

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

**Monday, June 14, 2021**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in-person and virtually, via Zoom Conferencing) on Monday, June 14, 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; Lee-Ann Beaupre, Human Resources Manager; Diane Brennan, Temporary Chief Financial Officer; Edward Clarke, M.Ed., CAGS, Director of Student Support Services; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary. **Guests:** Dr. Deb DiBiase, Principal of Mt. Hope High School; Dennis Morrell, Principal of Kickemuit Middle School, Deborah Kearns, Principal at Colt Andrews Elementary School, Tara McAuliffe, Principal at Rockwell Elementary School, Beth Roman, Principal at Guiteras Elementary School, Ms. Christine Hughes, Reading Specialist at Guiteras.

**I. Opening Business**

\_\_\_\_\_Chairperson McBride invited all present to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II. Public Comment**

Chairperson McBride invited public comment, noting that the time for Public Comment will be limited to 15 minutes.

Donna Stouber addressed the School Committee to request a reconsideration of the School Year 2021-22 Calendar and that the Committee move the start date for school in September. She explained that the start date on the approved calendar falls on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish Holy Day, which could result in some students and teachers missing the critical first days of school.

Chairperson McBride thanked Ms. Stouber for her comments.

**III. Consent Agenda**

\_\_\_\_\_All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the School Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member requests, in which event the items will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence on the agenda. Consent Agenda items are received and filed with no discussion or further action taken.

- A. Approval of May 24, 2021 School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes
- B. Acceptance of Resignations

**MOTION:** Ms. Bullard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. Schofield. The Motion passed unanimously.

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## IV. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. BWRSD School Committee Resolution Reimbursement of Transportation Costs
- B. Reconsideration of 2021-22 School Year Calendar
- C. Lease with Town of Bristol for Reynolds school
- D. Illustrative Math Curriculum Adoption
- E. ELA Curriculum Adoption
- F. ESSER II Budget & Summer Enrichment

Chairperson McBride announced that considering that the planned Presentation was relevant to items listed earlier in the Agenda, the Committee will listen to the iReady presentation before discussing topics under Discussion/Possible Action.

## V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. i-Ready Presentation

Superintendent Brice introduced the presentation by explaining that regardless of the difficult year due to the pandemic, students in Bristol Warren continued to learn. This will be confirmed once State testing results are available which will identify gaps in achievement. He noted that not all students were proficient in all areas. He recognized that the District has not suffered some of the same issues that other districts did in transitioning to Distance Learning.

Assistant Superintendent Sanna introduced the End of Year Achievement data and next steps, comparing where the students started at the beginning of the year and where they ended up at the end of the year in mathematics and ELA. She explained the types of assessment, Formative, Benchmark, and Summative. The evening's presentation covers the Bristol Warren Benchmark data, designed to measure achievement and growth over time. Summative (State) data will not be available until July.

Assessment data is used for strategize planning and School Improvement planning.

Ms. Christine Hughes, K-8 Math Coach, presented data for the district. She reported that the District did not stop working and learning. The average student in Grades K-8 has been able to move forward, at least a year's growth in mathematics and ELA. She noted that in Grades 5-8, the majority of students were using distance learning until the end of April. For Math and ELA, more than 60% were at or above grade level. This was lower in the Middle School, but many students are still working from home.

Ms. Miranda Carpenter, Principal of Hugh Cole Elementary, spoke about the data for Hugh Cole students. Almost half of the students achieved grade level growth in math and ELA. For the future, there will be attention paid to interventions and progress monitoring. Teacher Assistants (TAs) will provide targeted instruction for interventions. Additionally the school will implement the new K-5 ELA curriculum. There will also be before-school tutoring provided to help students with their achievement.

Ms. Hughes reported on the data for Guiteras. She reviewed the actions for improving achievement. The Principal will hold weekly collaborative team meetings to analyze the data and discuss effective goals and instruction for students. The 360 Teams will discuss SEL data as well, addressing the whole student.

Ms. Deb Kearns, Principal at Colt Andrews, reported that there is great growth to be celebrating this year. She noted that Tier III (one year below grade level) reduced from 21% to 9% in ELA, with students in

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Tier I (at or above grade level) moving to above grade level. For Math, students increased 44% in proficiency. Tier III reduced to 8%. Going forward, the school will implement the new Math and ELA curricula. Teachers will meet every week with parents, teachers and specialists to address instructional focus and differentiated instruction. She noted that the Bristol Warren Education Foundation has provided K-2 with Weekend book bags, Kindergarten with early intervention and Feinstein provided K-5 with Summer K-5 Take Home bags.

Ms. Tara McCollough, Principal at Rockwell Elementary School, reported that 80% of students were proficient in Reading and Math. Like the other schools, there will be regular meetings, with attention to RTI Interventions and Progress Monitoring.

Mr. Dennis Morrell, Principal at Kickemuit Middle School, reported that Grade 8 at KMS had the most distance learners in the District. He is encouraged by the data for growth. He noted that students “in the red” (below grade level) were moved to improvement. There was an increase at all grade levels. He targets those students who are more than 2 years behind, which did improve. His action steps are to introduce a new curriculum in ELA, strengthen the math curriculum implementation and to use common planning time to review the new curriculum and SIT goals and the curriculum alignment between KMS and the high school. Two math interventionists and a reading interventionist to provide interventions as needed. The schedule will also be revised to increase time for high quality curriculum and structured targeted intervention.

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Dr. Deb DiBiase, Principal at Mt. Hope High School and Ms. Michelle King, Assistant Principal at Mt. Hope High School, explained that the high school uses the STAR Assessment, so the results look a bit different from the Elementary reports. For Grade 9, there is a small drop-off between Grade 8 and Grade 9, a transition year. For Grade 10, there is a slight increase from Grade 9. Grade 9 reflects  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ , &  $\frac{1}{3}$  spread, showing that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of students are below grade level,  $\frac{1}{3}$  is at grade level, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  is above grade level, with scores moving in the right direction, going from Grade 9 to Grade 10. Grade 11 may not be a good reflection of reality for growth because only Grade 9 students who were at risk were tested, so the result does not show data for the same students, since students who were tested in Grade 9 are now included with all the other students in Grade 11. For future action to promote achievement and growth, the District is considering using the PSAT tests to measure as that is a better assessment for students. MHHS will be piloting a new Math and ELA curriculum this year.

Assistant Superintendent summed up the presentation to explain that the FY22 focus areas, based on the data and identified barriers to learning:

- Enhancing Core Curriculum and Instruction
- Supporting Social Emotional Development
- Strengthening Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Summer Acceleration Program

Chairperson McBride noted that Reading is very important for achievement in all areas of the curriculum. She is very concerned about the transition year from the Middle School to the High School. She is hoping that the new curriculum and other approaches will address this issue. She would like to see a real deep dive into high expectations for everyone.

Discussion:

Mr. Cabral asked about the Summer Acceleration Program. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained

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that the program, slightly different at each level, emphasizes STEM with a focus on integration and making learning fun.

Mr. Cabral asked if the students in the red (below grade level) are targeted for the Summer Programs. Superintendent Brice answered that all students will be targeted with an emphasis on the students in the red. He noted that all school have children in the red, even beyond

Mr. Cabral noted that transportation is important to getting the students from some neighborhoods to the program. Superintendent Brice stated that transportation and meals will be provided through the program. Chairperson McBride noted that the transportation costs are not included in the budget as presented. Superintendent Brice stated that the budget, including transportation and meals, will be presented to the Budget Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Ellsworth asked if the reports can be separated by grades at the elementary level, instead of the whole school summarized in the reports. She is concerned about the progress and encourages staff to get back to addressing the basics. She pointed out that we have the staff and wherewithal to improve.

Assistant Superintendent Sanna noted that programs are being put in place to address the gaps and to improve achievement across the board, including enhancing the core curriculum, making sure that teachers have the training they need, being proactive to catch students falling behind, and providing school schedules to allow for intervention and enrichment. She stated that involving family and parents in the curriculum, so they can support their children. High impact tutoring is also being explored and coordinated with Roger Williams University.

Ms. Reich recognized the hard work of the students, teachers, and staff and noted that the reports show that the students grew in spite of a very difficult year.

Ms. Bullard reminded everyone that that there are humans are behind the data and that there is a lot more information behind the data to reflect the students the data represents.

Ms. Piper asked about built-in common planning time. Assistant Superintendent Sanna stated that there's less opportunity for common planning at the elementary level, but that ESSER IV funds will include funds to free up teachers for more common planning time. An unknown speaker, representing the District, noted that quarantines at the elementary level had an impact on the overall scores. She felt that there was growth, but that not all students are included in the data.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked for more details to be put into a working document that shows the progress over several years. She asked for information on the coordination between the elementary schools when using supplementary materials and learning from each other on what works.

Ms. Cabral noted that even though the numbers weren't great before COVID, the data covers a very difficult year for students. She asked about the timeline for students with special needs. Superintendent Brice stated that measures are being put into place for early identification to help students before they fall too far behind.

Ms. Schofield asked how the core program helps the students that are behind in Reading. Superintendent Brice answered that there are blocks of instruction that bolsters reading skills for those students. Ms. Ellsworth asked if the priority students for the Summer program are identified. AS Sanna stated that students with IEPs and others that are at risk for falling behind over the summer are all prioritized.

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Ms. Beth Roman, Principal at Guiteras, clarified that STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, subjects that are integrated together to show the connection between the subjects. The STEAM portion of the program helps the students to apply the academic skills that they learned during the morning portion of the program

Chairperson McBride moved the discussion to the ESSER II Budget. She wanted to know about the budget for the middle and high schools. Superintendent Brice stated that the budget will be discussed at the Budget Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Cabral explained that he wants to make sure that the neediest, lowest level students are included in the Summer program and not just the students whose parents push their children into the program.

After further discussion, Chairperson McBride noted that the committee does not seem to be ready for a vote and called for a special virtual meeting on June 21, 2021 at 6 PM with one item on the agenda.

### A. BWRSD School Committee Resolution Reimbursement of Transportation Costs

Chairperson McBride introduced the Resolution drafted by the Superintendent re: the reimbursement of transportation costs. She also noted, as an aside, that there is another Bill re: the enabling resolution, that is concerning. She will follow up on this with the Superintendent.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made the motion to approve the draft resolution and to authorize the Superintendent to send it to the local legislatures; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth.

Discussion:

Ms. Thibaudeau asked that the resolution include ALL transportations, including the transportation for out-of-district students.

MOTION: Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to amend the Resolution to include the sentence, "full square mileage and total costs for transportation; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

Vote: The Amendment to the Motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: The amended motion was approved unanimously

### B. Reconsideration of 2021-22 School Year Calendar

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Piper to have a discussion on reconsidering the School Year 21-22 Calendar; seconded by Ms. Reich.

The Motion was not approved by a vote of 4-5, with Chairperson McBride, Ms. Ellsworth, Mr. Cabral, Ms. Thibaudeau, and Ms. Cabral voting in dissent.

### C. Lease with Town of Bristol for Reynolds School

Attorney Carroll explained the proposed lease with the Town of Bristol for the use of the Reynolds School.

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Thibaudeau to approve the proposed Lease with the Town of Bristol for Reynolds School; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

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Ms. Schofield suggested a minor correction in the document.

VOTE: The Motion was approved unanimously, with the correction.

D. Illustrative Math Curriculum Adoption

Mr. Wayne Lima and Joyelle Greenway explained the new proposed Math curriculum. Sample books were distributed to the committee.

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Thibaudeau to approved the Math Curriculum; seconded by Ms. Piper. The motion passed unanimously.

E. ELA Curriculum Adoption

Ms. Mary Cabral, Reading Specialist, presented the new ELA Curriculum. She noted that the program is comprehensive, including engaging texts and all the skills that go into an ELA curriculum in one place.

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Thibaudeau to approve the proposed ELA Curriculum; seconded by Ms. Piper. All approved.

F. ESSER II Budget & Summer Enrichment

Chairperson McBride noted that the ESSER II Budget and summer enrichment program will be discussed at a separate virtual meeting on June 21, 2021 at 6pm.

**VI. Adjournment - 9:44 p.m.**

MOTION: There being no more business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Thibaudeau to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Ellsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Victor Cabral, Secretary**  
**/dbc**