

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING
September 09, 2019 Minutes**

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on September 09, 2019, at Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson Erin Schofield, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 PM.

Present: Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Adam Ramos, Vice-Chairperson; Brian Bradshaw, Treasurer; John P. Saviano, Secretary; John C. Bento, Victor Cabral (arrived at 8:15pm), Sheila O. Ellsworth, Marjorie J. McBride, and Carly N. Reich; and Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor

Administrators: Jonathan Brice, Ed D, Interim Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Raquel Pellerin, Finance Director; Kimberly Aguiar, HR Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made to enter into Executive Session by M. McBride, seconded by B. Bradshaw. E. Scholfield recused herself from meeting.

OPEN SESSION:

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

a) All present were invited to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

b) E. Scholfield requested a moment of silence for 7th grader from KMS, Nolan Carson who passed away September 2nd after his battle with MD.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

III. MOTION TO SEAL

1. MOTION: A motion was made by C. Reich to approve, seconded by J. Saviano. The motion passed with an 8 - 0 vote.
The motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion: The effect of the RI Commissioner of Education's interpretation of fundraising for field trips

April 2019, issued a decision could no longer be asked to pay for field trips.
Field trips are part of fundraising.

Atty Carroll read from: Restrictions of commercial activity and fundraising in public schools.

Section § 16-38-6

- (a) *"No public school official or public school employee shall, for any purpose, solicit or exact from any pupil in any public school any contribution or gift of money or any article of value, or any pledge to contribute any money or article of value."*

Atty Carroll sent Senator Gallo, an amended for consideration to include some variation of the following sentence added to the statute:

"This does not apply to school sponsored field trips in which parents can be asked for funding as long as the district provided funding to any student whose family cannot afford the cost of the trip".

Atty Carroll suggested an amendment that we could accept contribution from parents.
"This does not apply to school sponsored field trips "

Commission has interpreted as it stands, she may look at it differently but doesn't want any child not to be able to go on a trip.

Dr. Brice explained his three part memo.

Discussion ensued.

Audience and committee members discussed the future of Band field trips.

MHHS band and music department do all their own fund raising.

The band will begin their fundraising now to provide funds upfront for any future trips.

Mrs. R. Pellerin, Finance, was asked to clarify how these funds are or can be used and made available for these events.

R. Pellerin read policy regarding fund raising; the funds should be spent in the same year. In the event of a significant balance at the end of the year, written intention for the remaining balance can be expressed to donate it forward to the next year.

Mr. Bradshaw addressed the audience.

Audience and committee members discussed the future of Nature's Classroom.

The main concern expressed was to be able to move forward as already planned and allow the students to experience Nature's Classroom (NC) in October 2019.

A suggestion was made to move NC to the spring time so the students don't miss out as more funds may be available then for all students who want to attend.

Deposit of \$6,700 made to NC in May.

Also suggested was making event PTO sponsored, ethical ability to change to a weekend event to lessen days away of school. Teachers take their personal time to be available to chaperone student.

Mary Ann Carroll clarified how teachers time works, as long as students don't pay and it's fund raised by school district. Part of the subsidy can take their time as contribution.

Ms. Reich inquired about student activities like Robotics.

Audience and committee members discussed the future of Robotics.

Atty Carroll explained that General Assembly meets in January 2020 and hopefully they can implement an amendment that will help.

Atty Carroll has spoken with 2 Representatives and 2 Senators to express the problem the new statute has caused.

M. McBride inquired how do we budget forward if a group in a contest situation progresses further than originally budgeted for.

Atty Carroll explained that the ACLU is watching very carefully of how each District is using fund and proceeding. Statements need to be worded very carefully to comply with new opinion.

Dr. Brice expressed that since we don't have a target it's hard to state is our goal.

Tammy Borges, KMS Secretary question: We have established a threshold per student. They had to "pay" at once or a payment plan. "Can no longer tell a parent they have to pay, or raise.

Collective we need to raise \$20,000 all together.

Atty Carroll explained that parents who already gave funds towards Nature's Classroom must be given the opportunity to receive a refund the money paid or the option to donate it back to Nature's Classroom as a 'donation'.

Dr. Brice advised to schedule a meeting Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30 pm meet

E. Schofield agreed with M. McBride regarding funding and ability to pay.

A parent in the audience expressed her desire to donate her deposit paid already back Nature's Classroom should it insure student can go this year.

Mr. Brian Chidester, V.P. BWEA Clarify that funds needs to be in place for all 7th grade students. Asked who should be in attendance tomorrows meeting being set up by Dr. Brice.

Dr. Brice clarified who should be in attendance at Nature's Classroom discussion.

Ms. C. Reich clarified that an account is already in place for Nature's Classroom donations.

Mrs. McBride stated her previous checks were written directly to Nature's Classroom.

Dr. Brice will be sending two letters:

- 1) District letter regarding field trips
- 2) Targeted letter KMS 7th grade letter

J Bento added that he sponsored students in the past and what is that amount needed should he sponsor more students this year. The response was \$325.00

Atty. Carroll reiterated the cost to participate is at no cost to parent.

Atty. Carroll stated a donation will be accepted to 'sponsor a child' anonymously.

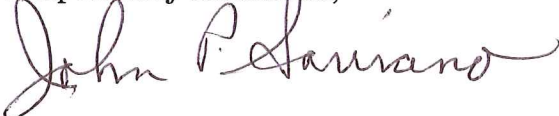
Mr. A Ramos, is it permissible to ask the parent if their child is going or child not going.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:50 PM

There being no further business to discuss, a MOTION was made at 8:50 PM by Mr. Saviano to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Saviano, Secretary

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