

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

**MINUTES
January 20, 2022**

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee was held on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Subcommittee Chairperson Carly Reich called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m.

Present:

Subcommittee: Carly Reich, Chairperson 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; Guests: Dr. Deborah DiBiase, Principal of Mt. Hope High School, Michelle King, Assistant Principal of Mt. Hope High School. Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2021; seconded by Chairperson Reich.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION

A. MHHS Program of Studies

Superintendent Riley introduced the presentation by explaining that in preparing the Program of Studies, there were several discussions with the High School staff, though she would have liked more time to collaborate with the staff.

She noted that high school students only have four years to achieve proficiency and, for some, due to COVID, there is a lot of catching up to do.

She also noted the need for more alignment with the lower schools, which she believes can be accomplished with the new Math curriculum.

Ms. King started the presentation by describing the new opportunities for the District to build and strengthen the CTE programs. By enrolling in a CTE program, students will leave with some Advanced coursework and experiences with real world situations.

The proposed Program of Studies tightens and streamlines the course offerings, raising the bar for all students. Superintendent Riley explained that the goal is to achieve Proficiency for all students. For that reason, there will be a leveling of course offerings. The new PoS removes the basic courses and puts the focus on college and career readiness. Ms. King stated that this will be a culture shift for staff, but that they are

ready. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) will be the way the state will measure proficiency at the high school level. Proficiency in the SATs ensures that students are ready for both college and career. To ensure that everyone is proficient, there will be SAT prep intervention opportunities, especially for the incoming freshmen.

Communication on the updated PoS is important. There will be an information night for families in early February.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Reich asked for an explanation of “course leveling”. Superintendent Riley explained that the same level of rigor will be offered in all courses. Students who need extra support or intervention will be able to receive those services outside of the classroom, instead of it being a part of the class.

Chairperson Reich asked if the support/intervention will be different from intensive classes. Principal DiBiase responded yes.

Chairperson Reich noted her interest in getting rid of Class Rank in the future. She also asked for enrollment numbers for Physical Education classes. Ms. King stated that she would get that information for her.

Mr. Cabral stated that he thinks that the PoS is the best he’s seen. He is very pleased with it and noted that he agrees with Chairperson Reich on Class Rank.

Mr. Cabral asked if the intent is to continue with the rotating schedule. Ms. King responded that that was the plan, but the staff is considering other scheduling options.

Mr. Cabral asked if there were any courses dropped this year. Superintendent Riley answered that the District considers enrollment, noting that the District cannot continue to offer low-enrollment electives.

Chairperson Reich asked about Financial Literacy. She wanted to know when that would be included. Superintendent Riley explained that Financial Literacy cannot be offered as a stand-alone course. She added that it will be a required proficiency starting with Freshmen of 2023. The skills to achieve proficiency will be embedded in other courses.

Ms. McBride added that she’d like to see Civics also embedded in other courses. She asked for information on who the public can comment on the new secondary regulations being considered by the State. Superintendent Riley stated that the regulations will not be ready for public comment until late February. She agreed to share with families the links to public comment when they are available.

Ms. McBride stated that she disagrees re: Class Rank, feeling that the competition is

healthy.

Ms. McBride noted that the Portfolio is still a requirement. Superintendent Riley replied that it's there because it is still part of the current secondary regulations but after this year, Freshman will not have a Portfolio requirement.

Ms. McBride noted that the information regarding Roger Williams University (RWU) courses is a bit misleading. Though the courses are free to take, the credits cost money. Superintendent Riley agreed that it should be clearer that there may be a fee for course credits.

Ms. McBride asked if students can opt to go to Community College of RI (CCRI) while attending high school, but not RWU or University of RI (URI). She wanted to know who pays for students to go to RWU or URI. Superintendent Riley responded that there is an approved course list for colleges everywhere. If the course is offered, then the District is responsible for paying the cost.

Ms. Piper praised the quality of the new Program of Studies. She added that she likes the portfolio requirement (that is going away) because it shows the students owning their work. She hopes that there is a way to accomplish that. She asked about the enrollment for the Diversity for America course. Principal DiBiase responded that feedback on the new course was positive. She stated that there were 21 students enrolled this year, which is good for a first offering. Ms. King added that there will be some adjustments to enrollment in that course going forward to ensure that the next offering has students who hadn't taken the course before.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to accept the Program of Studies and to recommend it to the full School Committee for approval; 2nd by Chairperson Reich. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Policy JC - Elementary Placement

Assistant Superintendent Sanna introduced the Policy stating that the purpose of the proposed edits was to clarify the boundaries for elementary school assignments. The new boundaries will allow the District to create more equal class sizes across the elementary schools.

Superintendent Riley presented the new map which is clearer to read. She stated that there will only be one map to read.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve Policy JC and to recommend to the full School Committee for a 1st Reading; 2nd by Chairperson Reich. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Family Engagement - new policy

Assistant Superintendent Sanna introduced the new policy stating that it is required for Districts with Title I schools. The new policy draft follows the State's guidelines, with additional text for Colt Andrews and Hugh Cole, both Title I schools.

Superintendent Riley offered an alternate policy, sharing a similar policy from the Portsmouth School Department. The Portsmouth policy is brief and focuses on the requirements of the policy, not just for Title I, but for all students.

Chairperson Reich asked if the BW Policy had been shared with the community. Assistant Superintendent Sanna responded that it had been shared with staff and building principals, who shared it with their parent groups.

The committee discussed the option of adapting the Portsmouth policy for the Bristol Warren community, changing the references to Portsmouth, etc. It was noted that the Policy Subcommittee will meet again before the next full School Committee meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to accept the Family Engagement policy as presented and to forward it to the full School Committee for a 1st Reading; 2nd by Chairperson Reich. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Adjournment

MOTION: Chairperson Reich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., seconded by Mr. Cabral. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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

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