

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: [October 2, 2024, 2024 Regular Meeting Recording](#).

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

ATTENDANCE:

Russell Anderson:	Present
Eric Carlson:	Present
Jill Fitzsimons-Bula:	Present
Kristen Giantonio:	Present
Lorianne Osenkowski:	Present
Shelby Pons:	Absent
Maria Simmons:	Present
Dante Tagariello:	Absent
Jennifer Van Gorder:	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Iris White, Acting Superintendent, and Erick Rosengren, Council Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER/ THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Vice Chair Simmons called the October 2, 2024, Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for The Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Simmons reminded commissioners to use their microphones when speaking and voting so those on Zoom are able to hear the discussion.

2. STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION

Ms. White introduced Michael Higgins, Principal of Bristol Eastern High School to recognize several Bristol Eastern High students for being recognized by the Advanced Placement Corporation and National Merit Scholarship Corporation as AP Scholars with distinction, AP Capstone Diploma or other distinguished recognitions. Click to see the [full student listing](#).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 11, 2024 - Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 11, 2024 - Special Meeting Minutes as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

September 11, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 11, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

This motion, made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Laurie Osenkowski Carried unanimously.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met and reviewed their goals and language. The language has been updated on the website. The committee will rework the goal language and craft the

committee action plan. The committee discussed Dr. Judy Carson, a consultant at the State Department of Education. She is at the forefront of a lot of evidence-based work that's connecting practices with how we want to implement top-level, high-fidelity school, family, and community partnerships Erika Treannie and Kristy Trelly attended the meeting and shared their practices and how they impact Bristol Public Schools. Erica and Kristy will attend next month's meeting to share some of the great things that are happening in our schools.

Policy Committee

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on September 25, 2024. Mr. Jody Goeler, CAFE's senior policy analyst attended the meeting and presented information on several CAFE model policies which included; Community Relations, Crisis Response: Crisis Management Plan, Student Safety and Emergencies, and Disaster Preparedness. They agreed as a committee to revise Policy 5141.6 Superintendent White and her team will be working on recommendations to present at the next policy committee meeting and continue discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2024.

Personnel Committee

Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee is currently in contract discussions with the teacher's union, and they are going well.

Student Achievement

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on September 18, 2024. The committee moved the Freshman Academy curriculum to the full board, which they will hear more about later this evening. The committee received data-rich presentations focused on the BAIMS lottery process, the anticipated 24-25 curriculum revisions, 24-25 scheduled data presentations, 23-24 attendance, and discipline reports, and the 2024 SAT, AP, and summer school reports. The next policy meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2024.

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ms. White introduced the two new Junior Student Representatives for Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern, Amelia Brown for Bristol Central and Paige Anash for Bristol Eastern. Both students would give the Student Representative Report for their respective schools this evening.

Bristol Central

Junior Amelia Brown, presented her first student representative report. Highlights from her report included the new interactive environment, where they are coming up with new ideas for clubs and events in order to keep their peers engaged in the learning; two fire drills with the new fire alarm system that talks to the students rather than the blaring noise; Senior parent night hosted by the school counseling department, the upcoming financial aid night opened to seniors and their families, the marching and cheerleaders marched in the mum parade and have performed at two football games, the football team is 3-0, cheerleaders participation in T1D a fundraiser walk for Type 1 Diabetes, the AVID class trip to the University of New Haven, picture day; the drama club and Central Stage will be putting on The Play That Goes Wrong and Mama Mia musical in the Spring, Interact Club updates - 5K Color Dash Run at the Bristol Boys and Girls Club, participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, the upcoming Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser at an upcoming volleyball game, Halloween senior dinner, a coat drive on November 3rd, dance team is preparing for pep rally and the powder puff football game, the culture club has started meeting, and is preparing for culture day, that will take place later this year this will be a collaborative event with the art club, the homecoming dance and spirit week.

Bristol Eastern

Bristol Eastern Junior Paige Anash, presented her first student representative report. Highlights from her report include: the end of the first marking period, the freshman adapting well to the new school

environment, clubs have kicked off and many students are getting involved and connecting with new people; the homecoming dance on October 19th, the football team had a successful home game where the band, cheerleaders and the new color guard performed; students are now making announcements during advisory, this is one of the ways we are giving students more voice during the school day; the addition of the vape sensors, the impact on vaping in school and educational opportunities; PSATs for grades 9-11 will take place in two weeks, seniors will also be able to sign up for SATs or college and career workshops; lastly, a thank you to Mr. Higgins, Mrs. Vetrano, and Mr. Redman for helping our school community and making it a safer place.

6. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Pons was unable to attend this evening's meeting, there was no Chair Report given.

7. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. White presented the monthly Superintendent's Report. Ms. White shared that October 2nd is National Custodian Appreciation Day, and October is National Principals Month, she thanked and recognized both groups for everything they do in the district. A school safety update was provided. She shared that last month, all district administrators, and the Bristol Police Department, met and reviewed specific safety protocols and procedures. We have implemented several safety measures across our schools, including updated emergency protocols, regular safety drills, and improved communication systems. School administrators have reviewed their protocols and procedures with their students and staff members. She shared her Superintendent Goals which will be presented to the Board during this evening's Executive Session, they include School Safety, Family and Community Engagement, Fiscal Resources, Board of Education Relations, and Academic Achievement. Lastly, Ms. White provided an update on the Ivy Drive Investigation Report received from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Items 8.1.a through 8.2.a.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1. PERSONNEL

8.1.a. Teacher Retirements

Caron, Robin - STAF - Grade 1 - effective June 30, 2024

Cassin, Catherine - BoE - Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services - effective June 30, 2025

Ciralli, Vicki - CHMS - Math Interventionist - effective July 1, 2025

Kilray, Mark - BEHS - Special Education Teacher - effective January 25, 2025

Schaefer, Maureen - MTV - Grade 4 Teacher - effective January 2, 2025

The Board of Education voted to approve the Teacher Retirements as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.b. New Teacher Hires

Dolce, Julia - GH - Grade 5 Teacher effective September 30, 2024

Knopf, Brittany - CHMS - Special Education Teacher effective September 17, 2024

Sweeney, Heather - BCHS - Business Teacher effective October 21, 2024

The Board of Education voted to approve the New Teacher Hires as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.c. A-1 Teacher Hire - Effective August 29, 2024

Browne, Celia - WB - Grade 8 Team Leader

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-1 Teacher Hire - Effective August 29, 2024, as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.d. A-2 Teacher Resignation - Effective June 18, 2024

Costa, Art - Adult Ed - Technology Coordinator

Palmero, Carolyn - BEHS - .5 Drama Choreographer (Spring Semester)

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-2 Teacher Resignation - Effective June 18, 2024, as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.e. A-2 Teacher Hires - Effective August 29, 2024

Baker, Lorenzo - BEHS - Freshman Class Co-Advisor

Davis, Crystal - BEHS - Freshman Class Co-Advisor

D'Agostino, Silvio - BEHS - .5 Drama Choreographer (Spring semester)

DiFusco, Kimberly - BEHS - .5 Band Auxiliary (Fall semester)

Nelson, David - WB and GH - Special Elem/MS Performing Groups, Choral

Russman, Christel - BCHS - Technology Coordinator

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-2 Teacher Hires - Effective August 29, 2024, as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.f. A-3 Teacher Resignations - Effective June 18, 2024

Germain, Eileen - CHMS - Math Curriculum Coordinator

Rubbo, Cary - WB - Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-3 Teacher Resignations - Effective June 18, 2024 as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.g. A-3 Hires - Effective August 29, 2024

McGrail, Gale - WB - Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

Mullany, Courtney - CHMS - Math Curriculum Coordinator

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-3 Hires - Effective August 29, 2024 as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.1.h. Teacher Leave of Absence Request

Blancq, Shelly - BAIMS - Gr. 6-8 Science Teacher effective March 12, 2024, through the end of the 24-25 school year

The Board of Education voted to approve the Teacher Leave of Absence Request as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

8.2. GRANTS

8.2.a. Alliance District Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) Grant

The Board of Education voted to approve the Alliance District Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) Grant as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson, Carried Unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Dr. Michael Dietter – 129 Church Street – Addressed the Board regarding his years of service with BPS.
2. Jolan Sanchez – 79 Beechwood Lane – Addressed the Board regarding targeting within the district
3. Chris Cassin – 462 Fern Hill Road – Addressed the Board Dr. Dietter’s Retirement
4. Kristen Giantonio – 275 Allentown Road – Addressed the Board Dr. Dietter’s Retirement

10. DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

10.1. Bristol Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan – Second Presentation

Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, provided an in-depth look at the Bristol Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan at the September Board of Education meeting. Commissioners were provided a copy of the plan prior to the meeting and were able to review the plan in the intervening month.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Bristol Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan as written.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Jill Fitzsimmons Bula, Carried Unanimously.

10.2. Chippens Hill Underground Storage Tank as Complete

The state requires the full Board of Education to approve the project as complete. The Finance and Operations Committee acting as the Building Committee accepted this project as complete at the September 11, 2024 meeting.

The Board of Education voted to accept the Chippens Hill Middle School Underground Storage Tanks Project as complete.

This motion, made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Russell Anderson, Carried Unanimously.

11. CURRICULUM REVISION

11.1. Freshman Academy (Second Reading)

Carly Fortin presented the Freshman Academy Curriculum which was presented at the Student Achievement Committee on September 18, 2024. Freshman Academy is an introductory course for ninth-grade students that is designed to support students with the transition from middle school to high school. In this course, students will learn strategies and skills to help them be successful in high school. The Freshman Academy aims to ensure that all students feel connected to the school community, receive academic and social support through a structured approach, and are well-prepared for a successful high school experience. This comprehensive, team-based model allows staff to implement targeted intervention strategies, plan learning experiences, and effectively communicate progress and concerns with students' families.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Freshman Academy Curriculum as presented.

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Laurie Osenkowski Carried Unanimously

12. TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

12.1. Media Freedom and Power Textbook (Second Reading)

Leszek Ward presented the Media Freedom and Power Textbook for a Second Reading. There were no questions in the intervening month.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Media Freedom and Power Textbook as "The Power of Free Expression in America (2019)".

This motion, made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Jill Fitzsimmons-Bula, Carried Unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

14. INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Anderson provided a liaison report for Mountain View School.

Council Erick Rosengren shared information regarding the Hartford Healthcare event at Rockwell Park on November 5, 2024.

Commissioner Simmons provided a liaison report for South Side School and Bristol Eastern High School.

Commissioner Pons had submitted a liaison report for BAIMS, that Commissioner Simmons read.

15. VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to go into Executive Session *for the purpose of:*

1. Discussion concerning records of collective bargaining strategy with respect to negotiations with Local 3551 and a proposed successor contract.
2. Discussion concerning the Superintendent's performance goals.

This motion, made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Kristen Giantonio, Carried Unanimously.

Vice Chair Simmons informed the audience that Dr. Culkin, Ms. White, and Ms. Boisvert would join the Executive Session. (8:03 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT: Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimmons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons and Jennifer Van Gorder

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Culkin, Mrs. Boisvert and Ms. White

ABSENT: Commissioners Shelby Pons and Dante Tagariello

Executive Session was called to order at 8:07 p.m.

Commissioners received a presentation by Dr. Culkin and Mrs. Boisvert regarding Local 3551 Contract. Discussion and questions followed. Dr. Culkin and Mrs. Boisvert left the executive session.

Ms. White presented the Superintendent's goals and the district's goals. Discussion, questions, and feedback was provided.

Executive Session Adjourned. (10:11 p.m.)

16. VOTE TO RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to Reconvene Into Public Session to take votes on any items discussed in the Executive Session.

This motion, made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Kristen Gianonio, Carried Unanimously

17. Possible Action Concerning the Proposed Successor Contract with Local 3551

The Board voted to agree on the terms of the Local 3551 of Council 4 AFSCME-AFL-CIO contract dated July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027.

This motion, made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Russell Anderson, Carried Unanimously.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Simmons adjourned the meeting. (10:13 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

DRAFT