

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: [December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting](#).

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula (virtual), Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Shelby Pons (virtual), Maria Simmons (virtual), Jennifer Van Gorder and Chair Dante Tagariello;

EXCUSED: Commissioner: Russell Anderson;

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, and Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Tagariello called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Tagariello ask the audience to join him in a moment of silence for Richard Toth a Teacher at Northeast, Hubbell, Mountain View, Greene-Hills, South Side, O’Connell, and Edgewood from 9/4/1973 to 6/20/2005.

STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board of Education recognized the following staff and students:

BEHS - Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut Club (ELCC) Tutoring and Student Opportunities.

Bristol Eastern Assistant Principal Melanie Vetrano and Teacher Lexi Fulton, shared the background of the program and shared photos from group activities students have been able to participate in.

Loren Gonzales - CHMS - Grade 6 - Published Book titled: "Together Forever".

Loren Gonzales and her parents were present in the audience to be recognized for the publishing “Together Forever”. Loren shared the premise of the book and a congratulatory message from the Commissioner of Education, Miguel Cardona was shared with the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Tagariello noted to Commissioners that the DRAFT minutes for the November 1st meeting had been revised, to reflect Commissioner Carlson was excused from the November meeting. The Board will be approving the minutes with that revision.

November 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; Chair Tagariello called for a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the November 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting as written following a ROLL CALL VOTE with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

November 14, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; Chair Tagariello called for a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the November 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting as written following a ROLL CALL VOTE with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications and Community Relations Committee

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee briefly reviewed the FOIA rules regarding Board Member communication by email and text. They discussed access to Board of Education meeting information. The Family and Community Engagement conference was discussed. The Committee also discussed policy and information communication and the book “Everyone Wins” was discussed.

Policy Committee

Commissioner Pons reported that the committee met and conducted an overview of the policies relevant to a charter change that will allow the theater at BAIMS to run a concession. The committee had a robust discussion about what would need to happen, and there will be future discussions on making those adjustments as the city works on revising the charter. They also discussed the discipline and recess policy and possible revisions to reflect current legislation and make the new policy clearer and more aligned with the legislation. The committee discussed Policy 6146 Statewide Proficiency and Mastery Examinations and approved the updates to be more aligned with the 2023 standards. The committee tabled the menstrual product update until next month because of time limitations on the meeting.

Finance Committee

Chair Tagariello reported that the Finance Committee met on November 8th for its regularly scheduled meeting. As presented at that meeting, our October Fund balance was \$21 million, with many budget items already encumbered. Additionally, it was reported that our cafeteria budget continues to maintain a profit with an October balance of \$991,204.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Central High School

BCHS Junior Student Representative, Abigail Wasta reported on Bristol Central High School for the month of November. Highlights of her report included girls’ volleyball making it to the CCC finals for the first time and ending their season in the state semifinals; one of our players was named to the senior All-Star Game and was voted CT game time player of the week. The football team closed out their season strong with a Thanksgiving Day win against the BEHS Lancers and keeping the bell for the 8th year in a row. Italian students have begun participating in an Italian enrichment program as a part of the 21st Century After School Program in the BCHS World Language Program. The student tutors head over to the South Side School and teach the younger kids similarly BCHS Spanish students visited Greene Hills School and Southside School as a part of our Spanish Elementary Club to teach kids Spanish to many classes. BCHS Italian Exchange participants and families hosted a bingo night raising thousands of dollars to help support their trip to Italy in March. The InterAct Club hosted the BCHS Annual Powder Puff football tournament, where all proceeds were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The InterAct Club also hosted a harvest dinner on Thursday at the senior center serving them a Thanksgiving meal. Student Council and Cheerleaders put on a fun Pep Rally the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to get them excited for the Thanksgiving Day game. Now these students are busy again getting things ready for Festivus our holiday celebration the day before winter break. Lastly, many seniors have submitted some of their college applications, and two of our senior athletes officially committed to Bryant University and CCSU to further their athletic and academic careers.

Bristol Eastern High School

BEHS Junior Student Representative, Peyton Troth reported on Bristol Eastern High School for the month of November. Highlights from the report included closing out the fall athletic season with the annual Battle of the Bell game along with the annual pep rally. On November 22nd an alumni panel visited Bristol Eastern to talk about their life post-high school. The senior class was able to participate in a Q&A session with this panel and many found it beneficial by learning about other students’ post-high school experiences. The Bristol Eastern Theater Arts program just wrapped up their fall play, titled The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered which was a true hit.

Bristol Eastern High School – cont'd

Keep an eye out this spring for our next play which is Mean Girls. This Friday our teachers and students will participate in Pajama Day to bring awareness along with raising money for Connecticut Children's Medical Center the money raised will be donated back to the hospital to help children who are fighting cancer. On December 22nd students and teachers will face off in a friendly yet competitive basketball game and students are also able to participate in fun challenging activities during the Reindeer Games, while on December 21st we will all join together to watch the BEHS Winter band and choral concert. Students and teachers are working diligently to prepare for midterms we're very excited for the end-of-the-year activities as well as finishing out on a good note.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Tagariello reminded commissioners of the Reorganizational workshop scheduled for next Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Highlights of her report included:

- A draft of the 2024-25 through 2029-2030 strategic plan was shared with BoE members who served on the strategic planning team, the members of the Central Office who sat on the committee, and administrators for a first round of feedback. At this point in the process we are looking for feedback related to readability - do the priorities identified and strategic actions capture the asks from our family's staff and scholars and are our actions explicit and clear in letting the BPS community know what we will achieve in the upcoming half decade.
- In the coming weeks we will use ThoughtExchange to gather feedback from our staff and families on our draft strategic plan.
- Update on Reading Waiver Disposition. As communicated by the SDE, the BPS curriculum shows evidence of meeting the expectations in fluency, phonemic awareness, and phonics and is being granted a transitional waiver. One of our next steps will be to provide a scope and sequence for our vocabulary development and comprehension skill development within our current curriculum or supplement our curriculum with additional resources. Thank you to our literacy coaches past and present and our curriculum enhancement teachers past and present who have contributed to our curriculum creation we are proud of our curriculum and our efforts to continue to refine our program and we're excited to see the impact of our work has had on student learning since our curriculum was approved by the Board of Education in August of 2020 our third graders have had the highest reading achievement scores on the SBA with each Administration.

Chair Tagariello commented on the significance of the district receiving the Reading Waiver. Many districts did apply for it some did not get a waiver at all. Chair Tagariello attended the Legislative Update at the CABA Convention. One of the biggest concerns was whether districts would get this waiver and also there was a lot of discussion around the cost of actually implementing the science of reading. Receiving the waiver is a testament to our talented staff to be able to get the transitional waiver because of the work we've put in and it's also a testament to all the work that we do so we appreciate that very much.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Tagariello called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Items 8.1.a through 8.2.i.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; Chair Tagariello called for a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, following a ROLL CALL VOTE with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

PERSONNEL

8.1.a. Teacher Resignations

Cyr, Alicia - WB - Grade 1 Teacher effective November 23, 2023
Fitzpatrick, Amanda - Special Education Teacher effective November 6, 2023
Hubina, Jessica - WB - Grade 5 Teacher effective November 3, 2023
Morales, Kathryn - ID - Kindergarten Teacher effective June 30, 2024

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Resignations as written, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

8.1.b. New Teacher Hires

Alcide, Cristalba - STAF - Social Worker – Effective December 4, 2023
Pecora, Peter - BEHS - On Track Coordinator – Effective November 8, 2023
Wescott, Cynthia - CHMS - Grade 6 Special Education Teacher – Effective November 29, 2023

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the New Teacher Hires as written, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

8.1.c. A-2 Hires - Effective August 31, 2023

Coderre, Michael - NEMS - Special Elementary/MS/HS Performing Groups (Choral)
Longo, Kelley - BEHS - Class of 2027 Co-Advisor
MacDonald, Theresa - BAIMS - Special Elementary/MS/HS Performing Groups (Choral)
Revoir, Lindsay - BCHS - Class of 2027 Co-Advisor
Silva, Alyson - BCHS - Class of 2027 Co-Advisor

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-2 Hires as written, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

8.1.d. A-3 Hires

Dudek, Caitlyn - BAIMS - Gifted Coach – Effective September 1, 2023
LaChance, Derrick - WB - Science Curriculum Coordinator – Effective November 6, 2023
Nadeau, Meghan - EDGE PreK - PreK Curriculum Coordinator – Effective September 1, 2023
Rubbo, Cary - WB - ELA Curriculum Coordinator – Effective November 6, 2023
Witkewicz, Rachel - EDGE PreK - PreK Technology Leader - Effective September 1, 2023

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-3 Hires as written, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

8.1.e. Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Brower, Gina - BEHS - Social Studies Teacher effective on or about May 28, 2024, through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

8.1.e. Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence – cont'd

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence as written, following a ROLL CALL VOTE, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

8.2. GRANTS

- 8.2.a. Barnes Foundation Grant for RIF/FRC Traveling Storytime
- 8.2.b. FRC Grant Award: School Readiness, QE grant
- 8.2.c. FRC Grant Award: Girl Up! Leadership and Empowerment Skills for Girls
- 8.2.d. FRC Grant award: Multi-site expansion of WatchD.O.G.S. Program
- 8.2.e. FRC Grant Award: Community Development Block Grant
- 8.2.f. FRC Grant Award: SDE, Parent Trust Fund, Parent Leadership Training grant
- 8.2.g. FRC Grant award: SDE Primary Mental Health Grant, “BOOST”
- 8.2.h. FRC: WORKS Program Grant
- 8.2.i Perkins Grant Allotment and Planned Use

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Grants written, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the Public wished to address the Board.

10. DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

10.1. Legal Obligations of the Board - Presented by Attorney Jessica Ritter

Board of Education Attorney Jessica Ritter, of the Law Firm of Shipman and Goodwin presented an hour-long interactive presentation of the Legal Obligations of the Board of Education. Commissioners were provided copies of the PowerPoint presentation, Board of Education Bylaws, and a QR Code to follow along and respond as needed.

Questions and answers followed regarding committee meetings, Robert’s Rule of Order, minutes and types of meeting distinctions.

10.2. Special Services Report

Amy Martino, Special Services Director presented the monthly Special Services Report. As of November 1st 2023, 1,787 of the 8,076 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring special education programming. The enrollment reflects 22.13% of the total BPS student population. As of November 1st, 123 students with disabilities required out-of-district placement at private special education programs, there were 80 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools that would include magnet schools. During October 57% of the newly enrolled students were identified as students with disabilities four (4) of the students required out-of-district programming at the time of enrollment. Also, during October, there were forty-two 211 calls and thirteen 911 calls.

11. POLICY REVISION

11.1 Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency Mastery Examinations

Dr. Dieter presented the revisions to Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency Mastery Examinations and Statewide Summative Assessment. The revision embodied here bring us up to date with the current assessments

11.1 Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency Mastery Examinations – cont'd

that are offered in the State of Connecticut. It aligns the calendars as well as the names of the required assessments, and makes changes to the appropriate grade levels where these assessments are administered. This policy was fully reviewed by the policy Committee, and was forwarded unanimously to the full board.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula; and following a Roll Call Vote.

The Board of Education voted to approve Policy 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency Mastery Examinations as written following a ROLL CALL VOTE, with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, Simmons, Van Gorder, and Tagariello) IN FAVOR of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

BUILDING REPORTS

Peter Fusco, Facilities Director provided the monthly building reports.

CHMS UST – True Blue Environmental received the award for this project. The project kickoff meeting was this afternoon. Equipment will be delivered Monday and the underground storage tanks will be removed next week.

BAIMS – The committee will meet next month to review three PCO's that will offer supplemental redundant heat to lower level areas of the building

New NEMS – The NEMS building committee met last night. The SD estimate was reviewed. The original approved budget was 89 million. Through value engineering, the current SD estimate is 102.3 million. That is a difference of approx. 13.3 million or 15%. The project is also going to P&Z in January. The design team is working through FF&E options with the departments.

ESSER/ARP – EDM, Loureiro and VanZelm are currently working on engineering the projects. Preliminary designs are scheduled to be received late December/early January. The current schedule has these projects going out to bid in February. SNE was the successful bidder for the BMS upgrades and the request to City Council to award the contract to them is scheduled for this month's council meeting.

EDGEWOOD Reno – No Changes – Still waiting for state approval

Culinary Arts – No Changes - Still waiting for state approval

Athletic Fields and Site Improvements – Met the engineers at the track. They are working on their reports for suggested short term and long-term plans.

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Simmons reported on Bristol Eastern and South School events.

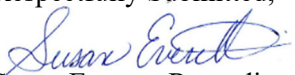
Commissioner Giantonio reported on West Bristol School events.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Eric Carlson, seconded by Maria Simons, and

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. (9:01 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,


Susan Everett, Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education