

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES
February 7, 2022**

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee was held virtually via Zoom on Monday, February 7, 2022. Subcommittee Chairperson Carly Reich called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.

Present:

Subcommittee: Carly Reich, Chairperson, Sarah Bullard, and Victor Cabral.

School Committee Members and Administrators: Marjorie McBride, Nicky Piper, Ana C. Riley, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Rose O'Connor, Director of Technology; Brenna Toland, Director of Student Support Services; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2022; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Family Engagement - proposed Policy KBLEA

Superintendent Riley explained that the Family Engagement policy meets the requirements of the State and sends a message that can help to get parents engaged again. It will be a welcoming message for parents returning from February vacation.

Chairperson Reich agreed, stating that the policy is succinct and helps families to feel welcomed.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the Policy and forward it to the full School Committee for a 1st Reading; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Policy JFC - Code of Conduct

Superintendent Riley asked the Subcommittee for support for her proposal to review and renew this policy. She intends to give parents and staff an opportunity to be included in its development. She explained that the policy, as written, is more appropriate for a large district. She would like to develop a new

policy that is more appropriate for the size and culture of the Bristol Warren district.

Chairperson Reich asked how the review will be done.

Superintendent Riley responded that she will create a committee of parents, local leadership, and students. She feels that the current policy is punitive. She wants a new policy that will start on a basis of mutual respect among everyone in the District, based on expectations for behavior. She explained, as an example, that suspensions are not an effective form of discipline.

Mr. Cabral confirmed that the policy should be totally changed.

Superintendent Riley stated that she intends to reframe the policy in a positive way without the negative tone. She wants the policy to be clear on expectations rather than on punishments for bad behavior. She added that the Principals are following this policy now. She would like to have some flexibility, while the new policy is being developed, to make judgements based on circumstances.

Chairperson Reich stated that she supports the effort as a step in the right direction.

Ms. McBride reminded the committee that the current policy replaced something that was similar to what Superintendent Riley was proposing. She wants the new policy to be more equitable across all schools and grades and to be implemented fairly.

Superintendent Riley stated that she thinks the current policy actually created a reverse of what it intended, telling students what to do in order to be punished.

Ms. Piper asked how the District will gather the data to make sure there is consistency. Superintendent Riley stated that she will look closely at the policy, looking at the number of referrals in the past under the old policy for trends and will base the response on what can be done to address the issues that are apparent through the data.

Assistant Superintendent Sanna stated that the principals are reporting the information from their schools. She added that the new ePass system is also able to show trends in behaviors.

Ms. McBride noted that she has not seen a discipline report in a while.

Superintendent Riley stated that quarterly reports will resume in March.

C. Policy GBED/JHFAA - Use of Physical Restraint

Ms. Toland explained how she came to develop this policy by aligning it with language from the RIDE Policy. The policy was developed with consultation from Attorney Carroll.

Mr. Cabral asked if there is training for staff on the new policy. Ms. Toland responded that there is a requirement that trainees sign-off on their knowledge of the policy. Superintendent Riley added that there is also a provision to report if the policy isn't followed.

Chairperson Reich asked how often physical restraint happens. Ms. Toland responded that it is not a regular occurrence.

This policy will be referenced in two sections of the Policy Book as JHFAA and GBED.

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve the policy and to forward it to the full School Committee for a 1st Reading; seconded by Mr. Cabral. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Ms Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Carly Reich, Chair
Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee of the
Bristol Warren Regional School Committee

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