

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 26, 2019 Minutes**

A meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on August 26, 2019, at Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairperson Erin Schofield, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:38 PM.

**Present:** Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Adam Ramos, Vice-Chairperson; Brian Bradshaw, Treasurer; John P. Saviano, Secretary; John C. Bento, Victor Cabral, 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

**OPEN SESSION:**

**OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

**Consent Agenda**

1. MOTION: A motion was made by J. Saviano to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by M. McBride. The motion passed with an 8 - 0 vote.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brice announced the new staff who were appointed with some information about their qualifying backgrounds.

Lynne F. Burke: Position of Assistant Principal – Kickemuit Middle

Maureen N. Medeiros: Position of Special Educator – Kickemuit Middle

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

1. **Social Studies Textbook Purchase**
  - a. MOTION: A motion was made by J.Saviano to approve the textbook purchase, seconded by M. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ramos request that Ms. Sanna provide additional information about the Social Studies textbook pilot program that proceeded this recommendation and why this is a good idea. Also will every student have their own textbook?

Ms. Sanna explained that the present Social Studies textbooks being used in grades 4 & 5 now are from the year 2000, the books are in poor condition and antiquated. The new textbook will provide consistent a resource and aligns with the books used at the middle school which was one of our goals. There will be enough brand new textbooks for every student to have their own, no sharing. *[We will be ordering 227 books for grade four and 230 books for grade five to supplement the number of books received during the pilot.]*

B. Bradshaw inquired about the cost.

Ms. Sanna noted that there was a memo regarding the textbook cost in their packet. The cost of each textbook \$64. For a total purchase price of \$30,000 that included an online resource for teachers.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Threat Assessment Team Policy- Second Reading**

- a. MOTION: A motion was made by B. Bradshaw to approve the Threat Assessment Team Policy, seconded by M. McBride. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION: Ms. C. Reich summarized the reasons for the policy implementation. It is based on RI General Law. Policy was created to fill the need to protect our students and our staff. It has been updated to reflect Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD). The new policy code is EBCC.

## **3. Homeschool approval**

- a. MOTION: A motion was made by M. McBride to approve the homeschool requests, seconded by B. Bradshaw. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION: None.

## **4. Student Code of Conduct Update**

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Brice addressed the issue. A draft was distributed to all the members of the committee and copies were made available for the audience.

He described the process of developing the updated Code of Conduct with school principals and district administration.

He explained the levels of support and intervention and gave several examples.

Comments of school committee:

Mr. Ramos thanked Dr. Brice for the focus on consistency and how consequences are implemented, yet realizing this is still in draft form.

Mr. Ramos inquired about the anticipated next steps and final timeline for implementation.

Dr. Brice response: We are waiting for feedback from students, teachers and staff, need to clarify and refine. Administration is aware of the time crunch.

Mr. Ramos asked about the COC implementation by the adults in the building.

Dr. Brice responded that this would include : professional development and monitoring

Conversation ensued.

Mr. Ramos commented: What would be the most effective and efficient method of feedback be.

Dr. Brice response: Explained that the draft will be posted on website and there will be an email address for the community to give feedback.

Mr. Cabral asked: When and how is each incident documented and when will parents be involved?

Dr. Brice responded that incidents will be coded in Aspen and parents will be notified of allegation prior to student receiving consequence

Mr. Cabral had an opinion that if you contact the parents for a small infraction you have something to make a basis argument when a bigger infraction occurs .

Ms. McBride stated a concern over student cell phone use and lack of consistency (J. Bento agreed)

Dr. Brice response: He discouraged confrontation between teachers and students and instead helping young people decide where and when cell phone use is inappropriate.

Further discussion ensued.

Dr. Brice stated: The most important response is to keep students in school. Students belong in school. We are not in the punishment business but in helping students to make better decisions.

More discussion ensued.

Mrs. Erin Schofield addressed the subject of Bullying. She raised several ideas for further discussion at another time.

Mrs. Schofield thanked principals and district administration for all their hard work on this.

## 5. Opening of Schools Discussion

Dr. Brice explained that most positions are filled. The custodial team has worked very diligently to provide clean, fully functioning and safe conditions for the beginning of the school year. Special appreciation to George Simmons for his team's hard work and attention to detail. Dr Brice will be riding the school bus on the first day.

Mr. Cabral praised Dr. Brice for his great work and efficiency.

Dr. Brice thanked Mr. Cabral. He then acknowledged Ms. Diane Sanna for her support. He also thanked R. Pellerin, K. Aguiar, L. Anderson, M.Almeida t. Also George Simmons and Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., and for their support.

Mr. Bradshaw inquired: Are there any custodial projects that still need to be completed?

George Simmons addressed the question.

- Maintenance projects are 95% complete.
- Very small punch list items but nothing to impede the opening of school.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Access to Access to Public Records Act (APRA) discussion

Dr. Brice stated

We want to be supportive of requests, yet when we receive a request that is too large, the cost needs to be evaluated.

- 1) We will comply to best of ability.
- 2) We are going to cost out the time and amount of resources to fulfill that.

Dr. Brice stated that what was being proposed is to once a year provide report to school committee:

- Number of requests submitted
- Number of requests fulfilled
- Number of requests not fulfilled due to astronomical cost involved to process and requester reconsidered

Dr. Brice implored that public requests be concise and expectations of staff time researching and labor be reasonable.

Dr. Brice turned discussion over to Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor. Who explained the District's responsibility to provide documents according to the statute.

Mrs. Schofield requested clarification on the role of school committee in this process

M. Carroll described the process from the Superintendent's office. Every school district is required to go to the training for APRA procedures. Kimberly Aguiar, HR Director is the certified staff person for BWRSD.

Dr. Brice suggestion to make sure the BWRSD clearly provide APRA procedure information on their Website.

Mr. Ramos informed that the school committee page has a link. There is a records request button that is linked to APRA request form; also KBA-E1 and KBA-E2 form.

Mr. Bradshaw suggested that IT set up the ability for the public to submit online form that goes directly to appropriate persons in the Superintendent's office.

Dr. Brice agreed the idea was well worth endeavoring.

Mrs. Schofield shared that the school committee members receive APRA related emails and it would be helpful to make the public aware of the correct hierarchy of procedures.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:17 PM

There being no further business to discuss, a MOTION was made at 9:17 PM by Mrs. McBride to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. John Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Saviano, Secretary

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