

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

Thursday, September 3, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Thursday, September 3, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield called the Executive Session part of the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Adam Ramos, Vice-Chairperson; Brian Bradshaw, Treasurer; John P. Saviano, Secretary; Carly Reich, 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

**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) (2)** Negotiations BWEA
2. **42-46-5(a) (2)** Pending Litigation/Legal Advice

**MOTION:** Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 8:10 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

Open session was called to order at approximately 8:13 p.m. by Chairperson Schofield. Chairperson Schofield reminded members of the public that this meeting was being livestreamed on the District's YouTube Channel and accessible via Zoom Conferencing. The YouTube link was sent out via email and posted on the district's Facebook page.

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**PRESENTATION**

A. Reopening Plan

Dr. Brice presented an update to the BWRSD Reopening Plan shared at a previous School Committee Meeting, which included the RIDE School Reopening Roadmap and included a question & answer session with members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

The BWRSD Reopening Plan continues to have the following priorities: health and safety of students and staff, options for teachers and learning, engaging academics and SEL support, and necessary staffing and resources.

The update presented included ongoing research to support the current reopening plan, increased attention to airflow, protective equipment purchased, staffing hires, and a confirmed case at Colt Andrews.

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Chairperson Schofield clarified that the policy subcommittee is continuing to develop the COVID-19 policy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairperson Schofield opened it up for questions from members of the community in regards to the reopening presentation. Additional questions from YouTube Livestream were recorded from members of the public and would be shared later in the meeting to be answered by Dr. Brice.

*Kerri DeAngelo, MHHS Teacher, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Jillian LaFazia, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Colt Andrews, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools and urged the School Committee to consider opening the district in full distance learning.*

*Kirsten Towers, MHHS Teacher, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Ann Marie Shoppell, parent of elementary students, asked questions regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Mrs. Jamie Brooks, parent, asked questions regarding the reopening of schools*

*Joshua Braga, BWRSD Custodian, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Ms. Corrie Ramos DaLuz, asked questions regarding the reopening of schools and clarification on teacher assignments and hiring.*

*Ms. Shannon Gray, parent, asked questions regarding the reopening of schools and supports for students with IEPs.*

*Ms. Amy Stone, parent, asked questions regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Mr. Brian Chidester, MHHS Teacher, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools.*

*Ms. Michelle Way-DaSilva, BWEA Leadership Member and MHHS Teacher, raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools.*

**MOTION TO SUSPEND THE POLICY THAT MEETINGS END AT 10PM**

MOTION: Mr. Ramos made a motion to suspend the policy that school committee meetings end at 10 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed with a 7-1 vote, with Mrs. McBride dissenting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM - CONTINUED**

Dr. Brice answered questions submitted via YouTube Livestream chat regarding questions and concerns raised regarding the reopening of schools.

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Chairperson Schofield communicated that Dr. Brice will address the rest of the questions not answered at next week's School Committee meeting.

**MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to seal the September 3, 2020, executive session meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. Reopening Plan**

Chairperson Schofield opened the discussion to the School Committee Members regarding the Reopening Plan that was presented tonight by Dr. Brice.

Mr. Bradshaw asked questions about the considerations being taken regarding the classrooms in buildings that do not have windows or proper airflow.

Mr. Ramos asked questions about the specific learning models being recommended for reopening of schools in the district at the elementary and secondary schools (full in-person, hybrid, limited and full distance).

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the reopening of school as planned on September 14 with the plans we have before us with the full in-person at elementary levels and hybrid models at the secondary levels; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mrs. McBride stated the school committee should vote to move forward with reopening of schools as planned as the majority of families within the district have chosen to send their children to school in person.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Brice recommended to the School Committee to consider an extra week to get ready for in-person learning. Students throughout the district would be full distance learning for the first week of school and then the reopening of buildings would be during the second week of school.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Ellsworth stated that she does not understand why we are not ready with the reopening plan as presented as the parents of the district

Chairperson Schofield stated that this is an extremely difficult decision and many families do not have the option of supporting distance learning due to work schedules.

The motion passed with a vote of 5-3 in favor, with Mrs. Reich, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Cabral opposed.

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**B. MOAs with BWEA Regarding Reopening**

Chairperson Schofield explained that the School Committee and the BWEA have worked on four memorandums of agreements during this time to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. The School Committee has determined that because there is still work to be done on three of these agreements, we would like to vote on one of the four agreements tonight. The one agreement being voted on tonight has to do with professional development.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the MOA regarding professional development with BWEA regarding reopening; Mr. Bradshaw seconded.

The motion passed with a vote of 7-1, with Mrs. McBride opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT -11:45 p.m.**

Chairperson Schofield mentioned that there would be an additional meeting to continue the discussion of the reopening plan and answer questions from the public that were not answered tonight.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John P. Saviano, Secretary*  
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