

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020**

The Operations Committee met on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 via Webex online meeting platform and in the Board of Education Auditorium

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

Also Present: Jill Browne, Timothy Callahan, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Mike Dietter, Jennifer Dube, and Kristen Giantonio

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair Carlson
Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting norms were reviewed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

On a motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Carlson, it was unanimously voted to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

3. UPDATE ON NEMS BUILDING PROJECTS

Timothy Callahan Presented:

- NEMS Ceiling Tiles: Contractor – Conn Acoustics
 - The project is complete.
 - It is under budget by approximately \$10,000.00.
 - The final closeout is being worked through.
- NEMS Gym Floor: Contractor – Kenvo Floors
 - The project is complete.
 - It is under budget approximately \$13,000.00.

4. REVISIT FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING FOR DISTRICT ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Catherine Carbone Presented

- Dr. Carbone reviewed where we left off in July regarding the feasibility study.
- The priorities of the district are equitable opportunity, operationa. Efficiency, and providing better facilities for all students all while looking at enrollment across the district.
- Dr. Carbone reviewed the four options of the feasibility study. (Attached)
- Commissioner Vibert asked where the BOE would be located if the facility was closed
 - Stafford School
- John Sklenka asked if these were the same four options that were presented originally – Yes.

- Karen Vibert asked that the slides be emailed to all of the commissioners on the board.
- Dr. Carbone reviewed the CIP and pointed out what years these schools are slated for a renovate as new or new construction. It is important that the committee addresses the aging facilities and maximizing what the Bristol Public Schools has.
- Currently the Pre-K students are co-located at the senior center and adult education is located in a rental space.
- There is a need to redistrict to ensure equitable enrollment patterns in all schools.
- Which models would the committee like to further explore or is a hybrid of the models plausible?
- Commissioner Vibert stated there are concerns because of historical changes, with going back to a K-4 or K-5 model vs. staying with a K-8 model.
- Commissioner Wilson stated in 2003 they looked at the efficacy of the K-8 models in other districts within CT and in surrounding states. The Bristol BOE came to the conclusion the K-8 system would be followed after building the first 2 K-8 schools. There was community discussion regarding the K-8. Commissioner Wilson also noted that every time a new superintendent or a new board is elected, they can't keep changing the educational model. It would be easier to handle if we added to the K-8 model.
- Commissioner Sklenka stated he feels the K-8 model is not working – these schools are too big and they are unmanageable.
- Dr. Carbone – It is important to understand the educational landscape and different schools have different models. Mrs. Fortin presented a performance of middles schools vs. K-8's and was non-committal if one outperformed the other.
- Dr. Carbone expressed that she would like to see the pre-school class matriculate into the kindergarten in the school they are in or have a pre-k academy.
- Commissioner Carlson – there are four options with the addition of the magnet school but he is leaning toward the K-4 or K-5 models. Commissioner Carlson would like to hear what option Dr. Carbone prefers.
- Commissioner Carlson wants to have the members pick what options they don't like and then drill down on the options they do.
- Commissioner Vibert reiterated the K-8 model provides an easier transition for the special services students from 5th to 6th grade.
- Commissioner Carlson stated this committee is tasked with picking something and make one model to work with versus working with the split system. At the next meeting, they will revisit what models they don't like. The committee can create a hybrid model, but they need to pick a model to explore further. Look to the administration for guidance on what they like and eliminate the bad choices.
- Commissioner Wilson stated none of this committee will see this implementation and it is doubtful the BOE will receive money from the city and state for all of the CIP projects. He advises to take a slower approach, take small steps. Commissioner Wilson also stated the current K-8 model can't be criticized because it was never implemented properly.
- Commissioner Giantonio wants to see the following while considering the best options
 - Better value of equity and to promote smaller class sizes
- Commissioner Giantonio also feels that the “easy transitions” globally does not apply to the entire demographic for students that receive special services.

- There is a concern that with the mixed model, teachers have a preference of what school they want to teach in – Keeping the mixed model, what talent are we hiring?
- Commissioner Carlson would like to eliminate some options at the next meeting and reiterated that the committee must move forward with some decision.
- Commissioner Vibert asked if the full board should meet on this.
- Commissioner Carlson agreed the full board should give their insight.
- Dr. Carbone will work the logistics out to have a “workshop” and present the options to the full board.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None at this time

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Commissioner Sklenka asked where the Bristol Public Schools are with the athletic fields?
 - Jill Browne asked that he send his question in writing and she will respond promptly.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Landon