

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 14, 2022

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held virtually, via Zoom Webinar, on Monday, February 14, 2022.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice Chair, Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; Carly Reich, Sarah Bullard, Erin Schofield, and Karen Cabral; 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; Brenna Toland, Director of Student Support Services; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary. Guests: Dr. Deborah DiBiase, Principal of Mt. Hope High School

I. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Marjorie McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) for discussion of the following:

- A. **42-46-5 (a) (2)** Pending Litigation/Legal Advice
- B. **42-46-5 (a) (2)** Contract Negotiations
- C. **42-46-5 (a) (1)** Discussion of the job performance of persons. Said persons have been notified that the discussion can be heard at an open meeting.
- D. **42-46-5(a)(9)** Discussion/Action of a grievance

Chairperson McBride asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to go into Executive Session; 2nd by Ms. Bullard. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 6:04, Chairperson McBride closed the Open Session of the meeting and stated that the Committee was going into Executive Session

At 7:18, Chairperson McBride re-opened the Open Session.

III. OPEN SESSION

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. ACTION ITEM

- 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; 2nd by Ms. Reich. The motion was approved unanimously

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

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There were no requests for Public Comment.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Riley made a presentation on the proposed graduation requirements being considered by RIDE. She explained that the State is collecting public comment on the proposed requirements. She announced that she will share the RIDE link for Public Comment when it is available.

She stated that the graduation requirements will apply to the Class of 2027 instead of the original 2026.

Superintendent Riley noted that a significant concern of the proposed new requirements is the proposed world languages requirement and the potential lack of flexibility stemming from the more defined graduation requirements.

Regarding world languages, Superintendent Riley explained that those communities with the highest poverty levels are least likely to have access to world language coursework, while the communities with the lowest poverty levels are more likely to provide access to world language coursework. This is important because most colleges require two credits in world language to attend. The lack of world language instruction is closing doors for many students.

Regarding flexibility, the proposed requirements add requirements for world languages, additional college prep, and 6 additional courses to include, but not limited to, world languages, the arts, technology, P.E., and health. The current requirements are more flexible, but the results vary based on gender and race. Only 19% of students meet all three requirements and are ready for college success. The three requirements are:

- Completed the advanced coursework predictive of college success
- Earned the 3.33 GPA predictive of college success
- Achieved the SAT performance level predictive of college success.

For Bristol Warren, Superintendent Riley explained that students can enter high school with two math requirements completed due to the Grade 8 Algebra offering. Her goal is to enhance and align the math curriculum K-7 so that more students are ready for Algebra in high school.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Thibaudeau stated that she is requesting that the School Committee draft a resolution to reject the proposed requirements. She explained that not all students go on

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to college and many do not even complete college. She would like graduation requirements to focus on skills that will help students to do well in the job market. She does not think that the stated requirements are in the best interests of Bristol Warren students.

Chairperson McBride stated that she thinks it's too early to talk about a resolution. She proposes that the Committee wait for the Superintendent to indicate when it would be a good time to provide feedback to the State.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the School Committee and will be enacted by one motion.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the following School Committee meetings
 - i. January 24, 2022
 - ii. July 28, 2021
- B. Non-renewals
- C. Property Disposal Approval - 2 School busses
- D. Correspondence
 - i. Acknowledgement of Donation of Piano to Colt Andrews School Colt Auditorium
 - ii. Acknowledgement of Brownstone Book Fund Donation of 100 Books to MHHS Library

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; 2nd by Ms. Cabral. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. 2022 RI Student Survey (RISS)

Superintendent Riley introduced the 2022 RISS survey to the committee. She recommends that the District go forward with the survey.

MOTION: Ms. Cabral made a motion to approve the recommendation to conduct the RISS Survey at Bristol Warren; 2nd by Ms. Schofield.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Ellsworth wanted to know what will happen with the survey data.

Superintendent Riley stated that the data is used to plan programming for the Prevention Coalition. Assistant Superintendent Sanna added that the data also informs curriculum and identifies where students need more support.

Ms. Ellsworth thought data already comes from the teachers who observe the students daily. Superintendent Riley responded that the survey helps to reach all students.

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VOTE: The motion passed with a vote of 6-2, Ms. Ellsworth and Ms. Thibaudeau voted in dissent.

B. Ratified BWEA Contract

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the ratified the BWEA Contract; 2nd by Ms. Reich. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of the 1st Reading of Policy JC: Elementary Placement, as recommended by the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

MOTION: Ms. Reich made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Policy JC; 2nd by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Ms. Reich explained that the language in the policy has been made clearer and that the map was also made clearer.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cabral asked why the children of Poppasquash Road go to Rockwell and not Guiteras, which is closer. Chairperson McBride did not know why.

Ms. Ellsworth asked if the map changed. Ms. Reich responded that it did not change, it was just made clearer.

Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that the map is set up to offer flexibility so that kindergarten class sizes can be managed as the population shifts.

Superintendent Riley stated that the map is what will be followed going forward.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Approval of the 1st Reading of Policy KBLEA: Family Engagement, as recommended by the Policy and Curriculum Subcommittee

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Policy KBLEA; 2nd by Ms. Ellsworth.

Ms. Reich explained that the policy is a legal requirement to meet the needs of Title I schools, but that it also applies to all schools.

Ms. Schofield asked if there are any changes? Assistant Superintendent Sanna stated that the policy is new; the district did not have one before.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked about the tool that will be used to conduct the required annual evaluation. Assistant Superintendent Sanna stated that the District will likely use surveys to reach parents and staff.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

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- E. Approval of the 1st Reading of Policy GBED/JHFAA - Use of Physical Restraint, as recommended by the Policy and Curriculum Subcommittee

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Policy GBED/JHFAA; 2nd by Ms. Cabral.

Ms. Reich explained that this policy needed to be updated and that it now includes training and a reporting mechanism to include an assessment by a nurse.

Ms. Toland added that the purpose is to create a policy that emphasizes de-escalation tools and strategies.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

- F. FY2023 Superintendent's Recommended General Fund Budget

Superintendent Riley explained that she used the draft of the Strategic Plan to drive the Budget, focussing on Climate & Culture, Teaching & Learning, Professional Learning, Operational Excellence, and Career & Technology Education. She would like to grow the latter to possibly make them available to outside students.

She reported that the proposed Budget adds:

- K-8 Math Coordinator
- Additional Special Education teachers, to provide more collaborative classes with one general education teacher with one special education teacher.
- Additional Special Education Coordinator
- Additional Pre-K teacher to expand to offer full-time programming

Mr. Ferrucci explained the numbers. The proposed Budget:

- Incorporates the new contracted salaries and repurposes some positions to meet new needs
- Has significant changes to the way it's structured, but it is designed to help with planning for the future.
- Creates a blueprint to provide to Principals that will make it easier to do the Budget next year.

Mr. Ferrucci will send out non-staff details at the end of the week. Both he and Superintendent Riley will be available for questions prior to the next School Committee meeting on February 28, 2022.

For Revenues, Mr. Ferrucci stated that he is projecting an increase of 2.5% from each Town. There will be no need for use of the Fund Balance.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cabral asked when he would be able to meet with Mr. Ferrucci and Superintendent Riley. Superintendent Riley responded that Kate will reach out to everyone.

Ms. Ellsworth asked that school enrollments be added to the Budget presentation.

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Chairperson McBride stated that the proposed Budget will be voted on at the February 28, 2022 Business Meeting, in time for the first of two Joint Finance meetings scheduled on March 3, 2022.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Ms. Ellsworth.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

Respectfully submitted, Victor Cabral, Secretary /dbc