

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield called the Executive Session part of the meeting to order at 6:00 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
Guests: Laura Frazier, NuGen Capital

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 6:59 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Open session was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Schofield. Chairperson Schofield stated that agenda item V. – D. was being pulled from tonight's meeting agenda and will not be discussed.

OPENING BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Schofield asked for members of the public to share their comments at this time. There will be additional time for the public to comment after the Superintendent's Remarks.

Ms. Donna Razza, community member, asked everyone in attendance to remember community member, Linda Rimoshytis, who recently passed away. Linda worked tirelessly as a student and family advocate for many years and she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Shannon Gray, parent, thanked everyone in the district for all their hard work.

Ms. Jan Little, parent, asked a question regarding transportation schedules.

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Ms. Michelle Way-DaSilva, BWEA co-president, commented on concerns and frustrations with the School Committee not meeting with members of BWEA regarding the MOAs.

Ms. Mary Arsenault, teacher and parent, spoke to the safety of the children and staff of the schools to consider in regards to the reopening of schools.

Ms. Kim Micallef, parent of Guiteras students, commented on the concerns about the reopening of schools and the need to hear the concerns raised by teachers in the district.

Erin Kopecky, parent of MHHS, commented on the concerns of reopening of schools.

Holly Delivera, teacher in another district and parent in district, expressed concern over the regarding the reopening of schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS

- A. Address community members' Reopening Plan questions from 9/3/20 School Committee Virtual Meeting.

Dr. Brice presented on the BWRSD Reopening Plan. Dr. Brice stated that there was no change to the reopening plan for the following four schools: Guiteras Elementary, Rockwell Elementary, Hugh Cole, and KMS. Dr. Brice recommended a change to for opening of school to these two schools:

- Colt Andrews to open in full distance model for the week of September 14; In-person return week of September 21. Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at school each day between 8-9:30am.
- MHHS to open in limited in-person model with students attending in person one day per week due to inability to ensure 6 feet of space between each student in classes. This recommendation was based on guidance released by RIDE on August 24th regarding COVID-19 Facilities and Physical Plant Guidance (pg. 5).

Dr. Brice answered questions that were not addressed at the 9/3/20 School Committee Virtual Meeting regarding the Reopening Plan and presentation submitted by community members.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

Dr. Brice took additional questions from members of the public regarding their concerns about the reopening of schools to the Superintendent.

Chairperson Schofield reiterated that community members could email School Committee members or District Leaders at any time regarding any concerns or questions regarding the reopening of schools.

MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to seal the September 9, 2020, executive session meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

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DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. NuGen Capital solar proposal

Mr. Bradshaw shared that this proposal from NuGen Capital came before the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee and now presented to the full school committee.

Chairperson Schofield asked for questions from School Committee Members regarding this proposal.

Mrs. McBride asked about the cost to Bristol Warren Regional School District and the timeline of the commitment.

Ms. Laura Frazier from NuGen Capital answered that the agreement between BWRSD and NuGen Capital would be for 25 years and there is no upfront cost.

Discussion ensued regarding the solar proposal and RFP process.

MOTION: Mrs. Reich made a motion to approve the NuGen solar proposal; seconded by Mr. Bento.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Saviano asked School Committee members to consider the longevity of this decision and the responsibility that lies within making this decision.

Discussion ensued.

Attorney Carroll was asked her opinion regarding the RFP and stated that she would need to do more research before answering that question for the district.

Mr. Bradshaw commented that BWRSD would need permission from the state procurement officer to “piggyback” on the Bristol/Barrington RFP.

Ms. Frazier from NuGen mentioned that permission would need to come from the state procurement officer to join the Bristol/Barrington RFP.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Ramos asked to amend the motion to approve the recommendation to enter into the agreement with NuGen for solar metering credits subject to receiving approval from the state purchasing office to join in the RFP selection process conducted by the town of Bristol, the town of Barrington and the Barrington School Department; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The amended motion passed with a vote of 5-4, with Mrs. McBride, Mr. Saviano, Mr. Cabral, and Mrs. Ellsworth opposed.

The vote on the original motion to approve the NuGen solar proposal made by Mrs. Reich, along with the approved amended motion made by Mr. Ramos passed with a vote of 5-4, with Mrs. McBride, Mr. Saviano, Mr. Cabral, and Mrs. Ellsworth opposed.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING PAST 10 P.M.

MOTION: Mrs. Reich made a motion to extend the meeting past 10 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

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B. 2020-2021 Transportation contract

Ms. Tina Fogell discussed the memorandum of agreement with First Student for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 transportation contract with First Student; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Saviano asked for clarification regarding the cleaning costs that were added to the memorandum of agreement for this year due to COVID-19.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Reopening Plan

MOTION: Mr. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the amended reopening plan as presented by Dr. Brice tonight; seconded by Mr. Ramos.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bradshaw stated that it was his understanding that nothing would change from the vote for reopening of schools made last week except for Colt Andrews beginning in full distance learning for the first week and the recommendation for MHHS to start in the limited model.

Dr. Brice stated that was correct.

Mrs. Ellsworth asked for an explanation on how the district would make sure that Colt Andrews students would receive the appropriate services, technology devices, and grab and go lunches.

Dr. Brice stated that grab and go lunches would be available every day next week for Colt Andrews students. The technology department will be working on making chromebooks and hotspots available for anyone that needs them.

Discussion ensued about the recommendations made by Dr. Brice for Colt Andrews to be distance learning for the first week and adjusting Mt. Hope High School to open in the limited model.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:45 p.m.

Chairperson Schofield mentioned that the School Committee would work on transitioning to in-person meetings. In-person meetings will limit how many people will be in the building based on state guidelines. There would still virtual conferencing available to have members of the public join these open meetings.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

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*Respectfully submitted,
John P. Saviano, Secretary
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