

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

Monday, June 27, 2022

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, June 27, 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, Sarah Bullard; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Financial Officer; Thomas Wood, Director of Facilities; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

Absent: Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chair and Karen Cabral

I. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed to the Public)

MOTION: Mr. Cabral 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 or a person and RIGL §42-46-5(a) (2) for discussion of contract negotiations . The motion was seconded by Ms. Piper. The motion was approved unanimously

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:31PM.

III. Re-OPEN SESSION

Chairperson McBride re-opened the Open Session of the School Committee at 7:04 PM

IV. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

V. 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:

Nina Murphy, Bristol, spoke about lessons she learned from her parents to speak

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out against injustice. She thanked the public that openly supported Principal Deborah DiBiase and the renewal of her contract. She noted that, even though the outcome is not what she hoped for, she believes that the public will benefit from the continued presence of Dr. DiBiase in the District.

Margaret Richards, Bristol, asked about classrooms that are being cut at Colt Andrews. She wanted to know how she can be kept updated on what is happening in the District. She would like to know if there is anything that she can do to change the situation. She is worried that her daughter will not be challenged by extra-curricula programs, etc.

Chairperson McBride suggested that Ms. Richards can contact Dr. Sanna to discuss her concerns. Attorney Carroll explained that the Committee cannot respond to public comments. Assistant Superintendent Sanna stated that she would be available to meet with Ms. Richards.

Peter Hewett, Bristol, stated that he wanted to speak about the High School Principal. He noted that the public seems to like her, but he is concerned about the test scores and academic achievements from her tenure as Principal. He wanted information on the new position at the District level and Dr. DiBiase's qualifications to take on that role.

Michael Byrnes, Bristol, spoke about his concerns about the Black Lives Matter mural that is located at the High School.

Chairperson McBride closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson McBride removed Items B.viii - Accounting Manager and J - FY22 Capital Facilities Projects Report from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Schofield requested that Items B.ix - MTSS Coordinator, G - KMS Bleacher Replacement, H - RI Unemployment Past Claims Due, I - Security UPgrades: Legacy General Contracting, and K - RIDE MOA for Arts Initiative SBA Capital Fund be removed, also.

Chairperson McBride stated that those items will be removed and discussed after the vote on the Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting
- B. Administrator Contracts
 - Middle School Principal
 - Middle School Assistant Principal
 - High School Assistant Principal
 - High School Assistant Principal
 - High School College and Career Coordinator
 - Elementary Principal
 - Elementary Assistant Principal
 -
 -
 - Athletic Director
- C. Cash Disbursements Report
- D. Monthly Financial Report
- E. Variance Analysis Report
- F. Budget Transfer Report
- G.
- H.
- I.
- J.
- K.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

After the Consent Agenda was approved, Assistant Superintendent Sanna provided the names of the Administrators whose contracts were renewed for the upcoming school year.

- Middle School Principal, Dennis Morrell
- Middle School Assistant Principal, Michelle Clifford
- High School Assistant Principal, Michelle King
- High School Assistant Principal, Paul Campion
- High School College and Career Coordinator, Nicole Lyons
- Elementary Principal, Deborah Kearns
- Elementary Assistant Principal, Andre Audette
- Athletic Director, Christina Belisle

B.ix. MTSS Coordinator

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve the contract for the MTSS Coordinator; seconded by Ms. Reich.

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Assistant Superintendent explained the new position, stating that the position is necessary to strengthen the District's efforts to develop procedures and to set up programming that will be consistent across the District. The position is for 2 years and will be funded by the ESSER grant.

VOTE: The motion was approved with a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Cabral voting in dissent.

G - KMS Bleacher Replacement

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve the proposed KMS Bleacher Replacement; seconded by Ms. Piper.

Mr. Wood explained that it is necessary to completely replace the bleachers that are now 60 years old and non-compliant with current safety standards and ADA guidelines.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

H - RI Unemployment Past Claims Due

Mr. Ferrucci explained about unemployment claims that were filed fraudulently. Over the past 6 months, his department has been reviewing the claims and found that there were some that were claimed fraudulently. At this time he has not been able to process an appeal. He recommends that the District pay the claims and follow up with an appeal. In this way, the District stops accumulations of interest and penalties.

I - Security Upgrades: Legacy General Contracting

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve the proposed Security Upgrades, using Legacy General Contracting; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Mr. Wood explained that the security project's intent is to make the buildings secure by still accessible to people who need to get into the buildings.

Ms. Piper asked if there were any funds to pay for this project available from the Federal government. Mr. Ferrucci explained that Housing Aid offsets about 60% of the costs and added that this project is included as part of the old 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and Budget.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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K - RIDE MOA for Arts Initiative SBA Capital Fund

Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that the RIDE MOA for Arts is designed to provide funding to re-engage students through the Arts. The application is time critical. Specific programs to be funded by the SBA Capital Fund will be planned at a later time. The School Committee will be kept informed as programming is implemented.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. 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. Schofield. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Introduction to Educational & Capital 5-Year Plan

Mr. Ferrucci introduced representatives of the architectural firm, Colliers, who did a presentation on the Necessity of Construction Assessment process and requirements of a 5-Year Capital Plan. Mr. Derek Osserman and his team explained that the focus will be on educational space and that they will be conducting an assessment of buildings, educational programs, goals, and the adequacy of space for the next 25 years.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson McBride requested that the process be collaborative with the District, engineers, and the community.

Ms. Schofield stated that she is happy to be going in this direction.

C. Approval of Policy JIC Code of Conduct, First Reading

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve Policy JIC Code of Conduct for a 1st Reading; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Ms. Reich explained that the Policy Curriculum Subcommittee is taking a new look at the Code of Conduct.

Assistant Superintendent Sanna added that the new Policy will focus on relationship building, problem-solving practices and will provide for training of staff to help them in learning how to relate to their students and to solve issues.

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The Committee agreed that as it exists, the proposed Policy does not provide enough information. It was suggested that there be an Exhibit to provide a complete picture of how the Policy will be implemented.

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

VOTE: The Motion to table the initial motion was approved unanimously.

D. Lawn Care Contract

MOTION: Ms. Ellsworth made a motion to approve the Lawn Care Contract; seconded by Ms. Schofield.

Mr. Ferrucci explained that this request was not brought to the Budget Facilities Subcommittee because the bids came in too late. He asked that the contract be approved so that the work can continue during the summer.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to table the initial motion; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

VOTE: The motion to table the initial motion was approved unanimously.

E. School Lunch Contract Renewal

MOTION: Ms. Ellsworth made a motion to approve the renewal of the School Lunch Contract; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Mr. Ferrucci recommends that the contract be awarded to Chartwells. He announced that the Free Lunch program expires on June 30. He requested that the public make sure to get their Free/Reduced Lunch applications in to the District over the summer.

The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Resolution 16-7-40

Chairperson McBride explained that the Resolution is asking for an extension due to issues addressed in the 16-7-40 have not yet been completed.

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to approve Resolution 16-7-40; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Piper made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc