

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021**

The Operations Committee met on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 via Zoom online platform.

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

Also Present: Lauren Bent, Jill Browne, Timothy Callahan, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Dr. Michael Dietter, and Peter Fusco

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Carlson

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting norms were reviewed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

JULY 28, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

A motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka, it was unanimously voted to approve the July 28, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time

4. SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL – CHANGE ORDERS PROJECT UPDATE

Jill Browne reviewed that on July 15, 2021, the South Side School building committee met and discussed the change order was going to be coming through. The contractor was still working out the final costs associated with the change in scope. On July 19, 2021, a phone call was made to John Smith to discuss the expenses associated with the change orders and that the project would be over budget. Mr. Smith stated that the Board of Finance would not give any more money to the project. At that point, Mrs. Browne stated she would find the \$9,500. She spoke with Robin Manuele in the city's comptroller's office and is suggesting that the funds are used from the surplus of the 19-20 school year.

Mrs. Browne read the memo that John Smith sent to the South Side School committee regarding the change orders in question. In the memo, Mr. Smith notes the decision that was made to move forward and approve the change order without the committee was the correct one.

Timothy Callahan reviewed the two change orders and stated that the change orders overage equaled 1/3 of 1% of the total project costs. Mr. Callahan feels it is a good plan to take the expense from the surplus from past years' budget and to not use other operating accounts, like the current facilities accounts.

Jill Browne also stated, in the original scope, the all purpose room was not included. Once the first phase of the project was complete, there were additional funds so the committee decided to add the multipurpose room. If the project is looked at in its entirety, it has fallen short \$9,500 on \$3.8M.

Dr. Carbone stated that at the July 15, South Side School committee meeting, the change order was brought up. At that time, there was not an amount associated with the additional asbestos work. Shortly after the meeting,

the change order and associated costs were presented. Due to the timing of the information and the importance of completing the work, Dr. Carbone made the decision to approve the change order because it would have been costlier to the district to stop the project.

Chair Carlson agrees that the decision to approve the change order was the right one, especially considering it is a cost overrun of less than 1%.

A motion by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka, it was unanimously voted to recommend that the over-expenditure on the SSS HVAC Project will be paid from the surplus account from the 2019-2020 Budget, and to forward such recommendation to the full Board of Education for consideration.

5. UPDATE OF THE COMMUNITY USE OF THE MBIAMS THEATER

Dr. Dietter introduced Lauren Bent, the Bristol Arts & Culture Supervisor working with Bristol Parks and Recreation Youth and Community Services. Dr. Dietter has been working with Lauren, Superintendent Medeiros, and John Smith on the mutual use agreement for the theater.

At the last Operations meeting, the next steps were to work on a vision statement. The Mutual Use Agreement recognizes the unique spaces contained within the MBIAMS. The mutual use agreement will align with BOE policy, provide comprehensive operational guidelines, and identify expectations and requirements for rental and equipment use.

A draft of the vision statement was read:

The District and BPRYCS have mutual interests in providing people of all ages opportunities to develop, spend leisure time, and learn through access to our facilities and grounds. It is of mutual interest for the District and BPRYCS to develop a unified approach for accessibility and use of the Rockwell Theater and associated facilities at the MBIAMS

The draft vision is a way to say that both the BPS and the BPRYCS have mutual interests in the facilities. The purpose of this agreement is to:

- A. Effectively and efficiently manage the use of the Rockwell Theater and associated facilities
- B. Establish procedures between the District and BPRYCS at all levels
- C. Identify and encourage joint and cooperative ventures including facility maintenance and development
- D. Regularly report joint use outcomes to the community at large

Feedback given included that the draft is a good start, but seems obtuse and needs more specificity in areas like use of the theater, what types of use (arts, poetry), and production. There are so many things that can be done at that facility and the vision statement must grab the people.

Lauren Bent introduces herself to the committee. She just started with the City of Bristol in June. Her experience is in mostly public administration. She is excited to work through this process with the BOE.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

7. NEW BUSINESS

A motion made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sklenka was unanimously approved to add to the following item to the agenda: Ask the administration to provide information on the status of the mold remediation at Bristol Central High School.

8. UPDATE ON MOLD REMEDIATION

Peter Fusco updated the committee regarding the mold at Bristol Central. On August 24, he was informed there was suspected mold growth in the science wing at Bristol Central. The industrial hygienist and the remediation contractor were both contacted. Samples were taken and the identified molds were cladosporium and aspergillus penicillium. The humidity in the space enhanced the growth of this very common mold spore. The space was being cleaned and negative air machines were set up. Another sample is scheduled to be taken on 8/26/21 with hopes of an air clearance. The space will continue to be cleaned and samples will continue to be cleaned with the hope to be successful and open the school on Monday morning. Dehumidification has been added to the space that is having issues. Inspections have been done in all of the schools and there has not been any mold in any of them. In the event the school does not get the required air clearance, Bristol Central will have their first day on Tuesday, August 31, not Monday.

Dr. Carbone stated they will communicate to the families the type of mold that was identified, that it has been remediated, and they are awaiting the air samples.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Sklenka and seconded by Chair Wilson, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Landon