

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

Monday, February 13, 2023

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, February 13, 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; Kyle Jackson, Marjorie McBride, Carly Reich, Karen Cabral, and Sarah Bullard; Ana Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Colwell, Ph.D., Director of Student Support Services; Frank Caliri, Facilities Director; Rose O'Connor, Director of Technology; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

I. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Nicky Piper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion for the Committee to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1) and 42-46-5(a)(9) for discussion of job performance , character, or physical or mental health of a person and a discussion of a grievance filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement;. The motion was seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously. The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:30PM.

III. RE-OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Piper re-opened the Open Session of the School Committee at 7:00 PM

IV. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jessica Almeida publicly commented on the SEL Survey and options for parents to opt-out, requesting that their children not participate in the survey. She requested that School Committee Policies related to surveys be reviewed.

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VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Piper asked if any member of the School Committee wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to approve all items under the Consent Agenda.

- A. Homeschool Request - 1 family
- B. Minutes of 1-23-23 School Committee Business Meeting
- C. NSBA Annual Conference attendance
- D. Bristol Rotary Donation to Rockwell Art Department
- E. Non-renewals

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. McBride.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve and Seal the minutes of the Executive Session

MOTION: Ms. McBride made a motion to approve and seal the minutes of the Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approve Stage I Necessities of Construction Application

Jared Jackson, representing Colliers explained that Colliers has completed the Stage I Necessities of Construction Application that is due to be submitted by February 15. He explained that Stage I identifies the District's needs for building repairs and upgrades, which is estimated to cost \$28m, with \$18m of that estimate needed for the high school. Superintendent Riley explained that there are three priority levels, with Level I identifying what is needed to keep the building going and Level III identifying what will be needed in the next 5-10 years. She added that \$19m is the estimated cost for Level I, \$13m of that for the high school.

Superintendent Riley further explained that the School Committee's vote is not what the District plans to spend now. The Stage I application only informs RIDE of the District's need.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the Stage I Necessities of Construction Application as presented; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

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C. FY24 District Budget Proposal

Superintendent presented her proposed 2024 District Budget requesting a 1.39% increase to \$58,931,499. She explained that to balance the 2023 Budget, \$497,324 would be taken from the Fund Balance. She added that the Fund Balance still remains healthy and within the limits of district policy.

DISCUSSION: After some discussion, Superintendent Riley advised that a policy should be developed to define the Fund Balance, etc. so that the guidelines are clear.

Ms. Thibaudeau stated that as a Warren taxpayer, she is concerned about the tax base. She would like to see the District bring in more revenues, using the CTE programs as an example of sources of revenue. Superintendent Riley responded that the District does not have the capacity to compete with other districts. She is looking to expand the CTE offerings, which will increase revenues, but that the district is limited by facility space.

Ms. Bullard asked about the impact of inflation. Superintendent responded that inflation has had an impact on transportation, food services, supplies, paper, and other items.

Chairperson Piper asked if the District needs to “pay back” the Fund Balance. Superintendent Riley responded that the District has enough in the Fund Balance that it does not need to repay it and she plans to keep it that way.

No action was taken.

D. Standardize Monthly Financial Reports

- i. Cash Disbursements
- ii. Monthly Financial Report with Variance Analysis
- iii. Budget Transfer Report

Superintendent Riley reviewed the monthly financial reports. No action was taken.

E. Resolution regarding fully funding regional Transportation Aid

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the Transportation Aid Resolution; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Resolution related to removing the BWRSD from school bus district region III and placing the BWRSD in school bus District region V.

MOTION: Ms. Cabral made a motion to approve the Resolution requesting a change in District’s school bus district region; seconded by Mr. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

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- G. Approve Policy KH - Public Gifts to the Schools, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve Policy KH for a first reading; seconded by Mr. McGovern.

VOTE: The motion was approved with a vote of 6-3. Ms. McBride, Ms. Thibaudeau, and Ms. Cabral voted in dissent.

- H. Approve the removal of Policy IFD - Curriculum Adoption, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve the removal of Policy IFD; seconded by Ms. Reich.

VOTE: The motion was approved with a vote of 5-3-1. Ms. Almeida, Ms. Thibaudeau, and Ms. Cabral voted in dissent. Ms. McBride abstained.

- I. Approve New Policy DKC - Travel Expense Authorization Reimbursement Policy, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy DKC; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau. The motion was approved unanimously.

- J. Approve Policy CB School Superintendent, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy CB; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- K. Approve removal of Policy CBA Qualifications and Duties of the Superintendent, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the removal of Policy CBA; seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- L. Approve removal of Policy CBC Superintendent's Contract/Compensation and Benefits, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich voted to approve the removal of Policy CBC; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

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- M. Approve removal of Policy CBH Superintendent, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the removal of Policy CBH; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

- N. Approve the title change and re-coding of Policy DLA Payday Schedules to DKA Payroll Schedules, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, for a first Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the re-coding and title change of Policy DLA to Policy DKA Payroll Schedules; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- O. Approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DIE Audits, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DIE; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- P. Approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DI; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Q. Approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DBJ Budget Implementation, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy DBJ; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- R. Approve the review and re-coding of Policy DBG Budget Hearings and Reviews to Policy DBF Budget Hearings and Reviews, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the first reading and re-coding of Policy DBG to Policy DBF Budget Hearings and Reviews; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

- S. Approve the revision and re-coding of Policy DBH Budget Adoption Procedures to

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Policy DBG Budget Adoption Procedures, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee for a first reading.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the first reading and re-coding of Policy DBH to Policy DBG Budget Adoption Procedures; seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms Thibaudeau. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary

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