

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

Monday, January 25, 2021

The virtual meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 25, 2021, via ZOOM Video Conferencing. Chairperson McBride called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 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, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Edward Clarke, M.Ed., CAGS, Director of Student Support Services; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor; and Kathryn Brown, Recording Secretary

Guests: Deborah DiBiase, Ed.D, MHHS Principal; Michelle King, M.Ed., MHHS Assistant Principal

I. 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:

- A. **42-46-5(a)(1)** Job Performance of individual - Said person has been notified in advance, in writing, and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in open session.
- B. **42-46-5(a)(2)** Discussion of upcoming negotiations, contracts, legal advice

MOTION: Mrs. Reich made a motion to go into executive session at 6:05 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to adjourn the executive session and resume open session at 7:02 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Bullard.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. OPEN SESSION

Chairperson McBride called the open session to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

III. OPENING BUSINESS

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

IV. ACCOLADES

The KMS Solve for Tomorrow Team was selected as a National Semi-Finalist in the Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Competition.

Teacher Coaches, Mrs. Patricia Phillipino and Mrs. Mary Cabral, worked collaboratively with 4 pods of students at both MHHS and KMS to enter the Solve for Tomorrow competition sponsored by Samsung. The teachers are proud of all students who participated in both schools.

The KMS pod won the first round of the competition by submitting the best problem-solution proposal in December. Over 2000 projects were submitted nationwide. KMS' proposal has won \$15,000 in school supplies and technology and is the only school in Rhode Island to make it into round 2. Students will design and build their solutions and submit a documentary of their project

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

to a virtual panel in March. 75 schools from across the nation are competing to be selected as one of the top 10 problem-solving schools in the nation.

- KMS Students on the KMS Solve for Tomorrow Team:
 - Charlotte Arsenault, Hazel Bradley, Marissa Cabral, Samantha Campbell, Ellie Donovan, Elizabeth Dunlop, Cristina Marion, Lily Parisi, Brigitta Reich, Zahra Sheikh, Avery Walsh, Eliza White, Lucy O'brien, Luke Daniel, and Jacob Betres
- MHHS Student Mentors for the KMS Solve for Tomorrow Team:
 - Alice Grantham and Kristiana Cabral
- Teacher Coaches for the KMS Solve for Tomorrow Team:
 - Pat Fillipino and Mary Cabral

The KMS Solve for Tomorrow Team's Winning Proposal:

Kickemuit Middle School students will use STEM to give the Ocean State a solution for the ever-rising number of rip current threats reported on area beaches and stop the tragic loss of life experienced this summer. According to the National Weather Service, "surf zone fatalities caused by hazards such as waves and current account for 52 deaths nationwide" in 2020. A STEM solution to rescue people from dangerous undertows and warn beachgoers is imperative!

Swimmers, both young and old, are at risk when swimming on Rhode Island beaches. Locally, news reports of rip currents broke records this year. Our teacher lost a former 7th-grade student 8 years ago as the 11- year old attempted to free her younger cousin from the undertow. The 2020 beach season in RI began as a retired gentleman from South County drowned in a riptide. Within a mile of KMS student homes, two of five brothers became trapped by a rip current. Their father immediately swam in to rescue them and saved the boys but became a victim of the rip current himself. We will conduct research to understand the scientific cause of rip currents and engineer a solution that will save lives on Rhode Island shores.

Students will use scientific research from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Association to understand the causes and the way in which a rip current occurs. We will engineer a prototype solution that might warn, and rescue swimmers who become trapped in an undertow.

The Solve for Tomorrow KMS team will share the design with school committee members at the conclusion of round 2. If the Solve for Tomorrow judges are impressed with our solution, the winnings will be increased to \$65,000 for school technology and classroom supplies. Students who win the next round become "National STEM finalists" for 2021.

Dr. Brice and Dr. Sanna congratulated all students and shared that the district is proud of all the work our young scientists and engineers are doing in creating real world solutions to a real world problem that impacts us now and in years to come.

Chairperson McBride expressed gratitude to the students and thanked them for their hard work and that the community was very proud of them.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Peter Hewett, Bristol, RI, asked questions regarding the following: BWRSD's policy on transgender student rights in regards to participating in sports and activities, how to obtain more

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

information about the new diversity courses and four modules being offered at MHHS, and how to obtain curriculum materials used in the English class during the reading of the classic novel, *“The Catcher in the Rye”*, at MHHS this past year.

Chairperson McBride stated that she cannot respond to these questions as none of these items were on the meeting agenda. Chairperson McBride invited Mr. Hewitt to submit these questions to Dr. Sanna, Assistant Superintendent, and her office will work to respond in a timely manner.

VI. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

A. January 25, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to seal the executive session minutes from January 25, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Cabral.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items 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 on the agenda. Consent Agenda items are received and filed with no discussion or further action taken.

A. Approval of January 11, 2021 School Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of One (1) Homeschool Request for the 2020-2021 School Year

MOTION: Mrs. Piper made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson McBride stated that she does not approve any homeschooling requests after January.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-1, with Chairperson McBride dissenting.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION

A. 2021 - 2022 Mt. Hope High School Program of Studies

MOTION: Mrs. Reich made a motion to accept the 2021 - 2022 Mt. Hope High School Program of Studies; seconded by Mrs. Bullard.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. DiBiase, Principal of MHHS, and Mrs. King, Assistant Principal of MHHS, explained the edits that were made to the 2021-2022 Mt. Hope High School Program of Studies that were discussed at the last School Committee Workshop Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brice thanked the MHHS Administration for their work on the 2021 -2022 Program of Studies.

Mrs. King stated that the 2021-2022 MHHS Program of Studies will be available on the MHHS website under the School Counseling Section and will be providing hard copies to students early in February. Dr. DiBiase stated that the Program of Studies will also be shared with families via the next MHHS newsletter.

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

B. School Committee Legal Services Contract

MOTION: Mrs. Thibaudeau made a motion to approve the legal services contract to hire the firm Henneous Carroll and Lombardo; seconded by Mr. Cabral.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Piper asked Attorney Carroll for more information on the average number of hours billed on a monthly basis and if there were rate changes in this new contract from the previous approved contract.

Attorney Carroll stated that she will provide information to the School Committee regarding the average number of hours on a monthly basis. Attorney Carroll explained that the last contract had rates of pay ranging between \$160-\$175 per hour, whereas this current contract lists a flat rate of \$175 per hour for all services.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. SBA COVID-19 Grant

Attorney Carroll explained that this School Building Authority COVID-19 Grant has been approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the amount allocated to BWRSD to be used for any COVID related expenses is \$56,000. The signed grant agreement needs to be signed and submitted to RIDE by February 15, 2021.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mrs. Schofield made a motion to accept the SBA COVID-19 Grant for the district; seconded by Mrs. Reich.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Extension of Services for Financial Consultant

Dr. Brice stated that the Financial Consultant has been instrumental in working with the district to find efficiencies in this current year's budget. The financial consultant has experience that would help the district in the hiring process for new hires including the position of Chief Financial Officer. The extension of services would be for the same amount of time that the consultant was hired for initially.

MOTION: Mr. Cabral made a motion to approve the extension of services for the financial consultant; seconded by Mrs. Thibaudeau.

Motion passed unanimously.

E. Notification of Appointment of School Committee Clerk

Dr. Brice stated that the district went through the hiring process of a School Committee Clerk and invited Dr. Sanna to share more information.

Dr. Sanna announced the appointment of Diane Campbell who is a former member of the School Committee. She has extensive background on school committee procedures and brings a strong technology background and communication skills. She will receive a rate of pay of \$26/hour and anticipate that she will work an average of 40 hours per month.

F. Budget Update

Dr. Brice shared the proposed BWRSD FY22 Budget Process timeline and discussed changes that were made since the previous meeting. Key milestones and dates of the budgeting process were

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

added to this document. The Budget/Facilities Subcommittee will work with the district on the budget between February 3 and February 22. The Proposed FY22 Budget will then be brought to the School Committee by February 26.

Discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 7:48 p.m.

MOTION: There being no more business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Cabral to adjourn the meeting at 7:48p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Thibaudeau.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Cabral, Secretary
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