

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 26, 2021

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Budget & Facilities Subcommittee was held virtually on Monday, April 26, 2021, via Zoom Conferencing. Subcommittee Chairperson, Sheila Ellsworth, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present:

Subcommittee: Sheila Ellsworth, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, and Nicky Piper
School Committee and Administration: Marjorie McBride, Carly Reich, Sarah Bullard, Victor Cabral, Erin Schofield, Jonathan Brice, Ed. D., Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Thomas Wood, Director of Facilities; Lee-Ann Beaupre, Human Resources Manager; Edward Clarke, M.Ed.,CAGS, Director of Student Support Services; Rose Muller, Technology Director; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary

I. Discussion/Action

A. FY22 Budget/Proposed Cuts

Chair Ellsworth introduced the meeting as a first step in the process to approve the FY22 Budget and proposed cuts. There will be two Budget meetings to review the FY22 Budget and proposed cuts, before the Budget is sent to the Full School Committee for adoption.

Superintendent Brice introduced the high-level budget summary. He started with a summary sheet of Budgets from previous years, showing the Actuals from FY18, FY19, and FY20, as well as FY21, which was reviewed and updated with all encumbrances to date so that the District is clear on where it stands with revenues left to spend, and the Proposed FY22 Budget. The FY22 Budget is based on the amount approved by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), and includes projected State Aid, which will likely decrease by ~\$100K. Total FY22 Revenues are projected to be \$54,427,692. Debt Service is projected at \$56M. Expenditures, with decreases, are projected to be \$54m. Details will be ready for the next Budget meeting.

For the next meeting, Chair Ellsworth asked to have FY21 projections as of March 31, 2021 and the updated Object Code Summary Report and updates on the projected State Aid. She noted that Elementary & Secondary Emergency Relief II (ESSER) and ESSER III funds are not included, but that the funds may have an impact on the Operating Budget if they can be used to cover some expenditures.

Ms. Thibaudeau requested more details on the FY19, FY20, and FY21 actuals, along with what was presented to the JFC so that she can determine what was cut to reach the approved JFC budget. She asked if the CFO, Comptroller, and HR Manager positions were included in the Budget. Superintendent Brice answered that the CFO position is in the Budget, but the Comptroller is not. He noted that several positions will need to be cut to cover the costs of the Comptroller. He will identify where the funds are coming from when he provides the details of the Staffing cuts. In response to further questions

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from Ms. Thibaudeau, Superintendent Brice stated that he will provide a Summary Object Code report.

Attorney Carroll interrupted to reset the discussion to the Agenda topic, FY22 Budget/Proposed Cuts.

Ms. Piper asked if any funds will be returned to the Fund Balance. Superintendent Brice stated there has not been any discussion on the Fund Balance. She also asked when the Subcommittee will discuss the use of the ESSER II and ESSER III funds. The public discussion will likely happen in May.

Superintendent Brice went on to review his recommended cuts of 23.5 Full-time Equivalents (FTE) to the FY22 budget. Other staffing cuts were removed because they represented temporary positions that were hired to support the needs necessitated by COVID. FTE cuts total \$1.5m. He noted that no new positions have been added.

Chair Ellsworth requested the impact of these staffing cuts on the District.

Superintendent Brice also reviewed the cuts to supplies and materials.

After further questions and discussion, regarding impact of cuts on programs, students with IEPs, and academic proficiencies (due to larger class sizes), Chair Ellsworth asked for additional information and a breakdown of the cuts and their impact on the District, programs, and staffing, for the next meeting.

Attorney Carroll suggested that the Superintendent provide a detailed list of the cuts that will make up the \$2.3m with their source accounts and that Subcommittee members send their questions to Superintendent Brice before the next meeting. Chair Ellsworth added that she would like to see the impact of the cuts on students and programming.

In response to a question, Superintendent Brice explained that there are no “Adds” in his budget. Some additions to the Budget that fall in the “one-time” expense, will likely be covered with ESSER funds.

To recap, Chair Ellsworth asked for a Object Code Report, the FY22 Budget approved by JFC, proposed cuts and additions and their impact on the students, in the context of the Consultants’ Report.

Mr. Cabral asked to have the enrollment numbers by grade at the Elementary level, which Superintendent Brice provided: projected total of 3089 students, with 251 at Guiteras, 301 at Colt Andrews, 245 at Rockwell, 500 at Hugh Cole, 695 at Kickemuit Middle School, and 906 at Mt. Hope High School.

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Superintendent Brice reminded the Subcommittee that staffing is 80% of the budget. To get to the \$2.3m in cuts, staffing will have to be cut. Cuts will be in the areas where they will have the least impact on class sizes and academic performance.

In conclusion, Attorney Carroll reminded everyone to provide their questions to Superintendent Brice before the May 3, 2021 Budget Subcommittee meeting.

II. Adjournment - 7:03p.m.

Chair Ellsworth adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.

**Sheila Ellsworth, Chair
Budget/Facilities Subcommittee**

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