

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

**Monday, October 17, 2022**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, October 17, 2022 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chairperson; Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; and Erin Schofield, Nicky Piper, 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; Deborah DiBiase, Ph.D., District MTSS Coordinator.

**I. OPEN SESSION**

Chairperson Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35PM.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: Ms. Piper 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, RIGL 42-46-5(a) (3) - Matter of Security regarding the District Security Plans. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously. The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:35PM.

**III. RE-OPEN SESSION**

Chairperson McBride re-opened the Open Session of the School Committee at 6:58 PM

**IV. OPENING BUSINESS**

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Ceremony led by Boy Scout Troop 6

Chairperson McBride invited all present to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Boy Scout Troop 6.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson McBride opened up the meeting for Public Comment.

Adam McGovern, Bristol parent, spoke about the transition from elementary school to middle school. He encourages the School committee to look for opportunities to strengthen the transition between the elementary level to the middle school level and to standardize that process across all the elementary schools.

Ms. Ellsworth, Bristol parent and School Committee member, reflected upon her tenure as a member of the School Committee and the challenges that she, along with the committee, faced. She thanked the Superintendent and the Financial Officer for all their

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hard work and support in facing those challenges. She is optimistic about the future. She encouraged future School Committees to put students first in their deliberations and to put their differences aside to work together with open and honest dialog.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Ms. Thibideau made a motion to approve all the remaining items on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

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 September 12, 2022 meeting
- B. Minutes of the September 26, 2022 meeting
- C. Review, reaffirm and renumber Policy BDC - Executive Sessions to Policy BEC - Executive Sessions to conform with NEPN/NSBA Coding Standards, at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee
- D. Review, reaffirm Policy BHD - School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses, at the recommendation of the Policy Curriculum Subcommittee
- E. Review, reaffirm and renumber Policy BI - School Committee Legislative Program to Policy BJ - School Committee Legislative Program, to conform with NEPN/NSBA Coding Standards, at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee
- F. Review, reaffirm and renumber Policy BJA - Liaison with School Committee Associations to Policy BKA - Liaison with School Committee Associations, to conform with NEPN Coding Standards, at the recommendation of the Policy Curriculum Subcommittee
- G. Remove Policy BFCA - School Committee Review of Regulations (included in Policy BF) at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee.
- H. Remove Policy BFG/BFGA - Policy Review and Evaluation/Manual Accuracy Check (included in Policy BF) at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee
- I. Homeschool Requests - 9 students from 7 families
- J. Approval of Accounting Manager contract

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

Superintendent Riley announced that, with the Consent Agenda vote, the District hired Georgiana Murphy as the new Accounting Manager that will be joining the business office. She is looking forward to working with her.

**VII. PRESENTATION**

- A. MTSS (Multi Tiered Systems of Support)

Dr. DiBiase presented an overview of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). She began by explaining that MTTTS is a framework for whole school improvement that ensures that ALL students are supported for meeting academic, behavioral, and social

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emotional outcomes. It is a system designed to stop students from “slipping through the cracks” proactively.

The benefit of the whole child approach is that it provides a coherent system for continuous improvement built around a common understanding, while supporting teachers with clearly defined processes, roles, responsibilities, and accountability.

There are four essential components of MTSS: Screening, multi-level prevention, progress monitoring, and data-based decision making.

Dr. DiBiase’s current focus is on building the structures and systems that go into MTSS, including establishing an MTSS District Advisory Team & School-based teams, evaluating schedules to provide sufficient time for intervention, Academics Tier One (strengthening core instruction), and Academics Tier Two & Tier Three (increased professional learning for implementing evidence-based interventions). Additional structures/systems are SEL/Behavior Tier One, SEL/Behavior Tiers Two & Three, Program Evaluation, and ongoing professional learning for district & school-based leadership teams.

The program was launched at Kickemuit MS on October 14, with implementation across all elementary schools by November 3. The program begins with a pilot of Social, academic, emotional, behavior Risk ScreenerS (SAEBRS).

### DISCUSSION:

Ms. Reich asked about how the program will be assessed for effectiveness. Dr. DiBiase responded that the program will be assessed by applying & reinforcing a holistic approach with mid- and end-of-year check-ins to evaluate progress.

Ms. Reich asked about sustainability. Dr. DiBiase explained that the structures/processes that will be in place will help to sustain a system that’s working, while being continually improved.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked in which classes the program would be implemented. Dr. DiBiase responded that the program will run during MS Advisories and, at this time, piloted in Grades K, 2, 5, 8 & 9. Superintendent Riley added that the screenings are a requirement of eligibility for ESSER funds.

Chairperson McBride asked what teachers will be doing with the data. Dr. DiBiase explained that teachers are encouraged to use techniques in their classrooms that are being taught during professional development that covers modeling, integration into curriculum, coaching, and reinforcement.

Ms. Piper asked if there are any case studies that show that MTSS works. Dr. DiBiase responded that there are several studies and case studies, specific to the 2nd Step. She will send a link.

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Ms. Piper asked how the program will be explained to families. Dr. DiBiase stated that the Teams are developing a communications plan for families and staff that will be in layman's language.

Ms. Ellsworth wanted to understand what responsive classrooms are. Dr. DiBiase explained that it is not a program, but an approach to teaching.

A parent from the public asked if the program comes from RIDE. Superintendent Riley responded in the affirmative. The program will be rolled out to parents in letters and as part of school newsletters. The District is committed to the program for 2 years (funded by ESSER) and beyond that by the District. She noted that it will take between 3-5 years to do a full assessment of the program.

Dr. DiBiase provided a timeline for the implementation of the program.

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

A. Approve Policy BDG - School Attorney, 2nd Reading

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy BDG - School Attorney; seconded by Ms. Schofield. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approve Policy JIC - Code of Conduct Policy, 2nd Reading

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy JIC - Code of Conduct; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Ms. Thibaudeau stated that she feels that expectations aren't strong or clear enough. Superintendent Riley stated that student behavior is part of the Student Handbooks and that the policy is for the parents.

Ms. Ellsworth requested a footnote on the law for *in loco parentis*.

VOTE: The motion was approved 5-4, with Ms. Cabral, Ms. Thibaudeau, Ms. Ellsworth, and Chairperson McBride voting in dissent.

C. Approve Policy JLIF - Suicide Prevention and Policy JLIF-R - RI Model Policy on Suicide Prevention, at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, for a 1st Reading

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approved the first reading of Policy JLIF-Suicide Prevention and Policy JLIF-R RI Model Policy on suicide Prevention; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Chairperson McBride suggested changing the number for JLIF-R to JLIF-E for more efficient updating in the future because Exhibits (E) do not need school committee approval to be updated.

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Ms. Thibaudeau asked where suicide prevention is taught. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that it is covered in grades 7 & 8 and as part of the high school Health curriculum.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked how teachers were taught. Superintendent Riley stated that the District offered training to staff prior to the school year. Due to the length of the training, it's not easy to fit into a regular professional development day, so she is seeking other sources of training for teachers and staff.

There were several questions on the issue of a district mental health professional determining if a child is ready to return if they do not have a doctor's note. Ms. Colwell explained the qualifications of the District's mental health professionals. She assured the committee that the decision will be based on their clinical judgment and could result in the student easing back into the school environment through shorter days/weeks or with support. Ms. Bullard suggested changing the word "qualified" to "certified" to be more accurate.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Approve Policy JLCD - Medical Marijuana Administration in Schools and JLCD-R - Procedure for Administration of Medication to Students, at the recommendation of the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee, for a 1st Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy JLCD - Medical Marijuana Administration in Schools and Policy JLCD-R - Procedure for Administration of Medication to Students; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Ms. Piper doesn't think that there needs to be a separate policy and that medical marijuana should be treated the same as other prescribed medications. Attorney Carroll stated that the separate policy for Medical Marijuana is required by the State.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. Approve Virtual Instructional Day Program

Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the Virtual Instructional Day Program; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Superintendent Riley explained that the Virtual Instructional Day Program has been shared with staff and the union, and that with the Committee's approval it will be submitted to RIDE. The District is allowed to use 4 virtual instructional days in lieu of snow days. She pointed out that it is better to have virtual days than to extend the school year in June.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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F. Approve and Seal the Minutes of the Executive Session

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve and seal the minutes of the Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Chairperson McBride announced that the Committee voted to approve the School Safety Plans in Executive session. Superintendent Riley stated that the Security Plans will be sent to RIDE.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Approve Council 94 Contract

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the Council 94 Contract; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Chairperson McBride thanked the committee and staff that worked on the contract. The motion was approved unanimously.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning, Chairperson McBride announced that the last meeting of the current School Committee will be on November 14 and the first meeting of the new School Committee will be on November 28.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Schofield. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc