

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**Monday, September 12, 2022**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, September 12, 2022 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Victor Cabral, Secretary; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chair, and Karen Cabral, Erin Schofield, Nicky Piper, Carly Reich, Ana Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Lisa Colwell, Director of Student Support Services; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

Absent: Sarah Bullard and Sheila Ellsworth

**I. OPEN SESSION**

Chairperson Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 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. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Riley and Mr. Cabral announced the 2022 Support Staff and Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Riley explained the process for selecting the honorees and related some of the feedback from the district staff for each of them.

Superintendent Riley presented Mr Joe Pacheco with a certificate for Support Staff Person of the Year and Ms. Kimberlie Peecher with a certificate for Teacher of the Year. She announced that they will also be recognized at a special WaterFire event on September 24, when the state will celebrate all the RI District Teachers of the Year.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT** (*Public Comment is limited to not more than 15 minutes; Individuals are asked to limit remarks to three (3) minutes*)

Chairperson McBride opened Public Comment and invited Mr. Peter Hewett to speak.

Peter Hewett, resident of Bristol, spoke about his concerns with the Black Lives Matter mural on a wall at the high school. He hopes that the Principal will reconsider removing it.

After announcing that there were no other requests for Public Comment, Chairperson McBride closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

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**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Minutes of the August 29, 2022 meeting
- B. Homeschool Requests (18 students, 11 families)
- C. Approve the review and reaffirmation of Policy BDC - Executive Session, 1st Reading

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

**VI. PRESENTATION**

- A. Opening of Schools and Summer Projects

Superintendent Riley presented an update on the Opening of Schools and the Summer Projects, with a focus on the security upgrades that are being installed in each school.

Mt. Hope High School completed projects: upgraded cameras and control panel wiring and 16 doors were alarmed and panic buttons were set up. She noted that two emergency Solar 911 Blue Light Towers will be installed, but weather has had an impact on their installation. She also noted that the school will have a School Resource Officer (SRO) and a School Safety Officer (SSO) at the school at all times.

Kickemuit Middle School completed projects: upgraded cameras and control panel wiring and panic buttons. An Emergency Solar 911 Blue Light Tower will also be installed at the athletic field.

Hugh Cole and Rockwell Elementary Schools also had upgraded cameras, and control panel wiring and panic buttons installed. She added that at Rockwell the external doors are being replaced.

Colt Andrews and Guiteras also had cameras and control panel wiring upgraded and panic buttons installed. Colt Andrews also has some external doors replaced, a full-time SSO hired, and sidewalk leveling and drainage improvements. She noted that the Guiteras roof replacement is almost complete. The District is waiting for the delivery of pewter flashing, as approved by the Bristol Historic District Commission, to complete that project.

She added that all of the foyers in all of the schools will be upgraded for safety in the future.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schofield asked about the difference between an SRO and an SSO. Superintendent Riley responded that the SSO works full time for the District and has a background in security. The SRO works for the Police Department.

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Mr. Cabral asked where the Panic Buttons are installed. Superintendent Riley explained that the panic buttons are worn (on a lanyard) by two or more people (for example, the Principal) in each building. If there is an emergency, that person can press the panic button which sends an alarm to the Town Police Department.

Mr. Cabral asked where the alarms on the doors go off. Superintendent Riley explained that they go off at the door, with an alert sent to the Police Department, and stay on until someone shuts it off.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked if there would be a process for having staff provide feedback on the new security system, specifically the door alarms, and if certain doors, used frequently by staff, would be alarmed. Superintendent Riley reiterated that the door alarms are for safety and that, at the high school, only two doors will be open. She hopes to get the number of disarmed doors to only one in the future.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked if the high school still had hall monitors. Superintendent Riley answered that there are no more hall monitors, only the SRO and SSO.

Chairperson McBride asked about the funding source for the upgrades. Superintendent Riley replied that the projects and the funding for them were included in the 5-year Capital Plan.

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

- A. Approve removal of Policy BDD - Presentations, 1st Reading
- B. Approve removal of Policy BDDE - Rules of Order, 1st Reading
- C. Approve removal of Policy BDDEA - Parliamentarian, 1st Reading
- D. Approve removal of Policy BDDEB - Suspension of Rules of Order, 1st Reading
- E. Approval removal of Policy BDDF - Voting Method, 1st Reading

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the removal of Policies BDD, BDDE, BDDEA, BDDEB, and BDDF; seconded by Ms. Piper.

Chairperson McBride confirmed that there is no need for a second reading for removal of policies.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- F. Approve Policy BCA - School Committee Member Code of Ethics, 1st Reading- (Note: number changed from BBF to comply with National Classification Standards)

MOTION: Ms Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the renumbering of Policy BCA; seconded by Ms. Piper.

Superintendent Riley explained that as they are reviewed, policies may be renumbered to comply with the National Education Policy Network (NEPN) Coding System for Classification of School District Policies. In this case, there were no changes to the policy content, only to the number.

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VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- G. Approve Policy BDG- School Attorney, 1st Reading (Note: number changed from BCG to comply with National Classification Standards)

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy BDG - School Attorney; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Chairperson McBride requested that for first readings, that the changes to the Policy be highlighted so that the committee can know what is being changed. Superintendent Riley explained that the original policy was only one sentence. She borrowed a similar policy from the Town of Portsmouth and revised it for the District of Bristol and Warren.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- H. Approval Policy BDA - Regular School Committee Meetings, 1st Reading (Note: includes of language from BDDG - Minutes and BDDG-R- Minutes)

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy BDA - Regular School Committee Meetings; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Superintendent Riley explained that she combined Policy BDA with Policies BDDG and BDDG-R to create one single policy.

Ms. Reich explained further that by reducing the number of policies by combining some of them makes it easier for the community to find all the information relevant to a topic in one place.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- I. Approve removal of Policies BDDG - Minutes and BDDG-R - Minutes, 1st Reading

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to remove Policies BDDG - Minutes and BDDG-R - Minutes; seconded by Mr. Cabral

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- J. Approve Policy JIC - Code of Conduct, 1st Reading

Superintendent Riley introduced the Policy, formerly Policy JFC - BWRSD Code of Conduct Policy, that was revised. She explained that the original policy was more appropriate for a Student Handbook. She explained that the proposed policy contains the philosophy and expectations for student conduct. She noted that the biggest change is in the "District-Wide Behavior Management " section, which explains that District personnel will promote behavior interventions and supports in accordance with this policy and District/school expectations. Discipline will be progressive in nature, taking into account all relevant factors, including the student's age, the nature and circumstance of the offense, prior disciplinary record, and other extenuating circumstances.

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She also reviewed the Restorative Practices and Social-Emotional Screenings and Supports.

**DISCUSSION:**

Chairperson McBride stated that she is concerned that there are no guidelines for consequences, which she would like to see added to ensure that students are treated equally. She would like to see consequences including in the Policy.

Superintendent Riley explained that it is the job of the Principals to impose consequences, not the School Committee.

Attorney Carroll requested a copy of the old Policy for comparison.

Ms. Reich agreed with the need for fairness, but she would not want punishments to be applied without context and consideration of the students' age, etc. She feels that Principals are in a better position to determine the right approach to discipline.

Ms. Piper agreed with the Chairperson, but has faith in the implementation of the Student Handbook.

Chairperson McBride requested to see both the Policy and the Student Handbooks.

Superintendent Riley stated that she will bring the Code of Conduct sections of the Student Handbook and will add a line to the Policy to refer to the Handbook for discipline guidelines.

Ms. Schofield stated that she feels that the policy is more of a "Student Code of Conduct of Expectations". It states what the District expects for behaviors. He advises that the committee look at it in a different way from the way that they looked at the previous Code of Conduct.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked about a Discipline Committee that was planned. Superintendent Riley stated that there was a meeting on June 6, 2022, where principals and SROs were included in the discussion on this Policy.

Ms. Thibaudeau does not agree that each elementary school should have their own Code of Conduct. She would like to see the same Code of Conduct used for all elementary schools. She agrees that discipline should not be included in the Policy.

Ms. Thibaudeau also requested that clearer expectations for students should be added, especially for the middle and high school levels. She noted that there are outlined expectations/guidelines for parents and the district, but not for students. Superintendent Riley will look into implementing her suggestion.

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MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to table the item until the next Business meeting; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

MOTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc