**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, February 12, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 12, 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 7:03 PM.

Present: 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 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance;

Guests: Rose Muller, Director of Technology; Thomas Driscoll, Director of Education Technology; and Kate Mills, Technology Support Specialist

Absent: Paul Silva, Chairperson

**OPENING BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairperson Erin Schofield served as acting Chairperson in the absence of Chairperson Paul Silva.

Mrs. Schofield invited all to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**AGENDA FOCUS**

*Digital Learning Presentation*

Vice-Chairperson Schofield introduced Mrs. Muller, Director of Technology; Mr. Driscoll, Director of Education Technology and Ms. Mills, Technology Support Specialist. Vice-Chairperson. Schofield commented that she was looking forward to the Digital Learning Presentation.

Mrs. Sanna, Assistant Superintendent, began the presentation by saying that during the Digital Learning Presentation, they will be looking for feedback from the School Committee as well.

Mrs. Sanna reviewed and expanded upon the Future Ready Framework.

Mrs. Sanna stated that much of what will be heard this evening will focus more on the power of technology for personalized learning.

Mrs. Sanna shared the following definition of personalized learning:

*“Personalized learning tailors the instructional approach, path, and pace to the needs and interests of students, empowering them to regulate and take ownership of their learning.”*

She then expanded upon what this would look like in the classroom.

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon the key feature of robust personalized learning.

Mrs. Sanna expanded upon the following key components for personalized learning:

* Learner Centered
* Learner Driven
* Learner Connected

Mr. Driscoll came forward and shared a video clip that was filmed a couple of weeks ago of two Kickemuit Middle School students who were presenting their thoughts.

School Committee members were then instructed to login to Padlet, a technology tool where all participants can respond to questions at the same time. For this exercise, School Committee members were asked to enter in answers to specific questions regarding the video they had just viewed.

Mr. Driscoll expanded upon the use of Padlet in the classroom and demonstrated on the screen using the School Committee members responses. He added that this is how teachers would use a tool such as this to allow all students to express their ideas collaboratively which responses the teacher can use to tailor follow-up discussion and further instruction.

Mr. Driscoll closed by saying that the exercise using Padlet was to give the School Committee members an opportunity to participate in an activity from a student’s perspective.

Mrs. McBride raised a concern about the use of a technology tool such as Padlet limiting student’s face to face time. She believes there is something to be said about students making comments in a public setting. Mr. Driscoll responded that the intent of these types of technology tools is not to replace face to face time, but to positively impact face to face interaction. Dr. Andrade added that the use of these tools actually enhances student voice. The point of using Padlet is to engage all students rather than each student waiting to be called upon.

Mr. Ramos asked about the different technological tools used by students, such as Flipgrid. Mr. Driscoll responded with an explanation on how Flipgrid is used in the classroom.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification on the difference between the use of video vs. audio vs. text in the classroom. Mr. Driscoll offered clarification.

Mr. Bento asked whether the Technology Department has received feedback from teachers and students on the new technology tools.

Mr. Driscoll responded that from the teacher’s perspective, the technology tools have helped to streamline the process for the learning cycle. From the student’s perspective, they are more active and involved through the use of technology tools as it provides real life experiences.

Mrs. Schofield asked about the process for evaluating new technology tools. Mr. Driscoll responded that many factors and variables are assessed, especially those technology tools that have a subscription cost. Teachers are also involved in the pilot testing of the new technologies. Dr. Andrade added that action research delineates the process and how tools are reviewed and eliminated where necessary.

Mr. Ramos asked about the process for monitoring and managing tools.

Mr. Driscoll responded that the teachers participate in Professional Development regarding instructional practices. Teachers are also part of digital learning teams. From the technical aspect, tools are in place to streamline the process for use of subscriptions and student data privacy.

Mr. Driscoll shared recent celebrations of the Technology Department.

Mrs. Muller came forward and expanded upon the following accomplishments:

* Greater Awareness of Structures and Protocols Needed for Effective Scale-up
* Policies/Protocols: Student Data Protection
* Support Structures
* Budgeting-Planning/Capitalizing on eRate
  + Network Stability
* Tech Acquisition and Accountability

Mrs. Muller shared and expanded upon a graphic for the Five Year Device Refresh Plan.

Mr. Saviano raised a concern regarding students access of pornographic sites. Mrs. Muller responded that there is a web filter in place that blocks students from accessing pornographic sites. She added that the teachers are also diligent in monitoring students.

Mr. O’Dell asked what grade levels are currently using the Padlet tool. Mrs. Muller responded that typically grade six and up with some students in grade three and five. Mrs. Muller added that Padlet is available to all teachers.

Mr. O’Dell wondered if the use of technology tools which allows for larger amounts of information to be processed by the student could cause more distraction. Mrs. Muller responded that the teacher utilizes personalized learning plans to determine the best mode of learning for each student. Dr. Andrade added that the standards dictate the appropriate rigor for the student.

Mr. Bradshaw asked what steps are taken to ensure that students effectively use technology to express their thoughts without hiding behind the technology.

Mrs. Sanna responded that the use of text or video provides student’s choice in how they respond. Mrs. Sanna commented that within the Common Core there are different forms of writing which builds communication skills. Utilizing both written and video expression encourages students to do more.

Dr. Andrade stated that as educators it is important to provide opportunities for students to speak in public, and to provide descriptive feedback to encourage improvement in their communication.

Mr. Driscoll shared the District’s next steps for continuous improvement.

Mr. Driscoll shared and expanded upon initiatives to strengthen onsite support and coaching for innovation.

Mr. Driscoll expanded upon the importance of Professional Development through Digital Learning Teams.

Dr. Andrade commented that teachers are our greatest resource. Technology is about excellent teaching and learning. Dr. Andrade stated that he appreciated the School Committee’s interactions through tonight’s exercise and their thoughtful questions.

School Committee members acknowledged the great work of the Technology Department in implementing technology tools within the classroom which is having a positive impact on students.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:05 PM):** Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) for the following:

1. Personnel Recommendations #S2018-09

MOTION: At 8:05 p.m., Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to convene an executive session; seconded by Mr. O’Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: At 8:25 p.m., Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the executive session; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES #S2018-09:**

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, Vice- Chairperson Schofield asked for a motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

**S2018-09 A-F: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

A. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant 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. Dahlia Osorio 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

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. Track (Outdoor) (Boys) Head Coach Dennis Welch\*

2. Track (Outdoor) Asst. Coach Dale Remillard\*

3. Softball (Girls) Asst. Coach Kristin Furtado\*

4. Special Olympics Co-Head Coach Susan Carlson\*

5. Special Olympics Co-Head Coach William Wilson\*

\* Reappointment

C. 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. Erin E. Aleicho

2. Susan L. Sayre

3. Christopher K. Bohnker

4. Neale P. Ross

5. Samuel R. Howlett

6. Laureen M. Lewis

7. Emily Fox

D. 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:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Eric J. Rasmussen

E. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: The Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the non-renewal/dismissal, effective the end of the last day of the 2017-18 school year, of the following listed teachers due to their lack of permanent certification in the required area and/or the return of teachers from leaves of absence and/or the non-renewal of the limited contracts:

1. Gabriela A. Mendez

2. Connor P. Fagan

3. Alicia M. Chase

4. Melissa J. Johnson

F. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: Based on the Superintendent’s belief that there exists more qualified teachers available for their positions and/or teachers who are a better fit for the District, the Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the non-renewal/dismissal of the following listed non-tenured personnel effective the last day of the 2017-18 school year:

1. Katrina A. Traficante

2. Emily N. Coyne

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:28 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd