

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

Monday, December 7, 2020

The virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, December 7, 2020, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Present: Marjorie McBride, Chairperson; Tara Thibaudeau, Vice-Chair; Sheila Ellsworth, Treasurer; Victor Cabral, Secretary; Carly Reich, Erin Schofield, Karen Cabral, Nicky Piper, 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 McBride invited all present to join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACCOLADES

Student Accolades

- **Mt. Hope High School Boys Soccer Team - Division II East Champions and Division II State Runners-up**
 - Head Coach - Alex Couto
 - Assistant Coaches - J. Jay Spina & Ken Vieira
 - Manager - Tori Viera
 - Team Roster
 - Nicholas Andreozzi
 - Dylan Araujo
 - Zachary Avila
 - Griffin Berardo
 - Dylan Brol
 - Parker Camelo
 - Benjamin DiChiappari
 - Alexander Enes
 - Noah Furtado
 - Christopher Kiklis
 - Aidan MacDougall
 - Jake Marshall
 - Joshua Martins
 - Jack McNally
 - Kevin Medeiros
 - Justin Mendes
 - Matthew Milhomens
 - Thomas Nencka
 - Chad Parente
 - Kevin Reis
 - Noah Rocha
 - Tristan Tamulaites
 - Matthew Terceiro
 - Jayden Terra
 - Jesse Wilson

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- **Mt. Hope High School All-State Musicians selected to the 2020 Rhode Island Music Education Association (RIMEA) All -State performing ensembles**
 - Abigail Bratsos - Jr. All State Treble Chorus
 - Liam Reich - Jr. All-State Mixed Chorus
 - Olivia Bullard - Jr. All-State Mixed Chorus
 - Lucien Chidester - Jr. All-State Orchestra
 - Sabella Matheson - Jr. All - State Orchestra
 - Abigail Phenix - Sr. All-State Treble Chorus
 - Emily Marino - Sr. All-State Treble Chorus
 - Madison Campo - Sr. All-State Treble Chorus
 - Nathan Macedo - Sr. All-State Mixed Chorus
 - Sophia Ferolito - Sr. All-State Mixed Chorus
 - Carter McCausland - Sr. All-State Guitar Ensemble
 - Frank Ferrara - Sr. All-State Guitar Ensemble
 - Hannah DeJesus - Sr. All-State Guitar Ensemble
 - Peter Labonte - Sr. All-State Guitar Ensemble
 - Eva White - Sr. All-State Band
 - Peter Labonte - Sr. All-State Orchestra
 - Rachel Ouellette - Sr. All-State Orchestra

*Of Special note, three Mt. Hope High School All-State Musicians ranked #1 in the State for their audition and are as follows:

- Olivia Bullard - #1 Alto in Jr. All-State Mixed Chorus
- Hannah DeJesus - #1 All-State Guitar Ensemble
- Rachel Ouellette - #1 Flute in the All-State Orchestra

*Mt. Hope High School Music Ensemble Directors are as follows:

- Virginia Boyle - MHHS Guitar Ensemble Director
- Christopher Lambert - MHHS Bands Director
- David Lauria - MHHS Choral Director

- **Guiteras School and Student**

- Liam Donovan, 4th Grade Student at Guiteras, won the Feintein Golden Ticket Raffle earning him the following:
 - \$5,000 for Guiteras School,
 - \$500 to donate to another charity of Mr. Donovan's choice,
 - and a prize for Mr. Donovan

Staff Accolade - Retirement of Mary Almeida

Mary Almeida was honored for her extraordinary commitment she has made to the Bristol Warren Regional School District over her 33+ years of service to the district. Mary began her career in 1980 working for the Warren School Department as a bilingual teacher. She later worked as a classroom teacher and reading specialist and served as a mentor for teachers and student teachers. In 2007, Mary was appointed to the position of assistant principal of Hugh Cole Elementary School and then as Director of Literacy and Title I in 2009. In addition, Mary has supported numerous initiatives such as the annual Kindergarten Orientation and Title I Family Engagement Events, serving as Reading Week Coordinator, organizing the annual Spelling Bee, and also volunteering with Rotary Club and other community organizations. Mary worked with educational organizations at the state and regional levels, serving on statewide committees for the RI Department of Education and as Focus Facilitator and Lab Classroom teacher for the East Bay Educational Collaborative. She has planned and facilitated professional development within the

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district, has influenced the professional careers of numerous educators, and touched the lives of thousands of parents, children, and even grandchildren within Bristol and Warren.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

- A. October 26, 2020
- B. November 30, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the October 26, 2020, and November 30, 2020, School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Thibaudeau.

The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairperson McBride presented the following subcommittee assignments:

Budget/Facilities

Chair - Sheila Ellsworth; Members - Tara Thibaudeau and Nicky Piper

Policy/Curriculum

Chair - Carly Reich; Members - Victor Cabral and Sarah Bullard

Health & Wellness

Chair - Karen Cabral; Members - Carly Reich and Sarah Bullard

Personnel/Contract Negotiations

Chair - Marjorie McBride; Members - Erin Schofield and Victor Cabral

- BWEA Contract Negotiation Subcommittee of the Subcommittee: Marjorie McBride, Tara Thibaudeau, and Sheila Ellsworth
- C94 Contract Negotiation Subcommittee of the Subcommittee: Victor Cabral, Erin Schofield, and Karen Cabral

Student Discipline Hearings

Chair - Marjorie McBride

Chairperson McBride stated that the School Committee schedule for meetings will be the second Monday of the month for a workshop meeting, and the fourth Monday of the month for the regular business meeting. More information will be to come regarding meeting dates for subcommittee meetings.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 101

Attorney Carroll shared a presentation called "School Committee 101" with the full School Committee and Dr. Brice detailing what the role of a school committee member entails.

Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. Approval to advertise for a school committee clerk

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve to advertise for a school committee clerk; seconded by Mrs. Ellsworth.

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DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cabral stated that Mrs. Brown has done a great job, but should not be expected to do the work for two positions (Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the School Committee Clerk).

Mrs. Reich asked about procedure about this position and why it is coming before the School Committee prior to going to the Personnel Subcommittee first.

Chairperson McBride stated that it is before the full school committee as it is just approval for advertising the position.

Mrs. Schofield stated that she believed there is a need for this position as we are a Regional School District with four subcommittees which is different from other school districts.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of consultant to conduct a financial analysis of FY 2021 budget

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion for approval of a consultant to conduct a financial analysis of the FY2021 budget; seconded by Mrs. Ellsworth.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson McBride stated that the district did not have a budget director for a while and would like to have someone

Dr. Brice reminded the members that the district recognizes that this year is different than any other year with the current pandemic. In the absence of a budget director, we have an interim business manager, Joel Harrington, who has ably filled in the role. The district would approach this opportunity to work with a consultant to make sure we are in the best position going forward as we approach the budgeting process for the coming school year.

Mr. Cabral asked for clarification on this consultant and the contract.

Attorney Carroll stated that this consultant would be limited to a maximum of forty (40) hours. If there is a need for more hours, this would need to come before the full committee to be voted on again to extend the contract of the consultant.

Mrs. Reich asked how this compares to the external audit that is done every year and about the timing of bringing this consultant in at this time.

Dr. Brice stated that the findings from the external auditors are expected prior to holiday break.

Mrs. Ellsworth stated that the external auditors are working on an audit for FY2020 and the FY2021 scope of work that this consultant would do would be to look at all budget areas and find cost efficiencies and best practices for us going forward.

Mrs. Reich asked for clarification on why the district is not going out for a bid for this contract.

Attorney Carroll stated that the consultant will be hired through legal counsel and the contract will be kept under \$10,000, as such does not need to go out to bid per policy.

Mrs. Bullard asked about a set due date for the consultant to finish as we know the budget needs to be presented to the Joint Finance Committee in March.

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Attorney Carroll stated that if the school committee approves a consultant tonight, this work will begin as soon as possible as timing is of importance.

Mrs. Piper stated that in theory, she is a big fan of having checks and balances; however, in practice it is hard and asked Dr. Brice if the business office has the capacity to work with the consultant at this time?

Dr. Brice stated that the district staff will be available to meet with this consultant if the school committee approves the consultant for financial analysis.

Mrs. Schofield stated that she is fully in favor of having a financial analyst do this and asked for more clarification on why the consultant would be hired through legal and not going through the Budget Subcommittee.

Attorney Carroll stated that her firm has been involved in other financial audits for school districts and has someone in mind for this position who is extremely knowledgeable about school budgeting and would be available to start right away.

Chairperson McBride stated that it is a matter of time. Subcommittee meetings will not be starting until January or February and the budget is due in March.

Dr. Brice clarified that staff have been working on the FY22 budget since this fall and will be supportive of this effort to work with an expert that can identify efficiencies for a tight FY22 budget season.

Discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:33 p.m.

Chair McBride stated that there will be a School Committee meeting next Monday, December 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Schofield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Cabral, Secretary
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