

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

Monday, August 31, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, August 31, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield 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)** Pending Litigation

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Open session was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Schofield. Chairperson Schofield announced that there will be an additional meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020, which will include an update from the Superintendent about the BWRSD Reopening Plan.

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

Jennifer McDonald, 3rd Grade Teacher, Hugh Cole School, commented and raised concerns about reopening the schools as planned.

Ms. Michelle Way DaSilva, BWEA Leadership Representative, commented and raised concerns about reopening the schools as planned.

Ms. Kristina Tomkinson, 5th Grade Teacher, Rockwell School, commented and raised concerns about reopening the schools as planned.

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Ms. Kirsten Towers, MHHS Teacher, raised questions and concerns about reopening the schools as planned.

Ms. Shannon Gray, Bristol Resident, commented as a parent of an elementary school student and a teacher on the importance of special education students needing to be in person and asked the committee to take into consideration the needs of all our learners.

MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to seal the August 31, 2020, executive session meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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 C would be removed from the Consent Agenda as it does not apply and only items A and B would be voted on tonight, and then asked for a motion.

- A. Approval of July 27, 2020 School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of sixteen (16) homeschool requests for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS & ISSUES

Recommendation #S2020-26: 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: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the FY20 Line Item Budget Adjustments; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bradshaw thanked committee members Mrs. Ellsworth and Mrs. McBride for their help with the process and working with district staff on this document and detailed reports regarding this matter.

Mr. Bradshaw shared that the Budget and Facilities Subcommittee has a process going forward that line item adjustments \$10,000 or greater need to be provided to committee

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members and will be discussed at the subcommittee first and then proceed to the full school committee.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Recommendation #S2020-27: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget & Facilities subcommittee, approve the preliminary FY21 Budget.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Preliminary FY21 Budget; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bradshaw thanked everyone who had input on this matter since the last School Committee meeting. At this time, the district is still unsure about the amount of state aid that it will receive and that they have heard there may be a 10% cut made to all state departments.

Dr. Brice presented the Preliminary FY21 Budget Summary and stated that the district is concerned about the amount of state funding for this year.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Recommendation #S2020-28: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and supported by the Budget & Facilities subcommittee, approve the quotes for services to repair the MHHS Tennis Courts.

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the quotes for services to repair the MHHS Tennis Courts; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bradshaw made a recommendation to go with the J.G. Coffey quote at \$14,872.50 as it is the most economical, provides a good warranty, and will complete the project within the necessary timeline.

The Budget and Facilities Subcommittee reviewed the three quotes for services (one at \$48,000, one at \$20,000, and the J.G. Coffey quote at \$14,872.50).

Further discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Recommendation #S2020-29: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the amended 2020-2021 School Year Calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the amended 2020-2021 School Year Calendar; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

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DISCUSSION: Dr. Brice stated that the Rhode Island Department of Education amended the state issued 2020-2021 School Year Calendar when the decision was made to move the school year start date to September 14th, 2020. This calendar lists the following: September 9, 10 and 11 are Professional Development Days for all staff. September 2, September 3, September 28 and May 13 are contractual Professional Development Days for all staff.

Dr. Brice noted that in recognition that high school students that will be fully distance learning need more support, all Mondays will be virtual support days at MHHS. This topic will be discussed more at the upcoming meeting on Thursday this week.

Dr. Brice stated that the district will be assigning all elementary students a technology device as the Governor made very clear that traditional snow days will be a thing of the past and will be a distance learning day for all students.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee

Mrs. Reich stated that the next subcommittee meeting has not been scheduled yet and will be discussing this matter later this week. The subcommittee will meet whenever we can to support the needs of the district.

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Bradshaw stated that the next subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 21, 2020.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee

Mr. Ramos stated that the subcommittee is planning to have a conversation with district administration and BWEA to discuss the reopening of school regarding COVID-19.

Wellness Subcommittee

Mr. Ramos and Mrs. Reich stated there is nothing new to report other than both have been discussing ways this committee can best focus efforts to help support the health and wellness of our students in this unprecedented time and reiterated their support of outdoor learning for all students at all facilities when possible.

ADJOURNMENT -8:01 p.m.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Saviano, Secretary
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