

# School Committee Members Honor Blackrock Teacher; Introduce Contributing Educator Policy

Fourth grade students also showcased a unit that they have been studying in class.

By [Lauren Costa](#) | January 12, 2012



On Tuesday evening, the Coventry School Committee had its first meeting of 2012 at [Blackrock Elementary School](#), where they recognized second grade teacher, Valerie Bishop for her work last year with two students that had been adopted. [Bishop and the students created a book](#) that they will use to help other families become more comfortable with the adoption transition. Bishop was awarded the Beacon of Hope Award from Adoption RI in November.

"The fact that a teacher noticed how the students were feeling and found a vehicle for children to work something out that is difficult for them i just amazing and we are very proud of you," said Committee Member Nancy Sprengelmeyer.

## Blackrock Presentation

Committee members viewed a presentation from four fourth grade students that showcased what they had been learning during the school year. The students explained to the Committee members, along with teachers and parents, how they built eco-columns, creations made of soda bottles that model a real-life ecosystem.

The columns included an aquarium with goldfish and Elodea and a terrarium complete with gravel, top soil, grass, alfalfa, mustard seeds and crickets. The students described how they mimicked pollutants within the ecosystems using vinegar and also showcased how different food chains operate using a video game.

## Contributing Educator Policy

The Committee approved to dispense with the first reading of the Contributing Educator Policy that

provides definitions and procedures for determining which educators contribute to literacy or mathematics learning and how the information is stored and reported. The policy will allow educators to access multiple kinds of data regarding the productivity of students and teachers as well as specific information about course rosters and student growth percentiles. *(See attached PDF)*

"Coventry has a long-standing philosophy that every teacher is held accountable for all students," said Superintendent Michael Convery. "This policy defines the grouping of students and what it means to be a contributing educator, increasing the number of students that each teacher is accountable for."

### **Pre-Budget Meeting Report**

Superintendent Convery and School Finance Director Robin Pelletier briefly discussed the School Department's meeting with the Town Council on Monday evening where a presentation featuring the 2012-2013 fiscal year proposed school budget was given to Council members.

"At this point we are in negotiations so there were things that we could discuss and things that we could not," said Convery. "What we did was state exactly what we knew as of last (Monday) night. No more, no less."

<http://coventry.patch.com/articles/school-committee-members-honor-blackrock-teacher-introduce-contributing-educator-policy>