

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

Monday, November 30, 2020

The virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, November 30, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson Schofield called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Present: Erin Schofield, Chairperson; Carly Reich, Marjorie McBride, Sheila Ellsworth, Victor Cabral, Karen Cabral, Nicky Piper, Tara Thibaudeau, and Sarah Bullard; 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

OPENING BUSINESS

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

ORGANIZATION MEETING

A. Introduction of School Committee Members

Before introducing the newest members of the School Committee, Chairperson Schofield acknowledged the four outgoing School Committee members - Mr. Ramos, Vice-Chair, Mr. Bradshaw, Treasurer, Mr. Saviano, Secretary, and Mr. Bento - for their service and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Chairperson Schofield introduced each of the School Committee members and welcomed Mrs. Bullard, Mrs. Cabral, Mrs. Thibaudeau, and Mrs. Piper as the newest members of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee, along with Mrs. McBride who was elected to her sixth term.

B. Swearing in of School Committee Members

Chairperson Schofield stated that Judge Patricia Hurst was not able to attend and sent remarks to be read this evening by Attorney Carroll.

Attorney Carroll read the following statement from Judge Hurst:

Members of the School Committee,

I am sorry that I could not be here with you tonight. My thoughts are with you. Even under normal circumstances, the task of a school committee member is a solemn and enormous one. Now, with a pandemic raging all around us, your task has more than doubled - you have so many students with so many varying needs and there is little experience for what is facing you and there are so many conflicting views and information. Nonetheless, I have every faith that this school committee will rise to the occasion. You have all of my best wishes for your tenure on the committee. Again, my thoughts are with you.

Attorney Carroll stated that she will be sending a certificate to the newly appointed and re-elected members of the School Committee after tonight's meeting.

Attorney Carroll asked the four new members and one re-elected member to raise their right hand and recite the Oath of Office: "I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States of America and the State of Rhode Island, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Regional School Committee Member."

Chairperson Schofield explained the process for nomination of officers and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Brice.

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Dr. Brice thanked Chairperson Schofield for all the work she has done as School Committee Chair for the past two years for everyone in the district. As part of our thank you, we have a small token of our appreciation that will be provided to you shortly.

Dr. Brice also publicly thanked the four outgoing members for their hard work and welcomed the five newly sworn in members of the School Committee and stated that he looks forward to working together.

C. Election of School Committee Officers

Chair

Dr. Brice asked for nominations for Chair. Mrs. Ellsworth nominated Mrs. McBride; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Ellsworth stated that Mrs. McBride has been on the School Committee the longest, her dedication, and I feel that she would be a great team player which we need at this time. Mr. Cabral stated that Mrs. McBride has been on the School Committee for 20+ years, did not advertise her campaign, and the town of Bristol re-elected her. Mrs. Schofield explained that similar to what she stated when she was newly elected to the School Committee in 2014, she believes that leadership should change in order to allow for fresh ideas and she would be dissenting on this vote. Mrs. Reich stated that she agreed with Mrs. Schofield.

A roll call vote was called. The nomination for Mrs. McBride passed by a vote of 5-4, with Mrs. Schofield, Mrs. Reich, Mrs. Bullard, and Mrs. Piper opposed.

Dr. Brice turned control of the meeting over to the new Chair, Mrs. McBride.

Vice-Chair

Chair McBride asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mrs. Ellsworth nominated Mrs. Thibaudeau; seconded by Mr. Cabral. Chair McBride asked for any other nominations. Mrs. Reich nominated Mrs. Piper; seconded by Mrs. Bullard.

A roll call vote was taken on the first nomination of Mrs. Thibaudeau for Vice-Chair. The nomination for Mrs. Thibaudeau passed by a vote of 5-4, with Mrs. Schofield, Mrs. Reich, Mrs. Bullard, and Mrs. Piper opposed.

Treasurer

Chair McBride asked for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Cabral nominated Mrs. Ellsworth; seconded by Mrs. Thibaudeau. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Mrs. Ellsworth for Treasurer. The nomination passed by a vote of 8-1, with Mrs. Reich opposed.

Secretary

Chair McBride asked for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Ellsworth nominated Mr. Cabral; seconded by Mrs. Thibaudeau. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Mr. Cabral for Secretary. The nomination passed by a vote of 8-1, with Mrs. Reich opposed.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.

Chair McBride stated that there will be a School Committee meeting next Monday, December 7, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

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MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Schofield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Cabral, Secretary
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