

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

Monday, July 27, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, July 27, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield called the opened the meeting and called the Executive Session part of the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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.
2. **42-46-5(a)(2)** Negotiations BWEA
3. **42-46-5(a)(2)** Litigation Updates

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:29 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Open session was called to order at 6:33 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

Chairperson Schofield reminded the public that there is a time for questions after the Superintendent presents the BWRSD Reopening Plan later in the meeting.

No Public Comment

MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to seal the July 27, 2020, executive session meeting minutes; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

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The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Schofield stated that all items listed 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will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member requests, in which event the items will be withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda.

Hearing none, Chairperson Schofield announced that item D would be removed from the Consent Agenda and only items A, B and C would be voted on tonight and then asked for a motion.

- A. Approval of June 29, 2020 School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of seven (7) homeschool requests for the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. Approval of KMS Principal's Contract

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. McBride to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

The Superintendent thanked the School Committee for approving the contract of the Kickemuit Middle School Principal, Dennis Morrell. We are so very pleased to have him join us tonight; he comes to us from Johnston High School where he most recently served as Principal. We would like to welcome him to the BWRSD family and look forward to Mr. Morrell meeting our KMS staff and students in the very near future.

Chairperson Schofield echoed the Superintendent's sentiments and welcomed Dennis Morrell on behalf of the School Committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS & ISSUES

Recommendation #S2020-23: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget & Facilities subcommittee, approve the preliminary FY21 Budget.

MOTION:

Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to table the recommendation to approve the preliminary FY21 Budget; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Schofield stated that the Budget Subcommittee members and District Staff have been working hard on this item, but suggested tabling the vote on this recommendation as the official State Aid numbers have not been made available as of yet.

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Mrs. Ellsworth mentioned that the preliminary budget needs updated numbers before it can be voted on by the committee.

Mrs. McBride stated that she does not believe the School Committee is ready to pass this preliminary budget.

MOTION:

Mrs. McBride made a motion to table the recommendation to approve the FY21 Preliminary Budget, seconded by Mr. Cabral.

The motion passed 8-1, with Mr. Bradshaw dissenting.

Recommendation #S2020-24: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget & Facilities subcommittee, approve the FY20 Line Item Budget Adjustments.

MOTION:

Mr Ramos made a motion to approve the FY20 Line Item Budget Adjustments; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. McBride stated that she would like to make a motion to table this discussion until we have a better understanding of the adjustments made and the preliminary budget.

Mrs. Ellsworth mentioned there are lots of errors that need to be fixed before moving forward.

Chairperson Schofield asked Mrs. McBride if she was making a motion to table this discussion and send it back to the Budget & Facilities subcommittee for further discussion before recommending for approval to the full committee.

Mrs. McBride stated that was correct.

Mr. Ramos asked for clarification from other school committee members regarding the concerns.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mrs. McBride made a motion to table the recommendation to approve the FY20 line item budget adjustments and send back to the Budget and Facilities Subcommittee; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Presentation of the BWRSD Reopening Plan:

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Chairperson Schofield stated that Dr. Brice will present the BWRSD Reopening Plan that was submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Education and we have scheduled this meeting to go until 8:30pm.

This plan has taken a ton of time to put together and this plan will evolve as more information is received.

Dr. Brice thanked staff and community members for sending in questions regarding our reopening plan. A team of more than fifty (50) teachers, support staff, and administrators have developed a comprehensive reopening plan that is focused on the health and safety of students and staff, identification of options for families, ensuring a strong academic program, and addressing budgetary, staffing, and policy concerns. This plan was submitted to RIDE on July 17, 2020. Once the district hears from RIDE regarding their feedback, the entire plan will be published.

Dr. Brice presented on the BWRSD Reopening Plan which included the RIDE School Reopening Roadmap and answered questions that were asked by meeting attendees regarding the reopening plan.

The questions that were submitted prior to the meeting will be answered along with the questions answered tonight in a Frequently Asked Questions document that will be posted on the district website.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Reich stated that the next subcommittee meeting will be a virtual meeting next week, Monday evening, time to be determined. The subcommittee has not met in a long time and needs to get back on track. The subcommittee will be reviewing policies that have been previously discussed which will include the hiring policy and the chairwoman's initiative of getting a representative to the school committee.

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Bradshaw stated that they will take a harder look at the items brought forth tonight and thanked everyone for their feedback. The subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for August 17th but may be scheduled earlier than that to discuss the FY 20 Line Item Adjustments and the FY 21 Preliminary Budget.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Mr. Ramos stated that the subcommittee is planning to have a meeting early next week as we take the next steps in working with BWEA on a new contract.

Wellness Subcommittee

Mrs. Reich stated that the wellness committee has not met since the last meeting in June. Both Mr. Ramos and Mrs. Reich have been discussing ways this committee can best focus efforts to help support the health and wellness of our students in this unprecedented time. Mr. Ramos mentioned one item that they have discussed is the opportunity of outdoor learning for all students at all facilities when possible.

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ADJOURNMENT -9:18 p.m.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Saviano, Secretary

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