**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 8, 2018, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson Paul Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairperson; Erin Schofield, Vice-Chairperson; William O’Dell, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Brian Bradshaw, and Adam Ramos; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Title 1; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance;

Guests: Kyle Connor, Auditor, Hague, Sahady & Co., PC; Dr. Deborah DiBiase, MHHS Principal; Caitlin Booth, MHHS Math Teacher; and Jodi Neves, MHHS ELA Teacher Leader

Absent: Diana B. Campbell and John C. Bento

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nicky Piper, Bristol Warren Education Foundation (BWEF) Chair, came forward to share an update.

Ms. Piper stated that the BWEF’s mission remains the same in promoting educational excellence through grant programs which provides students with opportunities they might not have. Ms. Piper shared statistics of current grants and grant funding to date. Ms. Piper recognized all those who make these grants possible.

Ms. Piper stated that this year they will be awarding the first BWEF Scholarship in the amount of $1500 to a graduating senior; the criteria being a community service background. The scholarship is made possible by an independent funding syndicate of private donors.

Ms. Piper shared promotions regarding upcoming BWEF events and encouraged School Committee members to share about those events.

Ms. Piper encouraged the School Committee to attend this year’s Bodacious Bee as the returning reigning champions.

Ms. Piper thanked the School Committee for their time and support.

Chairperson Silva commended all the hard work that the BWEF does.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

1. Approve the meeting minutes of the December 11, 2017 School Committee Regular Business Meeting.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 School Committee Regular Business Meeting; seconded by Mr. O’Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Chairperson Silva stated that he was going to rearrange the order of business to accommodate tonight’s presenters.*

2. That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the

 Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the FY17 Audit.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to accept the FY17 Audit; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance, introduced Mr. Kyle Connors, Auditor, Hague, Sahady & Co., PC, who was present to answer any questions regarding the FY17 Audit Report.

Mr. Connors began by stating that it is always a pleasure to work with Mrs. Silva.

Mr. Connors stated that the District had a clean audit.

He expanded upon the following highlights of the FY17 Audit Report:

* Statement of Net Position (liabilities)
* Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
* Proprietary Funds Statement of Net Position
* Fiduciary Funds Statement of Net Position
* Notes to Financial Statements
* Required Supplementary Information Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund
* Annual Supplemental Transparency Report (MTP2)
* Single Audit Report

Chairperson Silva thanked Mrs. Silva and her staff for another outstanding audit report. He also thanked Mr. Connors for coming to explain the FY17 Audit Report.

Chairperson Silva added that this is the 13th year without any significant findings during the audit.

The motion to accept the FY17 audit passed unanimously.

Mrs. Silva thanked Mr. Connors and his team adding that they were wonderful to work with.

**AGENDA FOCUS**

High School Diploma System

Dr. DiBiase, MHHS Principal, introduced Caitlin Booth, MHHS Math Teacher, Extended Day Program Coordinator; Virtual Learning Coordinator and Graduation Portfolio Coordinator.

Dr. DiBiase also introduced Mrs. Jodi Neves, ELA Teacher Leader.

Dr. DiBiase stated that both women served an integral part in the development of the High School Diploma System.

Ms. Booth expanded upon the following tenets of the High School Diploma System:

* Academic Expectations
* Vision
* The Big 3
	+ Problem Solving
	+ Critical Thinking
	+ Communication
* Graduation Expectations

Ms. Booth also expanded upon rubrics for Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Senior Presentation

Ms. Booth clarified further how the student’s will be assessed.

Mrs. McBride raised a concern regarding the subjectiveness of certain portions of the student’s graduation portfolio.

Ms. Booth explained that students are asked to defend why they feel they are proficient. The panel will be looking to see whether or not a student can defend their proficiency. Ms. Booth added that work is being done to ensure a “schoolwide calibration” of rubrics and grading. Ms. Booth further explained calibration by expanding upon the Cycle of Assessment.

Mrs. McBride asked where the SATs and current state assessment fit into the student’s graduation portfolio. Mrs. Neves responded that if a student had difficulty in the past with state testing, their portfolio might reflect how the student has overcome those obstacles.

Ms. Booth then expanded upon the following:

* Focus on reflection and growth

A lengthy discussion ensued on the graduation portfolio student advisory group, “Huskey Pride” and other student supports.

Ms. Booth then expanded upon the following:

* Social and Civic Expectations

A short discussion ensued regarding parent support during the transition from the old high school diploma system to the new.

A short discussion ensued clarifying the difference between the old high school diploma system and the new.

A short discussion ensued on provisions for students who have performance anxiety.

Dr. Andrade thanked Ms. Booth and Mrs. Neves for presenting the new High School Diploma System. He commented that the excitement is palpable from the teachers and administrators regarding transformation centered around students. Dr. Andrade added that he is proud of the teachers for taking this initiative.

School Committee members offered their commendations for a great job in developing a comprehensive High School Diploma System.

Chairperson Silva thanked Ms. Booth and Mrs. Neves for their patience, hard work and dedication. Chairperson Silva closed by stating that the School Committee supports their work on the High School Diploma System.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES (continued)**

1. That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, approve the Architectural Services Bid

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Architectural Services Bid; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bradshaw asked for clarification on which firm the bid is being awarded to. Chairperson Silva responded that the Architectural Services Bid award is going to RGB Architects.

Mrs. McBride stated that if at any time the District is not happy with RGB Architects, new bids can be solicited. Mrs. McBride added that Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Silva are, however, very impressed with this group.

The motion passed unanimously.

 2. That the School Committee approve the request of one (1) family 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: Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the homeschool request, seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride asked if the family was new to the District. Dr. Andrade responded that this family has been in the District. The family has been worked with over the past few months.

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

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:32 PM**

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O’Dell, Secretary

/kd