

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021**

The Operations Committee met on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 via ZOOM online meeting platform

Present: Committee Chair Eric Carlson, Commissioners: John Sklenka, and Chris Wilson

Also Present: Jill Browne, Timothy Callahan, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Mike Dietter, Jen Dube, Dr. Sam Galloway, Kristin Giantonio, Tom O'Brien, Roger Rousseau, and Allison Wadowski

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Carlson

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting norms were reviewed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Sklenka and seconded by Commissioner Wilson, it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes from the March 2, 2021 Special Meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

4. BCHS & BEHS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SELECTED CONTRACTOR APPROVAL

Tim Callahan Presented:

The bids have been received for the two UST projects. BEHS is a removal and BCHS is a removal and replacement.

On a motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka, it was unanimously voted to approve the recommendation by the City Purchasing Department, resolving that the BOE Operations Committee approve the selection of Rivco in the amount of \$216,635 for the BCHS UST Replacement Project and to forward to City Council for approval.

On a motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka, it was unanimously voted to approve the recommendation by the City Purchasing Department, resolving that the BOE Operations Committee approve the selection of Rivco in the amount of \$19,000 for the BEHS UST Removal Project and to forward to City Council for approval.

Chair Carlson asked if the tank would need to be heated – No

Commissioner Sklenka asked how contaminated soil would be treated – The soil testing indicated no contamination. The soil will continue to be examined throughout the process. If there is any contaminated soil, removal would be handled on a time and material basis.

Roger Rousseau pointed out that this was bid as once complete package and the motion to City Council will reflect that.

5. HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) GRANT FOR ADDING A MEDICAL AREA TO BCHS AND WB K-8

On a motion by Commissioner Sklenka and seconded by Commissioner Wilson it was unanimously voted to approve the proposal to move the proposal to accept the HRSA Grant to support the addition of the Health Center within BCHS and WB K-8 to the full Board of Education for discussion and approval.

Commissioner Sklenka asked where the rooms will be put, will they be taking away from existing classrooms – Dr. Carbone responded that at BCHS the room will be put where the mail/copy room is and at WB K-8 there is a ½ classroom that is used by the ELL tutors.

Commissioner Wilson asked what the rationale was to pick these two schools over the other schools in the district – Dr. Carbone responded that it is the best location that fits the need. Locating at BCHS will allow SSS access and likewise, WB K-8 will allow access to students at CHMS.

6. REIMAGINING BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS; UPDATE REGARDING FEASIBILITY PLANNING

Jill Browne gave a brief review of what was took place at the BoE Workshop on March 17, 2021.

1. Chronological Review of BPS Reimagined
 - a. Present Building Conditions
 - b. Academic Considerations
2. Review of Data, Demographics, and Possible School Configurations
 - a. Stand Alone PK or within Elementary Schools
 - i. If Stand Alone, NEMS Annex or EDGE
 - b. Possible Feeder Patterns
 - c. Redistricting Boundaries
3. Review of Recommended Feasibility Options and Next Steps
 - a. Projects, Phasing, and Cost
4. Discussion of Goals: How do the proposed projects, configurations, and resulting demographic data resonate with the BOE goals?
 - a. Renovate and update old and outdated schools
 - b. Redistrict to create parity in class size and demographics
 - c. Adopt consistent grade configurations/instructional models across all schools aligned to developmental plane of a child
 - d. Increase access to full day Pre-K programming, if possible
5. Meeting Takeaways
 - a. The Board was split on a PK in elementary schools or stand alone
 - b. More Commissioners prefer a PK or K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model
 - c. Recommendation to explore building a larger NEMS to accommodate the district needs
 - d. Prefer direct feeder pattern to HS, if possible

Decisions for the Operations Committee

1. Project details, phasing, and cost for a larger NEMS
 - a. Reach out to QA&M for estimate
2. Investigate enrollment and demographic information for PK, K-5, 6-8, 9-12 feeder plan
 - a. Reach out to Milone and Macbroom for estimate
 - b. Is enrollment feasible with existing buildings?
 - c. Does enrollment ensure parity and class size?
 - d. What would the redistricting boundaries be for the suggested feeder plan?
3. Pre-K model (Stand alone or nested in elementary schools and locations)

Dr. Carbone reviewed what Phase 1 and Phase 2 might look like if we built a larger middle school.

In Phase I, during the NEMS build, the following happens:

- Edgewood accommodates the PK program
- HUBB, SSS, and 75% of STAF feed to CHMS
- IVY, MTV, and 25% of STAF feed to NEMS
- WB and GH remain as K-8 schools

In Phase II, upon the completion of NEMS, the following happens:

- GH & WB become PK-5
- Nested PK program at GH and WB
- HUBB, SSS, and WB feed to CHMS
- IVY, MTV, and GH feed to NEMS
- STAF accommodates BPA/Adult Education
- EDGE is returned to the city

MBIAMS is not part of this because it is a lottery and will be fed through matriculation of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student selection.

The operations committee is asked to give permission to explore in further detail with QA&M for further exploration of the project, phasing, and cost associated with a new, larger NEMS and to engage with Milone and MacBroom in

Dr. Carbone stated that NEMS will have to be a little truncated because IVY and MTV both hold three sections of grade levels and there will be no building projects at either of these schools whereas SSS holds four.

Commissioner Sklenka asked Dr. Carbone if she was asking the committee to move forward with these recommendations before bringing it to the other commissioners. He is perplexed making this decision after discussing having an additional workshop to go over these issues. He feels if he agrees to move forward that he/this committee is taking the other 5 commissioners and Chair Dube and stating this committee will speak for them. He does not feel comfortable with this. This is a big decision; he understands this is just to explore but he feels this should be at the discretion of the entire board.

Dr. Carbone stated the committee of three is not being asked to make the decision on this model, but to allow for further exploration of this model based on the information gathered at the workshop. This will allow the ability to present robust information to the Board.

Chair Carlson stated he is comfortable looking at building NEMS larger but agrees that the phasing is a full board issue and feels there should be another workshop.

Commissioner Wilson stated he is not sure that the full board has approved any of the phases of this project and has no issues going forward to have the Superintendent move forward in exploring the items that came out of the workshop. There was no objection to it at the workshop. He was under the impression the board was trying to build the middle school to accommodate and 1800 capacity and is concerned that a 900 student school at CHMS and an 800 student school at NEMS will not be enough for the growth unless it is taken into account that the Boulevard will house 200 students.

Dr. Carbone stated 300 middle school scholars would attend MBIAMS.

Do these motions require full board approval? Dr. Carbone stated these actions are based on what was suggested at the workshop. Decisions can't be made at a workshop which is why this was brought back to the Operations Committee. Once it is approved, the exploration can happen and another workshop can be planned to review the findings.

Commissioner Wilson stated this committee has always asked the Superintendent to look at and seek options through this entire process. There is no reason to change that process now. There are no decisions being made. We are only asking for information to present during a workshop and have this information to make a decision on. There is nothing wrong with this committee approving the Superintendent in engaging with the consultants to get this information. That way there will be tangible information to review at the workshop vs. just reviewing these tow motions.

Commissioner Sklenka feels waiting until the full BoE meeting and having all commissioners vote on this will allow for other questions that Dr. Carbone can go back to QA&M with.

On a motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka, it was voted 2-1 to engage with QA&M architecture to further explore the project, phasing, and cost associated with a new, larger NEMS and to engage with Milone & MacBroom and to reconfigure the redistricting based on the larger school.

Chair Carlson – Yes

Commissioner Wilson – Yes

Commissioner Sklenka - No

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Landon