

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 26, 2022**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, September 26, 2022 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; and Erin Schofield, Nicky Piper, Carly Reich, Karen Cabral; 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; Rose O'Connor, Technology Director; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

Absent: Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chair and Sarah Bullard

I. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM

II. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson McBride invited all present to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson McBride opened up the meeting for Public Comment.

Brian Chidester, representative of the Bristol Warren Education Association, announced that the BWEA is willing to support local candidates for the School Committee. He asked any candidate that is interested in discussing their candidacy with the BWEA should contact him.

Ms. Reich wished the Jewish community a Happy New Year in acknowledgement of Rosh Hashanah. She pointed out that the holiday is considered a major holiday in the Jewish community and she hoped that in the future they will be able to celebrate it without taking time off from work or school.

IV. PRESENTATION

Mr. Kyle J. Connors, CPA and Director with Marcum Accountants did a presentation on the District's 2021 financial statement audit and financial results.

Key points:

- Total Fund Balance increased by \$279,000
- Revenue received was above budget by \$988,000, due to prior administration under estimation
- Expenditures were \$477,000 below appropriated amounts

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- District has made all required contributions to State pension plans; total Net Pension Liability totals \$50.1 million
- Total OPEB liability is \$15.5 million

Mr. Connors concluded his presentation by reviewing their 2 findings and he discussed recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Ellsworth asked Mr. Ferrucci if there were processes in place to address the identified issues. Mr. Ferrucci responded that he has submitted an action plan to the Federal government. He noted that it has been difficult to address the findings in Fy2022 due to how late the issue was identified and the lack of appropriate staff to divide the work to meet the proper segregation of duties that are required. He stated that the same issues will be noted in the Fy2022 year's audit.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson McBride removed Item A: Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Workshop

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. Schofield.

- B. Homeschool Requests: 7 students, 6 families
- C. Data Manager Contract

Superintendent Riley introduced the Committee to Austin Medeiros who has worked for the District for two years and, with this approval, has been promoted to Data Manager.

VI. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. FY23 Capital Facilities Report

Mr. Caliri reviewed the Capital Facilities report. He reported that under Security Projects, the work on the vestibules will be starting soon. For the Blue Security lights, the bases have been poured and he hopes to have them fully installed soon. He noted that only one of the new LED lights will be installed so that the Historical Society can see them from the road. Once the Historical Society approves them, the others will be installed. The lights are programmable and on/off times are flexible.

Chairperson McBride asked about the generator, which is needed for security in the event of a power outage. Superintendent Riley stated that the District is applying for emergency funding from RIDE to help to pay for them. Mr. Caliri reported that the KMS generator needs to be the size ordered in order to include the data center and needs to be purchased because the existing one is inadequate and approaching end of life. Ms. Schofield asked if students will be able to stay in school in an outage with the new generators. Mr. Caliri responded that students will not be able to stay in school. The

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length of time that the generators will continue depends on the amount of fuel needed to keep the lights on.

Re: the Hugh Cole paving project, Mr. Caliri reported that the holes will be filled this week. It was noted that the Hugh Cole road needs to be repaired. Superintendent Riley stated that it will be put on the 5-year plan.

Ms. Schofield asked how the 5-year plan gets developed. Superintendent Riley stated that the plan begins with input from the Administration team and staff, followed by community meetings, and meetings with the architects. It's a process.

Mr. Caliri continued his report to state that the rooftop HVAC units are on order with delivery date 28 weeks out.

B. Approval of Policy BCA - School Committee Code of Ethics, 2nd Reading

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve Policy BCA - School Committee Code of Ethics for a second reading and adoption; seconded by Ms. Reich. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of Policy BDA - Regular School Committee Meetings, 2nd Reading

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve Policy BDA - Regular School Committee Meetings for a second reading and adoption; seconded by Ms. Schofield. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Approval of Policy JIC - Code of Conduct, 1st Reading

Superintendent Riley provided an update on the policy.

Chairperson McBride asked about the dress code in the Elementary Code of Conduct. Superintendent Riley agreed that it probably doesn't belong there. Chairperson McBride expressed concern about policies telling parents what to do. She doesn't think that the policy needs so much information. Ms. Piper believes that the information is needed to provide principals with guidance. Chairperson McBride would like to remove "Relationship building..." section. Mr. Cabral stated that he has an issue with the dress code. Superintendent Riley stated that she will be reviewing all school handbooks.

Ms. Schofield feels that this is more of a "student expectation of behaviors" policy. Superintendent Riley agreed that this is a policy, not a code of conduct. Ms. Schofield agreed that the policy is light, with more "weight" in the handbooks.

VOTE: The motion was approved 4-3, with Chairperson McBride, Ms. Ellsworth, and Ms. Cabral voting in dissent.

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- E. Standardized Monthly Financial Reports
 - i. Monthly Financial Reports
 - ii. Budget Transfer Report
 - iii. FY22 Year End Budget Update

Mr. Ferrucci reported that since it's early in the school year, there isn't much to report financially. Ms. Ellsworth asked about the DCYF issue. Ms. Colwell explained that in the past bills from out-placement contractors were billed directly to the schools. Now the bills are sent to DCYF for payment and DCYF, in turn, bills the school district. In this case, the bills were not submitted on time. Mr. Ferrucci explained that this issue has been addressed and will not be repeated in this fiscal year.

VOTE: Mr. Cabral made a motion to accept the Financial Reports; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth. The motion was approved unanimously.

- F. Approval of School Physician bid award and contract.

Superintendent Riley announced that Dr. Eldert will be returning as the school physician.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the School PHysician bid award and contract; seconded by Ms. Cabral. The motion was approved unanimously.

- G. Approval of Visitor Management System

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the Visitor Management System; seconded by Ms. Piper.

Superintendent Riley explained that with the new system visitors are asked for their identification, which is check against the national sex offender registry. The system addresses safety and keeps track of visitors in case of the need for an emergency evacuation. The system is also paired with ASPEN to provide alerts if a visitor is a non-custodial parent and is safe.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Piper. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc