

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

Monday, June 22, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, June 22, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield opened the meeting and called the Executive Session part of the meeting to order at approximately 5:34 p.m.

Present: Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Adam Ramos, Vice-Chairperson; Brian Bradshaw, Treasurer; John P. Saviano, Secretary; Sheila Ellsworth, Victor Cabral, Marjorie McBride, and Carly Reich; Jonathan T. Brice, Ed.D., Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Tina Fogell, Esq., Chief Operating Officer; Edward Clarke, Director of Student Support Services; and Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor; Kathryn Brown, Recording Secretary

Absent: John Bento

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Committee may seek to convene in execution session in accordance with R.I. Gen. Law § 42-46-5(a) for the following:

1. **42-46-5(a)(1)** Job Performance of individuals - Said persons have been notified in advance, in writing, and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in open session.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:52 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Open session was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Schofield.

OPENING BUSINESS

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

ACCOLADES

Chairperson Schofield stated that there would normally be a celebration for the following accolades presented tonight. However, it is not possible at this time during and the School Committee hopes they can have one in the fall. Each individual on this list deserves to be celebrated in person. Chairperson Schofield invited Mr. Ramos to present the accolades.

Retirees

Mr. Ramos stated there are four teachers who are retiring this year and want to thank them:

- Deborah Allen, Speech Language Pathologist, Hugh Cole

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- Susan Carlson, Special Education Teacher, Mt. Hope
- Mary Hanley, Grade 1 Teacher, Hugh Cole
- Arlene Vacchelli, Grade 4 Teacher, Hugh Cole

There are two (2) administrators. We want to thank them for their contribution:

- Rosemary Burns, Assistant Principal, Kickemuit
- Bernadette Emery, Administrative Assistant, Business Office, Oliver Administration

Teachers of the Year

Each year we have the honor of celebrating the many teachers and support staff who do extraordinary things on behalf of our students, our schools, and district. This year the following teachers were nominated by their schools. Please join in celebrating their dedication to the profession and commitment to their students!

- Colt Andrews - Kristen Correia, Special Education
- Guiteras - Shelly Goudreau, Reading Specialist
- Hugh Cole - Michaela Ferreirra, Grades 2-5 Intensive Special Education
- Rockwell - Amanda Lawlor, Grade 4
- Kickemuit - Nicole Daniello, Connections Program
- Mt. Hope - Laura Cabral, Library/Media Specialist

These educators are truly deserving of this recognition. Their principals provided countless examples of how they contribute to their school's success and why they are valued members of the school community.

From this list of outstanding educators, a District Teacher of the Year for 2020 was selected by the district administrative team and school principals. After much consideration, the District Teacher of the Year is below:

- **District Teacher of the Year** - Nicole Daniello, KMS, Connections Programs

In the nomination letter submitted by her school administration, Nicole's strengths in connecting with students and families, and her work ethic were noted:

Ms. Daniello works in our Connections program. The Connections program has some of our school's most at-risk students. These students exhibit high anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues. They have also had a history of underachievement and have lost the belief that they can be successful in school. Ms. Daniello has many skills as a teacher, but her two greatest are her ability to make connections with students/families and her work ethic. In both these areas she is remarkable and critical in helping these failing students believe in themselves again.

Ms. Daniello thanked everyone for the award.

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Support Staff Persons of the Year

We also look forward to recognizing our amazing support staff each year. Our school and district Secretaries, Clerks, Custodians, Maintenance Staff, and Teacher Assistants are the backbones of our educational system.

They are there behind the scenes keeping our schools and program going, ready to support teachers and administrators in any way possible. This year, the following support staff members were nominated by their building administrative teams:

- Colt Andrews - Maggie Almeida, Teacher Assistant
- Guiteras - John Milhomes, Custodian
- Hugh Cole - Corrine St. Pierre, Teacher Assistant
- Rockwell - Manny Galego, Custodian
- Kickemuit - Liz Heald, Teacher Assistant
- Mt. Hope - Mike Santos, Maintenance
- Oliver Administration - Kathryn Brown, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Their contributions to their building were well noted. Each staff member has played a critical role in supporting the education of Bristol Warren students. Thank you all for the many ways you support students, teachers, school and district leaders.

From this list of outstanding support staff members, a District Support Staff Person of the Year for 2020 was selected by the district administrative team and school principals. After much consideration, the District Support Staff Person of the Year is below:

- **District Support Staff Person of the Year- Kathryn Brown, Admin. Asst. to Supt.**

Kathryn Brown was selected as the District Support Staff of the Year. Ms. Brown serves as the administrative assistant to the Superintendent, responds to numerous parent concerns, is a sounding board for staff, and supports countless administrators each day. Her sense of humor and positive interactions are welcomed by staff, parents, and the community.

Ms. Brown thanked everyone for the award.

Chairperson Schofield stated that she and the rest of the school committee were looking forward to celebrating the hard work of all those celebrated tonight and appreciate all that they have done.

Acknowledgement of Students & Families

Chairperson Schofield thanked all the students and families of the district, who were also deserving of recognition. They are valued members of our community and this year have really been partners in education. She thanked families for supporting their kids and each other, and for making distance learning a real success. The district built something strong and something that was not only valuable and can be built on but will

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be beneficial. She thanked the students for their hard work this spring and their efforts in distance learning.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the May 21, 2020, School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to seal the June 22, 2020, executive session meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

The motion passed unanimously.

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.

There was a request to vote on each of the items in the Consent Agenda separately. Chairperson Schofield stated that she read each one separately for that vote to follow.

Approval of contracts

1. Assistant Superintendent

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the contract for the Assistant Superintendent; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed with a vote of 7 to 1, with Mrs. Ellsworth dissenting.

2. KMS Assistant Principal

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the contract for the KMS Assistant Principal; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed with a vote of 7 to 1, with Mrs. Ellsworth dissenting.

3. KMS Assistant Principal

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the contract for the KMS Assistant Principal; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

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4. Director of Digital Learning

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the contract for the Director of Digital Learning; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed with a vote of 7 to 1, with Mrs. Ellsworth dissenting.

5. Hugh Cole Principal

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the contract for the Hugh Cole Principal; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2020-16: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, recall certified personnel.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to recall certified personnel; seconded by Mrs. Reich.

The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS & ISSUES

Recommendation #S2020-17: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Policy & Curriculum subcommittee, approve the second reading of the Health & Wellness Policy (JHCG).

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the second reading of the Health and Wellness Policy (JHCG); seconded by Mrs. Reich.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bradshaw had a question about the wording on page 3, part C, school meal program. Are we using USDA guidelines due to federal funding? On page 4, part D1, it discusses competitive foods and beverages. The first two bullets talk about USDA standards. First says whole grain, and second fruit, dairy or protein. Is this how it is supposed to read?

Mr. Ramos stated that it should be stated with an "or" in between each item.

Mr. Bradshaw thanked Mr. Ramos for that and said that makes more sense. Regarding the policy as a whole, I am assuming we went through all of our stakeholders on the committee? I am concerned about some of the other effects of the policy. It states on Page 4, during the school day and one (1) hour after. The KMS community service bake sale can no longer happen because of selling baked goods or does that fall under food fundraiser? Are they contradicting?

Mrs. McBride stated that the rule has always been that it can take place an hour after school ends. There is nothing that does not meet the guidelines with that type of event.

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Mr. Bradshaw stated he did not see that in the policy.

Mr. Ramos stated that the current policy has not been updated as we have been following the state requirements. We are amending policy so we are consistent with the state.

Mr. Bradshaw asked if these are guidelines or requirements?

Mrs. Reich stated that there was a lot of discussion around this point. The committee has been trying to figure out how we enforce these guidelines. A lot of educators reward kids with candy. It is tricky things like this and the committee has to make sure all the expectations and guidelines are listed in this policy. It is aspirational, but the committee has to give this policy some guidelines without taking away all the fun. It is our job to make our students good citizens.

Mrs. McBride stated that some of the regulations and requirements in the policy has to do with the contract with Chartwells. The expectation is that kids will purchase food from them and not from anywhere else.

Mrs. Reich stated that was correct.

Mrs. Reich stated that she would prefer we had stronger language and more structure for our kids and administration and staff. Having it be strongly encouraged and not permitted is how we did it in the past. It is an aspirational document, we have to document because guidelines change and requirements are updated.

Dr. Sanna stated that the updates are intended to be educational and a shift in mindset. The committee took time to define terms and look at the requirements around certain areas. The committee did try to provide flexibility while holding true to guidelines.

Mr. Bradshaw asked about the soup fundraisers.

Mrs. Reich stated that the soup fundraisers were not considered. The committee will have to discuss that with all PTOS.

Mr. Ramos stated that in regards to the soup fundraiser, some of the soup might comply with the guidelines. If it is an issue of when to pick up, there is nothing written in the policy that would prohibit picking up at school. It is not inconsistent with the policy.

Mr. Bradshaw asked about the distribution of candy being prohibited in section 3. What are parameters around that statement? I bring tootsie rolls in my lunch and pass them to students, is that distribution and a violation of the policy?

Dr. Brice stated that he does not want anyone distributing candy at schools. We may not know if a student has an allergic reaction, is maybe a diabetic and candy causes a condition to spike and have a health issue. We want to be on the safe side. We want

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kids to keep their lunch to themselves and not share. The expectation is that staff will not provide candy to students.

Mr. Bradshaw stated that it has been part of an incentive such as a candy bar for every 10 books you read.

Mr. Ramos stated that it might be a technical violation of the policy, but there is nothing that provides consequence for the violation and nothing in the code of conduct that provides a consequence. This is a tool that the adults could use to further the goal.

Mrs. Reich stated that teachers can incentivize students, it just does not have to be one full of sugar and we need to be mindful of allergies. We need to do a better job of making sure we all know and are educated about this policy.

Mr. Bradshaw asked if the elementary movie night, pizza and popcorn would be allowed based on page 6 of the policy? It is kind of a fundraiser, but that is the movie night. It is encouraged, but not required. The PTO does not need to contract with Chartwells to get food. Is that true?

Dr. Sanna stated that the intent of the statement on page 6 is to make sure everyone is concerned about how the food was prepared and whether it was stored properly at an event. It is always safer to hire a licensed food service provider. That is why we put “strongly encouraged” in that area of the policy as it reminds everyone of the concerns when considering a potluck type of event.

Chairperson Schofield stated the nature of the policy is to follow best practices, not to be punitive. We do not plan to walk into classrooms and tell people what they can and cannot do, which is why there are not consequences. If we are following best practices, then those things are less likely to happen.

Mr. Bradshaw asked if it was important to outsource things such as the concession stand at the high school football game? If it is a big enough of an event and ongoing, do we tell the boosters to outsource?

Chairperson Schofield stated that It is not the intent of the policy to be that far reaching.

Mrs. Reich stated that there may be more requirements and guidelines that come out post COVID-19.

Mr. Bradshaw asked if the district has a standard way to document compliance?

Dr. Brice stated that it is less about the principals and more about the district to have the right form in place. If the PTO at a school wants to conduct a fundraiser, they fill out a building use form and also provide information about what will take place. The district needs to spend some time to make sure all administrators understand and have an explanation about what food can be provided, how to maintain the safety of food so it does not cause illness, and make sure people who use the building have the required

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insurance coverage. The district needs to make sure all those processes are in place in the event something happens.

Dr. Sanna stated that there is also a self assessment to reflect on how well they are following the guidelines. It comes to the committee to review the areas that are problematic and where we can adjust. It is more about being a reflection tool as well as documenting compliance and working with schools to see what were the areas that were problematic and what areas need to be addressed.

Chairperson Schofield asked if there were any other questions?

Mr. Bradshaw asked if policy needed to be amended with changes to the language with adding "or" in D1?

Attorney Carroll stated that since the correction is grammatical, the policy does not need to be amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation #S2020-18: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget/Facilities subcommittee, approve the First Student Transportation Bid.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the First Student Transportation Bid; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Schofield stated that the School Committee can approve the bid. For clarification, the contract still needs to be negotiated, but the school committee is being asked to accept the bid.

Discussion ensued about the committee voting to accept the bid award with how much it will cost per bus and per day. The committee is not approving a total amount, as there is not a final contract.

Chairperson Schofield stated that Mr. Saviano did express the committee was voting to accept the bid.

Attorney Carroll stated that the committee is accepting First Student's bid proposal, not voting on an amount that will be part of a contract.

Chairperson Schofield stated that the Superintendent has recommended we accept the bid, which includes two alternates.

Dr. Brice stated that was correct.

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Attorney Carroll stated that alternative one was what was agreed to, but the committee is not agreeing to a bottom number because that can not be approved at this time.

Chairperson Schofield asked if there were any other questions? Seeing none, she asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vehicle Disposal Update

Dr. Brice stated that the district posted to sell the Dodge van and received a bid of \$165.50 to purchase the van from the district. I accepted the bid, but I wanted to share this with the committee.

Mrs. McBride stated that she saw that bid in the Providence Journal. It probably cost us more than what the district is getting for the van. Is the district required to advertise in the Providence Journal?

Chairperson Schofield stated that was what was in the school committee policy.

Attorney Carroll stated that was correct and it is the policy to do so.

Mrs. McBride asked if Mrs. Reich to look at that policy at an upcoming subcommittee meeting?

Mr. Cabral stated he agreed with Ms. McBride and asked if the district was paying insurance on this vehicle?

Dr. Brice stated that the district was not paying insurance or registration costs on this vehicle and that was why the district was moving to dispose.

Mr. Cabral stated there was a short period of time when it was registered and insured.

Dr. Brice reiterated that the district has not made any payments to continue insurance on these vehicles.

Mr. Cabral asked if there was only a bid on one vehicle? What about the two buses?

Dr. Brice stated that they are looking at the policy to see all other options for disposal of the two buses this summer.

Mr. Cabral stated that this should have been done at least five (5) years ago. The taxpayer has been paying for three (3) vehicles that were not on the road.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Reich stated that the next subcommittee meeting will be a virtual meeting this Thursday at 6 p.m. The subcommittee has not met in a long time and needs to get back

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on track. The subcommittee will be reviewing Policy DIC which was discussed in the last budget meeting to change titles. We will also be discussing the new hiring policy that has been created to reflect changes in law that gave powers to the Superintendent. Finally, we will also be taking up the chairwoman's initiative of getting a representative to the school committee.

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Bradshaw stated that the next meeting will be on June 29, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m. It needs to take place prior to the end of the school year. We will be discussing line item adjustment, fund balance, all other end of the year reports. Mr. Bradshaw stated there will be a discussion regarding an update on all Necessity of Construction and reimbursements to make sure the district has met the percentage required to receive full reimbursement.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Mr. Ramos stated that the subcommittee does not have anything on the books, but we will be meeting very soon. We continue to be working to get a contract with BWEA. Stay tuned for our next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Cabral stated that was the topic he wanted to bring up. Dr. Brice has called back most of the people that were laid off and I want to compliment him for that. Several districts have not, many people were upset. They got letters, they were all upset, and we had to explain. Now we are in the middle of June and we can bring them a sigh of relief. How many did we call back and how many were not?

Dr. Brice stated that the district and school committee voted on calling back nineteen (19) of the twenty one (21). The two not called back were in one year positions. It allows them to have recall rights if there are positions for them, they would be first on the list to contact before we went external. We want to thank the staff and parents in the community as we received a number of emails advocating and asking for us to reconsider. They stressed the importance of these staff members in their students' lives. We are pleased that you accepted the recommendation earlier in this meeting. We can not forget the JFC and we want to thank them as well. We have a much clearer indication of how much funding we will receive and we are confident we can bring these teachers back.

Wellness Subcommittee

Mr. Ramos stated that the Wellness Subcommittee had a meeting on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 3pm. There was a presentation on the health and wellness curriculum by Dr. Sanna and health teachers. There is an overall initiative spearheaded by a number of people to make sure we, as a district, are taking a look at how we are teaching health from a social emotional perspective, that we are using the most up to date materials, and make sure we are placing an emphasis on health and wellness curriculum in the district.

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Mrs. Reich added that the subcommittee wants to make sure we are serving our kids with the most up to date resources and curriculum. We need to continue to have a robust discussion about development and sexual wellbeing and health.

Chairperson Schofield reminded everyone that the wellness committee is different from the other subcommittees, as the wellness committee would present to the full school committee before any changes are made so everyone would know.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:09 p.m.

Dr. Brice asked Chairperson Schofield to share a comment before the meeting was adjourned. He wanted to take a moment to share that today, the district and school committee appointed Miranda Carpenter as the Principal at Hugh Cole School. We are pleased with this appointment as she is the right leader for the school and are pleased that she has agreed to accept the position.

Chairperson Schofield reiterated that sentiment on behalf of the school committee.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Saviano, Secretary
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