

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Minutes Approved
Monday, August 28, 2023**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, August 28, 2023 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Nicky Piper, Chairperson; Adam McGovern, Vice-Chairperson; Jessica Almeida, Treasurer; Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary; Karen Cabral, Kyle Jackson, Marjorie McBride, Carly Reich, and Sarah Bullard; Ana Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., School District Attorney; Danielle Carey, Director of Finance & Administration; Frank Caliri, Director of Facilities

Guests: Lisa Pecora from Perkins Eastman; Chad Crittenden from PMA Consultants

I. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Nicky Piper called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm

II. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Piper invited all present to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Piper asked if any member of the School Committee wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. No items were removed and Chairperson Piper asked for a motion to approve all the items under the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

- A. School Property Disposal
- B. Homeschool Requests (32 students, 17 families)
- C. Standardized Monthly Financial Reports
 - i. Cash Disbursements
 - ii. Monthly Financial Report with Variance Analysis
 - iii. Budget Transfer Report
- D. Update on Fund Balance for Track at Mt. Hope High School

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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V. PRESENTATION

A. BWRSD Construction Projects Update - PMA/Perkins Eastman

Ms. Lisa Pecora from Perkins Eastman presented the updates to the proposed design plans for the schools in the district which included information on safety improvements at Kickemuit Middle School (new parking lot improvements) and Hugh Cole School (new play area and drop off/pick-up pattern). Ms. Pecora discussed the grade configuration at the elementary schools and middle schools with the plan for 5th grade students moving to Kickemuit Middle School and the closing of Guiteras Elementary School. With this grade configuration, Guiteras students would be redistributed to Colt Andrews and Rockwell Schools. The current proposed grade configuration for Kickemuit Middle School would have the 5th and 6th grades on the first floor and the 7th and 8th grades on the second floor. Ms. Pecora presented the plans for the new high school designs including programming spaces. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Chad Crittenden from PMA Consultants stated that community outreach efforts will be ramping up after the September 15 submission of the District's Necessity of Construction Stage 2 Capital Plan to Rhode Island Department of Education, and the public should expect community forums and abutter meetings to discuss the design and plans in regards to the Capital Plan..

VI. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve CM - District Annual Report Policy (removed in April 2023; needs to be reinstated with updated language; required by EMMA), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve CM - District Annual Report Policy which was removed in April 2023 and needs to be reinstated with updated language required by EMMA, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: Mr. McGovern asked why the policy states Regional Committee in the last sentence and Superintendent Riley stated it was in the law as it refers to all Regional School Committees in the state.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approve EBBC - AED Policy (revised), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve EBBC - AED Policy (revised) as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley stated that this policy was first reviewed by the Health &

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Wellness Subcommittee and then recommended to the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Bullard stated that the Health & Wellness Subcommittee worked with the district nurses regarding this policy. The updated policy no longer lists the locations of AEDs in the buildings and states that each district building will be equipped with one or more AEDs that are readily accessible to school staff and public and appropriate signage will be posted in each building showing locations of each AED. Superintendent Riley stated that the question on the bottom of page 3 of the policy will be removed as it was a question for the Policy Subcommittee to consider regarding who should be trained and this was an editing mistake.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Approve ECAF - Video Surveillance on School Department Property Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve ECAF - Video Surveillance on School Department Property Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley stated that we did not have this policy in place previously and this was written by Attorney Carroll for Portsmouth School Department. Superintendent Riley will find out how long the video recordings are stored and share with the committee at the next meeting.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Approve IJOC - Volunteers in Schools Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve IJOC - Volunteers in Schools Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley stated that we did not have this policy in place but had procedures that we were following; this policy was also written by Attorney Carroll for Portsmouth School District and the policy was updated for our district.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. Approve removal of JED - Student Absences and Excuses Policy and replace it with JE - Student Attendance Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve removal of JED - Student Absences and Excuses Policy and replace it with JE - Student Attendance Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

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DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley explained that the old policy JED - Student Absences and Excuses Policy lacked content and only mentioned KMS and MHHS; the new policy JE - Student Attendance Policy was developed to include the work Assistant Superintendent Sanna has been doing with a district team that has less punitive language and supports parents/guardians. Superintendent Riley stated that college visits will be added as an Excused Absence in the policy.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Approve JLIG - Sun Safety Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve JLIG - Sun Safety Policy (new), as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first reading; seconded by Ms. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley stated that this policy is geared towards students only applying their own sunscreens.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Notice of Emergency Funding for KMS HVAC System per Rhode Island Department of Education

Superintendent Riley shared that the district had an immediate need for replacing the HVAC system at KMS and submitted the request to RIDE for emergency funding. The district will receive a reimbursement from RIDE for this work not to exceed \$308,000.00.

H. Approval of MOA for the Learning Inside Out Initiative SBA Capital Fund Grant

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the MOA for the Learning Inside Out Initiative SBA Capital Fund Grant; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Riley stated that the school committee saw a proposal from Rockwell and KMS for a \$100,000 grant for each school for the Learning Inside Out Initiative for a total of \$200,000 for the district. This grant was approved by RIDE and this MOA requires the signatures of each School Committee member.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

I. Resolutions (2) as required by RIDE's Stage 2 Necessity of Construction application
i. US EPA's Tools for Schools Program - School Committee agrees that upcoming construction project will Adhere to the requirements of NE CHPS OM5.0 - Indoor Environmental Management Plan

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MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the Resolution as required by RIDE's Stage 2 Necessity of Construction application regarding the US EPA's Tools for School Program and that the School Committee agrees that the upcoming construction project will adhere to the requirements of NE CHPS OM5.0 - Indoor Environmental Management Plan; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Crittenden explained that Tools for Schools is an EPA program regarding Indoor Air quality during construction and through occupancy; and this motion is a vote by the School Committee stating that they commit to oversee the process and make sure that the construction project adheres to the requirements set forth in the plan.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- ii. Rhode Island School as a Tool Protocol - School Committee agrees that the upcoming construction project (s) Adhere to the requirements of the Rhode Island School as a Tool Protocol.

MOTION: Mr. McGovern made a motion to approve the resolution as required by RIDE's Stage 2 Necessity of Construction application regarding Rhode Island School as a Tool Protocol that the School Committee agrees that the upcoming construction project(s) adhere to the requirements of the Rhode Island School as a Tool Protocol; seconded by Ms. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Crittenden explained that the School as a Tool resolution is about making sure that the construction projects in the schools are shared and everything in the student's learning environment is an opportunity to engage with and see the construction process as it progresses.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

J. Draft Letter to the Editor on School Construction Projects to date

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the letter to the editor on school construction projects to date; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson Piper stated that this letter was drafted to share with the community at large to give a high level explanation and status of the school construction projects to date from the full School Committee. Ms. McBride asked that her name be removed from the letter to the editor.

VOTE: The motion was approved with a vote of 8-1. Ms. McBride voted in dissent.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary

/kmb