

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

Monday, June 13, 2022

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, June 13, 2022 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chair, Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; and Erin Schofield, Nicky Piper, Carly Reich, Karen Cabral, Sarah Bullard; Ana C. Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Financial Officer; Thomas Wood, Director of Facilities; Rose O'Connor, Director of Technology; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

I. OPEN SESSION

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

- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed to the Public)** 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, said person has been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting, and RIGL §42-46-5(a) (2) Contract Negotiations.

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. Thibaudeau. 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 7:05 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

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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 announced that there were four requests for Public Comment and asked them to limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.

Marny Kindness, Warren, asked the School Committee to renew all Administrator contracts, including Dr. DiBiase's. She explained that the students have faced many challenges in the last couple of years and feels that they need stability going forward.

Aradhana Mehta, Bristol, spoke of her support for Dr. DiBiase. She stated that Dr. D is always there for the students at all school events and when they need her. Students have a great deal of love and respect for Dr. D and she feels that they need to have her as they recover from the difficult past two years.

Nina Murphy, Bristol, also called for the renewal of Dr. DiBiase's contract. She stated that there is a tremendous amount of public support for her, using the example of the number of people who requested lawn signs to display their support publicly. She noted that the students have had multiple middle school principals and five superintendents and that Dr. D has been consistently there the whole time.

Heather Harley continued the previous speakers' comments with supporting comments for Dr. DiBiase, noting that this is not the time to add unnecessary turmoil to the student body with a new principal.

Chairperson McBride closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting. She announced that the next School Committee meeting will be Monday, June 20 and that there will be no full school committee meetings in the month of July.

VI. ACCOLADES - 2021-2022 BWRSD Retirees

Mr. Cabral congratulated the District Retirees for 2021-2022, Joseph Bartoshevich, Jane Glass, Daria Champlin, Jeanne Chaffee, Lisa Martin, Karen McCanna, Lorna Lee Reynolds, Stephanie Wirth, Michael Santos, Anne Ricci, Debra Lopes, Carolyn Davis, and Deborah Dwyer. Superintendent Riley gave each retiree in attendance a retirement gift and announced that those who were unable to attend would be getting their gift in the mail.

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VII. PRESENTATION - High Quality Curriculum

Assistant Superintendent Sanna presented an update on the District's adoption of the High Quality Curriculum mandated by RIDE.

She announced that a new ELA curriculum has already been adopted in grades K-8 and will be fully implemented at the High School next year. She continued to state that a new Math curriculum has already been adopted across the district and a new Science curriculum will be implemented by 2025.

She explained that an important part of a successful adoption of any curriculum is ensuring that teachers are prepared and supported as they implement the curriculum in their classrooms. She acknowledged the role of Mary Cabral, the K-8 ELA Coordinator and the school principals, especially Christine Hughes, Guiteras School Principal, for their work in coaching teachers throughout the process. She also explained that there was a Professional Learning Charter, led by Dr. DiBiase, Principal at Mt Hope High School, looking at the data that is guiding the planning of the implementation for the future. Last year, the focus was on strengthening instruction. Next year, the same model will be used for implementing the Science curriculum.

As part of the implementation, ELA coaches were hired to support teachers, giving them meaningful professional development. Two of these coaches have been hired in permanent coaching positions for next year.

She stated that RIDE visited classrooms to observe the curriculum in action and provided very positive feedback on what was going on in the classrooms.

She added that the Right to Read Act, passed in 2019, requires teachers to exhibit either proficiency in or awareness of the knowledge and practices of the science of reading and structured literacy. To that end, there will be lots of professional development opportunities next year meeting the needs of teachers at all levels of experience and grade, including Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) and AIM Pathways for Special Needs teachers and specialists. Additionally, there will be an ESL Certification course for teachers offered at Roger Williams University, expanding the teachers' student support tools.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Reich asked about dealing with special needs students, specifically ADHD. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that professional development last year helped teachers to understand the needs of students who may be stressed or behind due to the turmoil brought on by COVID. Next year there are plans for a Mental Health First Aid training opportunity for teachers who want it.

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Ms. Piper asked about job-embedded coaching. Superintendent Riley explained that coaches work with staff where they are in their teaching experiences.

Ms. Piper asked about Common Planning Time. Superintendent Riley acknowledged that there is some opportunity for Common Planning at the High School, but that at the elementary level, it is difficult to implement. This is something that the District is working on.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the corrected Minutes and removal of Item E; seconded by Mr. Cabral. The Motion was approved unanimously.

All items under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the School Committee and were approved with one motion.

- A. Minutes of the May 16, 2022 meeting
- B. Homeschool Requests
- C. Administrator Contract
 - i. Director of Student Support Services
- D. Non-Renewals - Council 94

Superintendent Riley announced that with the Consent Agenda approval, the School Committee approved the contract for a new Director of Student Support Services, Dr. Lisa Beaudoin-Colwell who will start in early August.

IX. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

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

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve and seal the Minutes of the Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Cabral. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Updated 2022-2023 School Calendar

Superintendent Riley announced that there was a change to the 2022-2023 School Calendar. The new start date for students will be on August 30, 2022. The new Calendar will be posted on the website.

- C. Approval of Policy FF - Naming of School District Facilities, for a Second Reading, as recommended by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy FF - Naming of School District Facilities, for adoption; seconded by Ms. Reich.

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DISCUSSION: Mr. Cabral stated that he will not be voting in support of this Motion.

VOTE: The motion was approved with a vote of 8-1. Mr. Cabral voted in dissent.

- D. Approval of Policy JIC - Code of Conduct, for a First Reading, as recommended by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee.

Chairperson McBride announced that Item D was removed from the Agenda.

- E. Approval of School Property Disposal as recommended by the Superintendent.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the School Property Disposal recommendations; seconded by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

- F. Approval of 2022-2027 BWRSD Strategic Plan

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the 2022-2027 BWRSD Strategic Plan; seconded by Mr. Cabral. The motion was approved unanimously.

- G. Council 94 Contract

Chairperson McBride announced that Item G was removed from the Agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Reich. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc