

Behavioral Intervention working in Coventry

Hopkins Hill Elementary faculty noticing many positive changes in students due to tracking, one-on-one attention

JESSICA BOISCLAIR
Jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — At the Feb. 14 School Committee meeting, the principal and students at Hopkins Hill Elementary School gave a presentation showing how well the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program works.

School Committee Chairperson Katherine Patenaude ex-

plained that the school has agreed to follow a certain set of guidelines. She added that the children are told daily what the rules of engagement in the school are.

She said that these include proper behavior in the hallways, classrooms and cafeteria. She explained that under this program any incident that occurs is tracked by data entry.

Patenaude said that this helps

identify certain kids after so many incidents happen and gives the schools an opportunity to help those children.

She explained that the program has been active in Hopkins Hill for two years. Since it began the teachers have seen changes in a lot of students because they are given one-on-one attention from social workers or psychologists.

She said that the committee

also discussed the cell tower at Blackrock Elementary School.

She explained that the owners of the cell tower approached the committee saying that they wanted to buy the rights to the property for \$315,000 instead of leasing it for \$22,000 a year.

Patenaude said that there were some concerns brought up however by the lawyer as to

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Coventry PBIS is working at school

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whether or not it would be best for the school department.

She said that School Committee member Thomas Hetherman brought up the fact that giving them the rights to the property could mean that in the future they may tear down the

tower and replace it with another structure.

She explained that if they put a new structure up in the future, it may not be proven safe for the children at the school.

"We're just concerned about the safety of the kids," she said.

At the budget workshop on Feb. 6, members of the School Committee talked with Coventry's state delegation about the fire code update that needs to be completed at the high school.

Patenaude said that before Sept. 1st, the school department has to pay \$400,000 in capital improvements to update the fire code.

"We talked to the legislatures and asked them to submit a bill to give us more time," she said.

Superintendent Michael Convery contacted Chief Robert Seltzer and let him know the plan to override the Fire Marshal.

Patenaude said that Seltzer suggested that before the legislature tries to pass a bill, that a meeting should be held between the school department and Fire Marshal to resolve the problem.

"We hope they can work something out so we can delay it again," she said. "It's not like the school isn't safe, it's just about putting sensors and a fire box on the wall."

LOTTERY

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24

Valley's churches

WORSHIP

ed, Hearts are Saved And Christ is
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at 11:00am. All are welcome.
titled "Jesus Has Compassion"