

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

Monday, June 28, 2021

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in-person, with virtual public access through Zoom Conferencing, on Monday, June 28, 2021,. Chairperson Marjorie McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice-Chair; Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; Nicky Piper. Carly Reich, Sarah Bullard, Erin Schofield, and Karen Cabral; Jonathan Brice, Ed.D., Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Thomas Wood, Director of Facilities; Rose Muller, Director of Technology; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor; Edward Clarke, M.Ed.,CAGS, Director of Student Support Services; Lee Ann Beaupre, Human Resources Manager; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary. **Guests:** Amy Bratsos, Director of the COZ program

I. **Open Session**

_____Chairperson McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

II. **Executive Session:** There was no Executive Session.

III. **Opening Business**

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

IV. **Accolades**

A.

B. Bristol Warren Regional School District Retirees

The School Committee and Superintendent Brice acknowledged this year’s retiring teachers and staff, thanking them for all their years of dedication and service to the District and to the children of Bristol and Warren. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

- George Simmons, Sr, Director of Facilities - 32 years
- Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title I - 32 years
- Margaret Woods, Custodian - Hugh Cole - 30 years
- Marguerite R. Crocker, School Nurse - Guiteras - 18 years
- Virginia DePasquale, Teacher Assistant - Mt Hope High School - 31 years
- Patricia Ryone, Social Studies Teacher - Kickemuit Middle School - 20 years
- Frances Souza, Kindergarten Teacher - Rockwell - 24 years
- Barbara Costa, Math Teacher - Kickemuit Middle School - 35 years
- Kathryn Barry, Grade 3 Teacher - Colt Andrews - 27 years

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C. MHHS Baseball - Division Champions

The School Committee and Superintendent Brice congratulated the MHHS Baseball Team - Division Champions.

- Andrew Aubin
- David Benevides
- Griffin Berardo
- Matthew Brackett
- Parker Camelo
- Kayden Carney
- Seth Cloutier
- Brady Connor
- Cameron Connor
- Caleb DeCastro
- Bradford Denson
- Daniel Desilets
- Rocco Ferolito
- Frank Ferrara
- Matthew Gale
- Ryan Hopkins
- Lucas Jerome
- Andrew Jones
- Ethan Leary
- Aidan MacDougall
- Nicholas Marsili
- Ryan Nappi
- Jack Standish
- Matthew Terceiro
- Dayton VanAmberg

D. MHHS Unified Basketball - Undefeated Season

The School Committee and Superintendent Brice congratulated the Unified Basketball Team for their Undefeated Season. Congratulations to:

- Michael Bissonnette
- Mason DeOliveira
- Mia Fartura
- Gregory Giroux
- Abigail Golden
- Logan Justa

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- Andrew Medeiros
- Emily Medeiros
- Thomas Nichols
- Ryan Patullo
- Pamela Peters
- Samantha Russell
- Samuel Ward

V. Public Comment

Chairperson McBride recognized Michelle Way DaSilva, BWEA co-President and KMS teacher, who spoke about the 2021-22 School Calendar. She stated that she felt that the School Committee's vote to not have a discussion on the re-consideration of the start date, which falls on Rosh Hashanah, for next year sent a message to the community that it is lacking in respect, equity for the students and staff. She stated that the BWEA has filed a grievance with the Committee that alleges that it violated its own Policy AC by not maintaining a educational environment that is free from all forms of discrimination. The BWEA requested that the grievance hearing be in open session on the 28th, but the Committee decided to hear the grievance virtually on the 29th. She charged that this decision could be an attempt to keep the hearing out of the public eye. She urged as many people as possible to tune in and participate in that hearing.

Chairperson McBride, seeing no further requests, closed the Public Comment.

VI. Consent Agenda

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

Ms. Ellsworth requested that Items B, Personnel Contracts, and E, Layoff Rescission BWEA Contracts, be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and vote.

Chairperson McBride also removed Item C, Requisitions \$5000 and over, from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and vote.

There was no discussion on the other items:

- A. Approval of June 14, 2021 School Committee Workshop Minutes**
- D. Equipment Disposal List**

MOTION: A Motion was made by Ms. Thibaudeau; seconded by Ms. Cabral, to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

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B. Personnel Contracts

1. Tara McAuliffe
2. Beth Roman
3. David Patota
4. Miranda Carpenter

MOTION: A Motion was made to approve the Personnel Contracts submitted by the Superintendent by Ms. Ellsworth; seconded by Ms. Cabral.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ellsworth asked why some contracts were for 2 years and others were for 3 years. Superintendent Brice stated that it was the decision of the Personnel Committee to prepare the contracts as presented. He would like to have a standard 3-year contract for everyone, but the Committee decided, based on circumstances, to offer 2-year contracts to some of the individuals.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Requisitions \$5,000 and over

1. RV & IV Simpson Art Scholarship
2. Jane Creel '56 Memorial Scholarship
3. Pranzi-Senior Prom Caterer
4. Voyager Sopris
5. T-Time Productions - BWRSD acting as Fiscal Agent for Barrington
6. Rhode Island Interscholastic League - Officials

MOTION: A motion was made to approve all Requisitions \$5000 and over, as presented by the Superintendent by Ms. Thibaudeau; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson McBride asked about T-Time Productions and how the District became a fiscal agent for Barrington. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that the District pools the cost of ESL with area towns, sharing costs of resources, professional development, and substitutes. The arrangement has been in place for a number of years. The invoices for those services come into Bristol-Warren, and Bristol-Warren is then reimbursed by the other Towns, in this case, Barrington.. Each program is unique to their district, but there are some shared programs, such as professional development.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a vote of 8-1, with Chairperson McBride voting in dissent.

E. Layoff Rescission BWEA Members

1. Erin Parker Science - MHHS
2. Peter Kells, PE/Health/Adaptive PE - MHHS
3. Andre Arsenault, Music - KMS
4. Yanping Shen, Math - KMS
5. Jeremiah Ryan, Social Studies - KMS
6. Margaret DeFelice, Special Education - District

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MOTION: Ms. Ellsworth made a motion to approve the Layoff Rescission BWEA letters; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ellsworth asked for clarification. Some of the people on the list were part of the cuts that were made to balance the budget. She asked how we are able to bring them back if they were part of those cuts. Superintendent Brice explained that in one case, decisions were made to eliminate other positions to allow for the person to be brought back. He also explained that some funds are coming from a grant. In other cases, the teachers are being returned to fill vacant positions. Ms. Ellsworth asked if the Superintendent can provide her with the documentation showing how the cost of the positions is being covered within the budget that was approved. Attorney Carroll added that the first five people are not coming back to positions that were cut, but will fill in vacant positions.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion/Possible Action

A. East Providence School Committee Resolution on Expansion of Charter Schools

Chairperson McBride asked for a motion. Hearing none, she determined that the item will be placed with regular correspondence.

B. COZ Transfer of Funds

MOTION: The motion to approve the transfer of funds to the COZ account was made by Ms Ellsworth; seconded by Ms. Bullard.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ellsworth explained that funds were moved out of COZ in 2019 to pay for the connections classroom in KMS and Hugh Cole. During the Audit, it was found that we were not allowed to do that. This motion is to move \$684,000 out of Fund Balance back into the COZ account. Superintendent Brice asked if this is the correct time to do this. Should it be done in July when the new CFO is on board. Ms. Ellsworth explained that the money comes from the Unassigned account and not from restricted funds.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

C. Accept Awarding of Bids

1. Triannual Selection of BWRSD Financial Audit for 3-year contract

MOTION: Motion was made to accept the Triannual Selection of BWRSD Financial Audit for 3-year contract by Ms. Ellsworth; 2nd by Ms. Thibaudeau.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson McBride asked for an explanation of this item. Ms. Ellsworth explained that this should only be a 1-year contract with a 2-year extension, based on performance.

Ms. Ellsworth pulled her first motion and made the motion to accept Markham as an Auditor

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with a 1-year contract with 2 1-year extensions, based on performance. The new motion was seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously

2. Trash and Recycling Removal - Bristol

Mr. Wood, Director of Facilities, explained the bid for the committee. He recommended g that the committee approve a 1-year contract with a new vendor, Republic of Fall River. The contract will be for trash and recycling for the high school and the Warren school buildings and just trash pickup for the Bristol elementary schools.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the recommendation to award a 1-year contract, with 2 1-year contract extensions, based on performance, by Mr. Cabral; 2nd by Ms. Thibaudeau.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

3. Chromeboxes and Licensing

Superintendent Brice explained that there were no bidders, but quotes from several companies.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the quote from CDW, who had the lowest quote, by Ms. Thibaudeau; 2nd by Mr. Cabral.

Ms. Ellsworth asked if the equipment was ordered. Superintendent Brice answered that they were ordered so that they would arrive before school starts. Ms. Ellsworth asked for the purchase order. Ms. Muller, Director of Technology, explained that the purchase order was reviewed by Ms. Ellsworth and Assistant Superintendent Sanna before it was placed. Ms. Ellsworth explained that the purchase order still needed to go through the process.

There was a discussion on the RFP and Purchase Order approval process.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

4. Technology Equipment

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Technology Equipment purchase by Ms. Ellsworth; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

Ms. Ellsworth commented that this request should have gone through the Budget Facilities Subcommittee agenda for approval before coming to the full School Committee.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously

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D. Bristol Garden Club Donation of \$500 for KMS Intensive Classroom

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the donation of \$500 for the KMS Intensive Classroom by Ms. Thibaudeau; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

Superintendent Brice explained that the donation was made to the KMS Intensive Classroom to support their gardens and environmental educational programs.

Chairperson McBride explained that donations that have an impact on the facilities and/or grounds have to come to the Budget Facilities Subcommittee, with a recommendation from the Facilities Manager, before coming to the full School Committee. In this way, any future maintenance costs for the project will be known before the School Committee accepts the donation. Superintendent Brice acknowledged the process described by the Chair, and stated that he will provide information on the policy to his staff.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Presentations

Chairperson McBride explained that the Chartwells presentation will be postponed to a future date.

A. COZ Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Sanna started her introduction of Ms. Amy Bratsos by expressing her appreciation of the childcare and efforts to support families through the difficult year of COVID.

Ms. Bratsos presented an update of the Child Opportunity Zone (COZ) program, a before and after school care program, full day programs for school vacations, and teacher professional days, as well as a summer program for students in grade K-5.

The program is fee based, but they also accept DHS Child Care Assistance and RIDE and DHS grants.

There are 180 students currently enrolled. Activities include games, sports, arts and crafts, homework, and outdoor play. During the full-day programs, there were ~50 students, some of it through distance learning.

The Summer Program takes place at Hugh Cole. This year there are 140 students signed up.

For next steps, a survey was done to determine what parents and students want for future programming.

Superintendent Brice asked Ms. Bratsos if parents were charged. She answered that families paid for participation during the vacation weeks. Ms. Bullard asked for the results of the survey. Ms. Bratsos answered that parents were happy, but asked for additional enrichment programs for STEAM and the Arts.

Ms. Ellsworth asked Superintendent Brice to coordinate a meeting between Ms. Bratsos and the new CFO to provide them with the budget information they need to continue the program.

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Ms. Thibaudeau asked for the fee structure.

Ms. Bratsos commented that it was a difficult year, but she was able to work with many different people within the District to keep the program running.

Chairperson McBride thanked Ms. Bratsos and her team for their contributions to the children of Bristol Warren, keeping them safe. She asked about expanding the program to Grade 6. Assistant Superintendent Sanna that a similar program was tried in the past, but there was not enough interest at that age. She offered to investigate other after-school options for the middle school students. Superintendent Brice stated that such a program will need to look more like an after-school club and not childcare and that attendance would need to be drop-in.

C. School Start Times

Superintendent Brice presented the proposed start times for 2021-2022 school year, returning to the start times of 2019-2020.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Cabral, Secretary
/dbc