

**BRUNSWICK SCHOOL BOARD  
STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 6, 2019 9:30 a.m.  
OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**School Board Members in Attendance:** Mandy Merrill, Elizabeth Sokoloff

**Brunswick School Department Representatives:** Barbara Gunn, Director of Student Services; Chris McCarthy, Principal at the REAL School

- The meeting was called to order by Mandy Merrill at 9:30 a.m.
  
- Brunswick REAL School Update  
Chris McCarthy provided the following updates:
  - It has been a challenging beginning to the school year. The program has been short staffed as a few teachers and Ed Techs and a social worker left prior to the beginning of the school year. One teacher has moved into the position of an Instructional Strategist. Two new teachers have been hired as well as a couple of new Ed Techs. There are still two Ed Tech openings and a social worker vacancy to be filled.
  - There is an amazing crew working at the REAL School despite the staff shortages.
  - There are significant challenges with the current building related to safety standards as well as no sound proofing.
  - Some students are presenting with more psychological and psychiatric needs this year.
  - There has been damage to the building as well as theft this year.
  - The vision that the REAL School is everything for all students is not viable.
  - The program started with 31 students and is down 3. Ten students are Brunswick residents.
  - There is a REAL School Advisory Committee that has met once this year and will meet again this week. Members include the Principal (Chris McCarthy), Instructional Strategist (Sara Nichols), Clinical Director (Susan Burns Chong), Student Services Director (Barbara Gunn), School Resource Officer (Tom Stanton), Consulting Psychologist (Dr. Bruce Chemelski), Special Education Consultant from Drummond/Woodsum (Dr. Michael Opuda), and Christine Schmidt (Instructional Strategist at BJHS).
  - Three students are attending Region 10 this year and doing well.
  
- Pre-K Advisory Committee Update
  - The committee met last on October 28, 2019.

- The next (our last meeting) meeting will focus on what the Advisory Committee will bring forward to the Superintendent. Subcommittees will meet to prepare for this.
- Special Education Update
  - The October 1st student count was distributed. The special education student count is 412, up about 8 from last year.
  - A Resource Utilization Study will be conducted this year to review the district's special education programs and services.
- Future Agenda Items
  - REAL School Update
  - Pre-K Advisory Committee Update
  - Special Education Update
  - Anticipated Budget Requests
  - The next meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 9:30
- The meeting was adjourned by Mandy Merrill at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Gunn  
Director of Student Services