first reading unanimously.

Recommendation #S2018-17 - 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: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the first reading of the Reporting Known or Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bradshaw stated that during the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee meeting a change was made to Step Two under the Protocol section of the policy to clarify that the building administrator is required to call the police when informed of known or suspected child abuse and/or neglect situation.

Mrs. Schofield clarified that the additional clause was added to the policy because it is required by law. She clarified further the reasoning behind the additional change mentioned by Mr. Bradshaw.

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to amend the policy as described; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos asked how the new language comports with the legal and ethical obligations around HIPPA concerns and ethical duties. Mr. Henneous responded that the reporting protocol is required according to Rhode Island General Law. Mr. Henneous further explained how the clause came to be.

The vote to amend the policy passed unanimously.

The amended policy passed unanimously for a first reading.

**SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES**

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mrs. McBride reminded everyone about the upcoming Joint Finance Committee meetings which are scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 8, 2018 and March 15, 2018 in the Mt. Hope High School Cafeteria. She encouraged parents and the community to attend the individual town’s budget sessions.

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Schofield reported that the next meeting of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee will be held on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building on State Street in Bristol. All are welcome.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Chairperson Silva asked Mrs. McBride to report out regarding the C94 meetings as she is covering in his stead.

Mrs. McBride stated that C94 negotiations have commenced. She commented that it is a pleasure to work with such a great group of individuals. Contract Negotiations are in the early stages. Mrs. McBride will keep the School Committee updated moving forward.

Wellness Committee

Mr. Ramos stated that the Wellness Committee met on February 15th. He reported out that the Wellness Committee is co-sponsoring an event with Thrive by Five that will take place March 22nd at the Colt Auditorium. The presentation will focus on raising children in the age of anxiety.

Mr. Ramos stated that the next Wellness Committee meeting will be March 6th at Hugh Cole School in the COZ Conference Room. An agenda has not been set at this time.

Mr. Ramos closed by stating that the Wellness Committee is looking to rotate meetings through different locations and at different times to accommodate and encourage more people to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:58 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM; seconded by Mr. O’Dell The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd