

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

**Monday, December 12, 2022**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, December 12, 2022 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; Kyle Jackson, Marjorie McBride, Carly Reich, Karen Cabral, and Sarah Bullard; Ana Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Financial Officer; Frank Caliri, Director of Facilities; Lisa Colwell, Director of Student Support Services; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

Absent: Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary

**I. OPEN SESSION**

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

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion for the Committee to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) (1) for the purpose of discussion of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person. 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 join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erik Lund, Warren parent, told the School Committee that his 1st grader has been exposed to aggressive behavior in his classroom and that he repeats this behavior when he gets home. He does not think that the classroom is a safe space for his son. He is disappointed that it's taking so long to resolve the issue.

Lindsay Lund, Warren parent, also expressed her concern for her son's safety and emotional health. She stated that her son is afraid to go to sleep at night and had "accidents" in the classroom, which he never had before this year. She asked the School Committee to do what it can to provide her son with a safe classroom.

Jenn Cunningham, Warren parent, has concerns about the academic well-being of her daughter in that same classroom. She explained that her daughter is anxious and not able to concentrate on her work. She wanted to make the School Committee aware of the events that are happening in the classroom and is looking for assurances that the District will be addressing the issue

Peter Hewitt, Bristol resident, congratulated the new members of the School Committee and Chairperson Piper on her new role. He spoke of a school called Hillsdale College which has a

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curriculum that he feels is better suited for the District. He recommended that the Superintendent research their curriculum and its applicability to the BW District.

### VI. PRESENTATION

#### A. Special Education Update

Ms. Colwell updated the School Committee on her transition since her start with the District in early August. She reviewed her primary goals of her Entry Plan: to develop a deep understanding of the district; to review current practices in the Student Services office; and to provide recommendations to the Superintendent on status and needs. She continued to elaborate on each of her actions toward achieving the goals focusing on procedures, 2022-2023 school year, staffing and programs, leadership, and families and the community.

#### DISCUSSION:

Ms. Reich stated that she appreciated the inclusion of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC). She asked if there were any unbudgeted items. Ms. Colwell responded that there were some but that they are being addressed and will be included in the budget plans for next year.

Ms. Bullard asked who was responsible for crisis intervention. Ms. Colwell responded that building principals have established teams that are being trained in de-escalation and intervention.

Mr. McGovern asked for a further explanation of the role of the LAC. Ms. Colwell explained that parents will meet and provide feedback and suggestions for the needs of the District. There will also be some personal learning opportunities for parents of special needs students.

Ms. Cabral asked about the transition of the data to the Aspen database. Ms. Colwell explained that Aspen will allow the district to streamline the various platforms that are currently being used. She explained that it is a robust application that offers ways to help track student data and provide the District with consistent information regarding timelines, accommodations, etc.

From the Public, Mr. Hewitt asked about examples of intervention. Ms. Colwell stated that the staff is trained to use de-escalation strategies first. Ms. Hewitt tried to bring up a specific example, but Attorney Carroll ruled that his question is out of order.

From the Public, Amy Stone, asked about out-of-district placements and if the students are tracked. Ms. Colwell responded that the District acts as the case manager for all students in out-of-district settings and follows the student's progress regularly.

### VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Piper asked if any member of the School Committee wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda.

Ms. McBride requested that Item E be removed from the Consent Agenda.

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the School Committee and will be enacted by one motion.

- A. Minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting
- B. Minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting
- C. Approve Kickemuit Middle School Principal Contract

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- D. Approve Mt Hope High School Principal Contract
- E.

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

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

Superintendent Riley announced that, with the Consent Agenda vote, KMS Principal Dennis Morrell’s contract was extended an additional two years and Principal Michelle King was appointed as permanent Principal for Mt. Hope High School for three years.

- E. Approve MOU for 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund

Ms. McBride requested an explanation of this item. Superintendent Riley explained that this fund is similar to the Arts Fund that was approved earlier in the year. It is for \$210,000.

Mr. McGovern asked how the funds will be spent. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that most of the funds will be used to update the Kickemuit Middle School science classrooms in support of the STEM curriculum. Superintendent Riley added that spending will be limited to the amount allowed in the budget.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

**X. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

- B. Approve the 2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the proposed 2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Approve contract with EAB Partnership to improve teacher morale and enable successful and sustainable principal leadership

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve the contract with EAB Partnership; seconded by Mr. Jackson.

Superintendent Riley explained that EAB is a research company that will be able to help the District with its efforts to improve climate, culture, staff morale, and Principal leadership, as part of the District’s Strategic Plan. The cost will be paid through ESSER III funds.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Approve Policy BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee and the removal of Policy BCE, as recommended by Superintendent Riley, for a 1st Reading

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MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve Policy BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee and to remove Policy BCE as recommended by the Superintendent; seconded by Mr. Jackson.

Superintendent Riley stated that Policy BCE should be removed because its language is repeated in Policy BDE. She further explained that the proposed changes to Policy BDE have been cleaned up of extra wording.

### DISCUSSION:

Ms. McBride explained that the Chair and the Vice-Chair are part of determining who is on the subcommittees and that, according to the previous policy, the full committee does not need to approve the appointments.

Superintendent Riley explained that the inclusion of approval by the full committee is in compliance with national standards.

Chairperson Piper reminded the committee that the Superintendent is suggesting that the motion include the statement that their approval constitutes a final approval, without a 2nd Reading. She asked if anyone would like to amend the original motion.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to amend her motion to eliminate the need for a 2nd Reading; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding the applicability of Policy BF - School Committee Policy Development, Adoption, and Dissemination, which requires two readings before a policy is adopted.

After further discussion, it was decided to remove the current motion and the amendment to that motion. Ms. Reich withdrew her motion and amendment.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to suspend Policy BF for Items D&E only, to remove the requirement for a 2nd Reading, citing the (emergency) urgent need to adopt so that subcommittees can begin their work; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

Attorney Carroll advised the committee that the motion to suspend the policy must pass with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote in order to be approved.

VOTE: The motion failed with a vote of 5-3. Ms. Cabral, Ms. Almeida, and Ms. McBride voted in dissent.

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve Policy BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee for a first reading and to remove Policy BCE as recommended by the Superintendent; seconded by Mr. Jackson.

Ms. McBride requested that the 2nd Reading of the Policy be changed to remove "subject to approval by the Committee" and to add "and Vice-Chair".

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VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. Approve Policy BDE-R - Subcommittees of the School Committee and the removal of Policy BCE-R as recommended by Superintendent Riley, for a 1st Reading

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve Policy BDE-R - Subcommittees of the School Committee for a first reading and the removal of Policy BCE-R, as recommended by the Superintendent; seconded by Mr. McGovern.

Superintendent Riley explained that the Student Discipline section will be adjusted in the 2nd Reading to remove the new paragraph (red).

Ms. Almeida asked why “curriculum” was removed from the title of the Policy Subcommittee and “facilities” was removed from the title of the Budget Subcommittee. Ms. McBride further explained that “facilities” are a part of the budget process and should remain.

Attorney Carroll reminded the Committee that Subcommittees are advisory and that anything that needs a vote will come to the full committee.

MOTION: Ms. McBride made a motion to amend the motion to keep “Facilities” to the title of the Budget Subcommittee and “Curriculum” to the title of the Policy Subcommittee; seconded by Ms. Almeida.

Mr. McGovern asked for clarification on which facilities are involved in the Budget Subcommittee vs. the Building Committee. Ms. McBride explained that the Subcommittee level is where the public and others have an opportunity to ask questions relevant to operations and maintenance that they may have.

VOTE: The amendment failed with a vote of 3-5 with Mr. Jackson, Ms. Reich, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Bullard, and Chairperson Piper voting in dissent.

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

- F. Approve removal of former Policy BDE - Student Discipline Hearings, as recommended by Superintendent Riley

MOTION: Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve the removal of former Policy BDC - Student Discipline Hearings; seconded by Ms McBride. The motion was approved unanimously.

- G. Standardize Monthly Financial Reports
  1. Cash Disbursements
  2. Monthly Financial Report
  3. Variance Analysis Report
  4. Budget Transfer Report

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Mr. Ferrucci reviewed the financial reports. He added that the Budget process for next year is just starting. He did note that State Aid will be higher than expected this year by approximately \$800,000.

Superintendent Riley stated that she will be cautious going forward until the governor's final budget is passed in case there are cuts due to reduced enrollment.

H. Legislative Priorities

Superintendent Riley introduced this item as an opportunity to brainstorm on legislative priorities. She asked the committee to send her ideas that could be brought up with the State Legislatures. She gave as an example the fact that Bristol-Warren's transportation costs are higher because their assigned region is far away. She proposes asking the legislature to move Bristol-Warren to a region that is closer to the two towns.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms McBride. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. McGovern. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary /dbc