

BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

May 11, 2010

Reported By: Anne Schmiedel

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7: 00 pm

Adjourned: 8:06 pm

Attending: Committee Chair Debra Stockwell, Vice Chair Mary Karmozyn, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Joan Cote, Paul Couture, Scott Moore, Raymond Trinqué, Student Douglas Fullerton

Absent: None

1. Convene in Open Session

2. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Stockwell requests all present to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of two former employees: Lawrence Wheater and Anthony Lima.

3. Recognition

The Chair welcomes the BHS Robotics Team along with their teacher/coach Andrew Aldrich and offers congratulations for taking first place in the State of RI Championship four years in a row and second place in the World Championship in Atlanta, Georgia, where they went up against 4000 teams from 8 countries. The Team presents a video of the competition and performs a demonstration. Award certificates were distributed along with a standing ovation.

4. Consent Agenda

D. Cardon (M), R. Trinqué (S) to approve minutes of April 14 Regular Meeting

VOTE: Approved 7-0

R. Trinqué (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve warrant for the payment of payrolls and expenditures for the month of May 2010 in the amount of \$ 3,146,276.21

VOTE: Approved 7-0

5. Public Comment

Rebecca Flori, 26 Wendy Drive, Scituate, teacher in the Town of Burrillville, addresses the School Committee regarding SFE teaching staff concerns having to do with the lack of classroom and storage space, and restroom availability at Steere Farm Elementary School.

R. Trinqué requests to move Elementary School Reorganization from Pending Issues for discussion now. Chair Stockwell poles committee and it is agreed by all to discuss the issue here. Mr. Trinqué suggests that SFE staff make a list of their concerns for the next School Committee meeting. Three School Committee members will be doing a walk through next week. All information should be brought to next month's meeting and the Reorganization should be an action item. J. Cote requests information for all three elementary schools in order to see possibilities for movement.

6. Personnel

Retirements

R. Trinqué (M), J. Cote (S) to accept the retirements of Naomi Roberts, Grade 4, WLC, effective 6/18/10 and Edda Bonin, Secretary, BHS, effective 7/1/10.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

M. Karmozyn traces the steps of Edda Bonin's career from Teacher Assistant at ATL to Secretary at Burrillville High School. J. Cote congratulates both retirees and notes Mrs. Bonin's many contributions to children through the years. She wishes her luck.

7. Old Business

A. FY10 Budget Update

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open for discussion

VOTE: Approved 7-0

Mrs. Kimatian states that no transfers are needed at this time. She notes the Budget Sub-

Committee meeting the previous day. J. Cote requests the minutes of that meeting be included in the Friday packet.

B. Parent Request – Early Admission to Grade 1

M. Karmozyn (M), R. Trinque (S) to open item for discussion VOTE: Approved 7-0
Dr. Pallotta recommends the Burrillville School District abide by State law for the sake of consistency. He also recommends quoting the law, putting it into policy, and using tonight as the first reading for that policy.

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) motion to support Superintendent's recommendation

VOTE: Approved 7-0

8. Superintendent's Report

D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to open

VOTE: Approved 7-0

Dr. Pallotta notes that SFE contains 134 more students than WLC. He adds that the District gained 7 new students this month. The Superintendent suggests the School Committee may need to consider changing district lines in order to equalize the student population. He will report back next month with some recommendations to consider as options.

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to accept the Superintendent's report

VOTE: Approved 7-0

9. Administrators' Reports

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to open

VOTE: Approved 7-0

S. Moore - all set

J. Cote – Notes BHS Concert, Levy Teddy Bear Parade; thanks all administrators.

P. Couture – good

D. Cardon – Wonderful things are happening in Burrillville. Thank you to all.

M. Karmozyn – Happy to see BMS is participating in the Exchange City program. It's a wonderful experience.

R. Trinque – Happy to see the emphasis on reading and literature. We are going about preparing our students for testing in the right way.

D. Stockwell – Thanks everyone for the informative reports and for the great work being accomplished.

10. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to open

VOTE: Approved 7-0

- Health and Wellness - J. Cote – There were 10 people present with representation from every building and community members. This meeting was a brain-storming session. The last meeting of the year will take place on May 20 when the strategic plan will be devised. The plan will then be presented to the Superintendent and then to the School Committee in preparation for the next school year.
- Sick Bank – M. Karmozyn – The Sick Bank met on April 16, 2010 and granted 35 days to one certified staff member. The Committee is waiting for medical information in order to process another certified staff request.

11. Correspondence/Communications

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to receive and file resolutions from towns of Middletown and North Smithfield

VOTE: Approved 7-0

12. New Business

A. Home Instruction

D. Cardon (M), R. Trinque (S) to approve request/application for Home Instruction

VOTE: Approved 7-0

B. Northwest School District Consortium Resolution

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open

VOTE: Approved 7-0

Dr. Pallotta explains that the four communities of Lincoln, North Smithfield, Smithfield and Burrillville would like to form a consortium for the purpose of saving on/sharing resources. Discussion would even include filling open positions with regard to the individual district or if it could be a shared position. Each town's School Committee is being presented with this resolution so they can see what the consortium is all about. He recommends approval. Committee Members Trinque and Cote ask if this idea should be explored with the Town of Burrillville.

Dr. Pallotta notes that conversations with the Town have taken place in the area of technology, but explains that it is not feasible in this area. He notes that there is a lot of cooperation within the four communities. Examples of possible shared services are in the areas of professional development and legal services. Business Managers are setting up a bid committee process. The four towns are all members of the Trust, which is beneficial. Facilities Director Woodward states that the School Department presently shares a contract for oil with the Town.

Mrs. Cote inquires about ground services. Mr. Woodward says conversations will take place with the Town in the future.

Mr. Trinque suggests including the consortium information in all budget presentations to the Town so they can see how hard we (the School Department) are trying. Perhaps there can be the same type of cooperation between the Town and the School Department.

Mrs. Cote requests that the idea of School Department/Town shared services be placed on the pending list.

J. Cote (M), D. Cardon (S) to accept resolution as put forward by the Superintendent

VOTE: Approved 7-0

C. Race To The Top – Memorandum of Understanding

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open

RIDE applied to the Federal Government during the first application period for Race for the Top funding and did not get approved. They held a series of symposiums to get information from different constituencies to address some of the issues that needed to be strengthened, and applied for the second allotment of funds. There are sixteen areas that school districts will get involved in including teacher evaluations, student achievement, and curriculum. Some of the major highlights/changes in the new Memorandum of Understanding are as follows: By signing the application, you are not waiving any legal rights; it will not supersede any current contract language; no rights of any employees will be taken away; we can pull out anytime. RIDE claims that no additional costs will be incurred to the School District to participate. Dr. Pallotta recommends giving the Chair the authority to sign the new Memorandum of Understanding. In order to be accepted, the application must minimally be signed by the Superintendent and the School Committee Chair. The Union Presidents will meet with the Secretary of Education, Artie Duncan later in the week. They have not given their support as yet. There are several issues that make the unions take pause and it is a work in progress. Whether or not the School District signs on, the new directives will be mandated by the State. The School Committee decides, with reluctance, that it will be better to have funds with which to institute the directives.

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding for Race to the Top

VOTE: Approved 7-0

D. Policy related to Education (All Day Kindergarten) – First Reading

R. Trinque (M), D. Cardon (S) to approve and dispense with reading as it has been previously discussed VOTE: Approved 7-0

E. Busing (R. Trinque)

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open

R. Trinque notes that the State's unfunded mandate regarding busing saves the State money and costs the Town money. He recommends that Dr. Pallotta draft a proposal/waiver to be exempt for one year given the current budget crisis. Not all consolidation is good if it costs money.

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S)

VOTE: Approved 7-0

13. Committee Comments on Agenda Items

J. Cote asks for clarification on the upcoming Monday night meeting with RIDE representative, Carolyn Dias. The meeting will just deal with State funding. Mrs. Cote asks the Chair to contact the Town Council regarding a round table meeting to discuss budget, shared services, etc. D. Stockwell will email Council Member Nancy Binns and copy all School Committee members. Mrs. Cote also requests that all Committee and Subcommittee meetings be entered on the School Committee calendar.

R. Trinque relays that administration is looking into our students' success rate in regard to college graduation. This information should help in curriculum. He would like to have the report when complete.

14. Adjournment

M. Karmozyn (M), R. Trinque (S) to adjourn
The meeting concluded at 8:06 PM.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

Clerk of the Committee