

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

Monday, January 9, 2023

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, January 9, 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, Director of Student Support Services; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

I. OPEN SESSION

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. McBride made a motion for the Committee to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) (2) for the purpose of legal advice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reich. 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. National Anthem sung by Mt. Hope Vocal Ensemble

Chairperson Piper invited all present to rise for the National Anthem, sung by Chorus members from the District's elementary and high school choral groups.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Piper invited all present to continue standing and to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. ACCOLADES

A. Mr. David Scarpino, Chair of the Bristol Christmas Festival Committee

Mr. David Scarpino explained to the Committee that the focus of the 2022 Bristol Christmas Festival Committee was on children. He initially started the season by inviting Ms. Susan Winterbottom-Shadday and the Bristol Elementary School

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Choruses to sing at some of the events sponsored by the Christmas Festival Committee. To his surprise, she came with 100 children! He commended them and the other talented students and their directors for their participation in the many activities and events of the Festival. He also thanked Ms. Lauren Enjeti for the coloring book that her art students made for distribution in Santa's House. He stated that the students and their directors, Ms. Winterbottom-Shadday, Ms. Kerri Thurber, Mr. Christopher Lambert, and Mr. David Lauria were a beautiful addition to the festivities.

Superintendent Riley acknowledged and thanked the chorus for their community spirit. She added that, in addition to the Bristol festivities, the musical groups from Hugh Cole and Kickemuit Middle School, under the direction of Ms. Elizabeth St. Pierre and Mr. Andre Arsenault, participated in the Town of Warren's holiday festivities.

B. Bonnie Dion, Heroic Efforts at Hugh Cole Elementary School, December 2022

Principal Colin Grimsey of Hugh Cole Elementary School, commended Teachers' Aide Bonnie Dion for saving a student's life in the cafeteria in early December and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

C. Superintendent Riley presented certificates of achievement to students in the district that achieved perfect scores on the 2022 RICAS Assessments. Students that were commended were Ian Teixeira, Hugh Cole Elementary, Perfect Score, Math RICAS - 4th Grade Assessment, Kaia Brown, Kickemuit Middle School, Perfect Score, ELA RICAS - 6th Grade Assessment, Nathanael Bagg, Kickemuit Middle School, Perfect Score, Math & ELA RICAS - 8th Grade Assessment, Kaila Rocha, Colt Andrews Elementary School, Perfect Score, Math RICAS - 4th Grade Assessment, Summer O'Brien, Colt Andrews Elementary School, Perfect Score, Math RICAS - 4th Grade Assessment, and Cascadia Dawson, Rockwell Elementary School, Perfect Score, ELA RICAS - 3rd Grade Assessment.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Hewitt, Bristol resident, reminded the Committee that he last spoke of a curriculum from Hillsdale College. He distributed copies of that curriculum to the Committee.

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He also asked about Policy BDE which he did not find on the District's website. Superintendent Riley explained that the new Policy BDE was renamed and revised from the original Policy BCE.

VII. PRESENTATION

A. District Report Card

Assistant Superintendent Sanna presented an overview of the District's RIDE Report Card results. She explained that RIDE used a number of measures to evaluate the performance of each of the schools in RI and, based on their performance, used a star rating system to provide feedback to each District on their achievements and where they can improve and focus on any achievement gaps that are highlighted as part of the evaluation process. This is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Schools are measured based on academic performance, student success, and college & career readiness. The ratings for each school are:

Colt Andrews Elementary School: 3 stars, down from 4 stars last year, due to student and teacher absenteeism and student growth/achievement. Colt Andrews is identified for targeted support and improvement for achievement for students with disabilities.

Guiteras Elementary School: 4 stars, with student ELA achievement holding it back from a 5-star rating.

Rockwell Elementary School: 4 stars, down from 5 starts last year, due to student absenteeism rate.

Hugh Cole Elementary School: 3 stars, due to student achievement and growth. Hugh Cole is also identified for targeted support and improvement for achievement for students with disabilities.

Kickemuit Middle School: 3 stars, due to student and teacher absenteeism and student growth and achievement. KMS is identified for targeted support and improvement for achievement & growth of students with disabilities and English learners.

Mt. Hope High School: 4 stars, up from 3 stars, bolstered by strong 5-star rating in ELA and Math growth. MHHS school can improve further by addressing student and teacher absenteeism and continued focus on academic achievement. The school is identified for targeted support and improvement for achievement and growth for students with disabilities.

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Assistant Superintendent explained that the Report Card ratings will be shared with families and community through newsletters and the District website. She added that School Improvement Teams will use the data to work on improvement planning at each school. Additional information can be found on the District and RIDE websites.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Reich asked about absenteeism rates. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that some of the absenteeism can be attributed to COVID. She added that the District has implemented tiers of support to address the issue. Tier 1, school social workers work with the families to address any issues that are keeping students out of school; Tier 2 is a formal letter, followed up with a phone call; and Tier 3 is another letter. She noted that ASPEN is used to monitor potential chronic attendance issues.

Ms. Cabral asked if there are any incentives for better attendance. Superintendent Riley responded that KMS has initiated a competition among the teams, rewarding those teams for their attendance rates. She added that before the break, some of the schools had an outbreak of flu, but that she sees improvement. She also stated that in the past, due to COVID, parents were keeping their children out for any sign of illness in an overabundance of caution. Students no longer need to stay home for just the sniffles.

Mr. McGovern asked about the difference between an excused vs. unexcused absence. Superintendent Riley answered that there is none at this time, but that the Administration is working on this differentiation.

Ms. Almeida asked for a link to the data, which the Superintendent stated would be provided.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Piper asked if any member of the School Committee wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Seeing no requests, she asked for a motion to approve all items under the Consent Agenda.

A. Minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting

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

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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X. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Policy BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee, as recommended by Superintendent Riley, for a 2nd Reading

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Policy BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee; seconded by Ms. Almeida. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approve Policy BDE-R - Subcommittees of the School Committee, as recommended by Superintendent Riley, for a 2nd Reading

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Policy BDE-R - Subcommittees of the School Committee; seconded by Mr. McGovern.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to amend the motion to add “Facilities” to the name of the Budget Subcommittee; seconded by Ms. McBride.

DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Riley explained that Facilities responsibilities fall under the Superintendent, the Director of Facilities, and the Building Committee. She explained that the Building Committee is working on a 5-year plan that will include a budget that the School Committee will approve when it’s complete. She added that regular updates and reports will be presented to the Committee.

Ms. McBride feels that maintenance items may not be part of the 5-year plan and should be overseen by the Budget Subcommittee. Ms. Thibaudeau agreed.

Superintendent Riley stated that the items Ms. McBride suggested as examples should go to her office, as she’s the person responsible for them.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked about the District’s contracts and RFPs and how they will be tracked.

VOTE: The motion on the Amendment failed with a vote of 4-5, with Chairperson Piper, Ms. Bullard, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Jackson, and Ms. Reich voting in dissent.

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VOTE: The original motion was approved with a vote of 5-4, with Ms. Almeida, Ms. Thibaudeau, Ms. McBride, and Ms. Cabral voting in dissent.

C. Standardize Monthly Financial Reports

- a) Cash Disbursements
- b) Monthly Financial Report with Variance Analysis
- c) Budget Transfer Report

Superintendent Riley, replacing Mr. Ferrucci, who retired at the end of December, presented the monthly financial reports, stating that not much has changed since the last meeting. She added that the Audit is progressing and should be completed by the end of January. She added that the District's request for an extension of the audit's timeline was approved.

D. Legislative Priorities

Superintendent Riley stated that a breakfast meeting is planned with the local legislatures to discuss priorities that the School Committee feels are important, including Transportation. Ms. Thibaudeau asked her to add the Enabling Legislation and Regional Bonus to the topics to discuss.

E. Subcommittee Appointments

Chairperson Piper read off the names of the members of the Subcommittees for 2023-2024:

Policy Subcommittee

Carly Reich, Chair
Kyle Jackson
Sarah Bullard

Budget Subcommittee

Jessica Almeida, Chair
Tara Thibaudeau
Adam McGovern

Personnel Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Nicky Piper, Chair
Kyle Jackson
Carly Reich

Health & Wellness Committee

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Sarah Bullard, Chair
Karen Cabral
Nicky Piper

Student Hearings

Nicky Piper, Chair

Building Committee

Chaired by Superintendent Riley
Adam McGovern
Tara Thibaudeau

F. Proposed 2023-2024 Calendar

Superintendent Riley presented her first draft of the 2023-2024 Calendar for feedback. She noted that the Professional Development Days are not included as she waits from feedback from the BWEA, staff, and the State. She asked that if anyone has any feedback on the calendar that they should contact her.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms Thibaudeau. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. McGovern. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary /dbc