

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

Monday, April 12, 2021

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held virtually on Monday, April 12, 2021, via Zoom Conferencing. Chairperson Marjorie McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 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; Joel Harrington, Interim Business Manager; Edward Clarke, M.Ed., CAGS, Director of Student Support Services; Diana Campbell, Recording Secretary. **Guests:** Dr. Deb DiBiase, Principal of Mt. Hope High School

I. **Open Session**

_____ Chairperson McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

II. **Opening Business**

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

III. **Public Comment**

There were no requests to make a public comment. Chairperson McBride noted that she will take questions from the Public after the presentations later in the meeting.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

_____ Chairperson McBride moved the item under the Consent Agenda to the April Business meeting, due to an error.

V. **Presentations**

A. 2021-2022 BWRSD School Year Calendar Options

Superintendent Brice presented his recommended option for the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar. Assistant Superintendent Sanna explained that the calendar was developed with input from staff and the BWEA and is based on the State calendar with the same state school vacation days plus 4 state-wide professional development days. There are also two district PD days. The school year will start after Labor Day and will end on June 23.

Chair McBride stated that since there were no further comments or questions, the calendar will be voted on at the next meeting. She asked all who had questions or concerns that they bring them to Assistant Superintendent Sanna's attention before the next meeting, planned for April 28, 2021.

B. Plan to return more students to In-person Learning Spring 2021

Superintendent Brice continued the presentation he began during the meeting of March 29th, on the return to in-person learning in the Spring. He noted some changes to RIDOT and RIDOH protocols on Quarantine Guidance, BINAX Testing, and vaccinations. He noted the biggest

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change in the guidance is the recommendation to reduce social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet. He noted that this could result in more need to quarantine those students who may contract the disease. As a result, he encouraged more BINAX testing, especially for athletes, other students, and staff. He stated that staff vaccinations will be complete (full coverage) on April 14, 2021, before students return to the classroom.

Superintendent outlined the protocols that will be in place for the BW Schools:

- 10-day quarantine for all close contacts with someone who tested positive.
- Staff and students will continue all previous protocols on daily screening, social distancing, masks, ventilation upgrades, air purifiers, increased sanitation and cleaning of high touch areas and lavatories, availability of hand sanitizers, and frequent hand washing.
- Confirmed cases may require more students to be quarantined.
- Classroom desks will be moved from 6 to 3-4 feet apart and barriers will be removed.
- Lunch protocols will depend on the school. Students in BW will stay 6 feet apart when eating, even though the guidance has reduced this distance to 3 feet.
- Classroom learning will be asynchronous, with some students attending from home.
- Social workers, psychologists, school counselors and student advocates will continue to work with all students.
- Hybrid learning will not be offered to all students at KMS and MHHS. Requests for Hybrid learning will be approved on a case by case basis.
- Re: Transportation,
 - Capacity guidance has updated maximum occupancy to 75% of vehicle capacity, not to exceed 58 students
 - Family members may sit together
 - All students will have assigned seating

Public comments/questions:

- Ms. Piper asked about students who travelled during Spring break. Superintendent Brice agreed that those students should stay home and/or get tested. Distance Learning will be available for those students.
- Public question: Will KMS pods continue? KMS Principal Morrell answered that the Pod model will be maintained, but not the same. Students will stay in the classroom; teachers will move.
- Mr. Cabral asked why the difference between schools. Dr. Brice answered that it depends on the size of the classrooms and space available.
- Ms. Schofield noted that there may be a large number of students in the HS classrooms that are returning. She wanted to know how they are maintaining social distancing in larger classes. Dr. DiBiase answered that the high school is working at 75% in-person learning. All classroom desks are 3 feet apart. Larger classes are being housed in the library where there is more room.
- Ms. Schofield asked if there are enough busses to accommodate the new guidance. Superintendent Brice responded that the bus company has not indicated that there are more busses needed. Protocols on assigned seating, etc. it is possible to have more exposure to a student who has tested positive. Students will be able to sit together wearing masks.

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VI. MHHS Senior Activities and Graduation 2021

Superintendent Brice reflected on last year's graduation and stated that this year will be closer to the more traditional format.

MHHS Principal Dr DiBiase presented the Senior Events for the Class of 2021. She started with this year's Senior quote, *"It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves."* William Shakespeare.

Dr. DiBiase stated that only MHHS Senior students will be allowed to attend Class of 2021 Events/Activities. She stated that social distancing, appropriate mask wearing, hand sanitizer, and Covid-19 screening will be followed at all events. Additionally, there will be two BINAX testing dates for seniors and all seniors are recommended to participate.

Important Dates:

- Graduation, June 11, 2021, will take place on the Varsity Field. Graduates will line up at MHHS and march down Chestnut and onto the field.
- Senior & End of Year Events will be in either the Auditorium or the Gym
- There will be a MHHS Performing Arts Live, Outdoor Spring Concert on June 5, 2PM in the MHHS Senior Parking Lot
- Senior Prom will be on June 4, 6-11 pm, at the Herreshoff Museum outdoor tent. Dancing will be an option as Table or Pod Dancing. Only Seniors will be allowed to attend Prom.
- Other Senior Week events are also planned, including the Senior BBQ and Senior Breakfast (at RWU). Senior Walk (through the elementary schools) is tentatively planned.
- Class Awards Night will only be for the students, with two guests, who are receiving awards. It will be held on June 10, 6pm, in the gymnasium.

Chair McBride stated that it is wonderful that after the past year, that the students will be able to get together to celebrate their achievements.

VII. Adjournment - 8:11 p.m.

MOTION: There being no more business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Piper to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Cabral. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Cabral, Secretary
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