

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 – 7:00pm
Regular Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

A Bristol Board of Education Regular Policy Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in the BoE Auditorium and via the Zoom meeting platform.

Present: Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kara Ledger

Absent: Commissioners: Lorianne Osenkowski, Jennifer Tagariello

Also present: Superintendent Iris White, and Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk

1 . Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Regular Policy Meeting Minutes -June 10, 2026

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called for a motion to approve the June 10, 2026-Regular Policy Committee Meeting minutes. The motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula.

The motion passed to approve the June 10, 2026, regular meeting minutes as written.

3. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

4. OLD BUSINESS: Review And Possible Action On The Following Policies :

4.1 Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula provided a detailed background on the current Policy 1120 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings), which is based on the CABE model and was last revised on March 1, 2017. Policy 1120 was brought back to the Subcommittee for further review after receiving feedback from CABE and Attorney Jessica Ritter.

The Committee engaged in a discussion regarding policy uniformity and emphasized the importance of public participation at Board of Education meetings, The Committee discussed the input from Attorney Ritter, to ensure proposed changes are in good faith of the public and Board of Education. Language that was suggested and presented needed further clarification.

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended tabling the revised Policy 1120 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings) for further Attorney review and clarification on wording of item #6.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to table 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings for further review. The motion passed.

4.2 Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended tabling the revision of Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct due to the correlation to Policy 1120.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to table Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct for further review. The motion passed.

4.3 Bylaw 9322 Public and Executive Sessions

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended tabling the revision of Bylaw 9322 Public and Executive Sessions due to the correlation to Policy 1120.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to table Bylaw 9322 Public and Executive Sessions for further review. The motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS: Review And Possible Action On The Following Policies :

5.1 Policy 5142 School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented an update to Policy 5142, School Safety: Preparation, Response, and After Action, to incorporate requirements from Public Act 26-1. This act introduces new mandates regarding public access to security plans, drill notification protocols, and the restriction of high-sensory drill elements, such as simulated gunfire, to mitigate emotional distress. The revised policy aligns with the July 2026 CABA Policy Highlights. Red is language to be removed and blue language is updated. This policy was last revised on July 8, 2026.

No questions or discussion

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended a motion to move the revised Policy 5142 School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action to the full board for consideration.

A motion was made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Kara Ledger to forward the revised Policy 5142 School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action to the full board for consideration. The motion passed.

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)

5.2 Policy 5141.6 Crisis Management

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented Policy 5141.6, Crisis Management. She noted that per the updated CABE Policy 5142, School Safety: Preparation, Response, and After Action, this policy consolidates three previous CABE model policies: Safe and Secure School Facilities (3516), Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness (6114), and Crisis Management Plan (5141.6). She further explained that these three policies may be rescinded upon the adoption of the updated Policy 5142, which incorporates requirements from Public Act 26-1.

No questions or discussion

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula moved to recommend that Policy 5141.6 be brought to the full Board to rescind Policy 5141.6, Crisis Management.

A motion was made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Kara Ledger to forward Policy 5141.6 Crisis Management to the full board for consideration to rescind. The motion passed.

5.3 Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness. She noted that per the updated CABE Policy 5142, School Safety: Preparation, Response, and After Action, this policy consolidates three previous CABE model policies: Safe and Secure School Facilities (3516), Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness (6114), and Crisis Management Plan (5141.6). She further explained that these three policies may be rescinded upon the adoption of the updated Policy 5142, which incorporates requirements from Public Act 26-1.

No questions or discussion

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula moved to recommend that Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness be brought to the full Board to be rescinded.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to forward Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness to the full board for consideration to rescind. The motion passed.

5.4 Regulation 5131.914- School Climate

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background regarding Regulation 5131.914- School Climate. It was noted that a CABE audit indicated the absence of a corresponding policy, with only a regulation in place, necessitating a review. She explained that following the adoption of Policy 5131.911 (Connecticut School Climate) on June 4, 2025, which aligns with current CABE standards, Regulation 5131.914 is now duplicative.

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)

Questions and Discussion about the language and reason for it to be rescinded.

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended moving Regulation 5131.914- School Climate to the full board for approval to be rescinded.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to forward Regulation 5131.914- School Climate to the full board for approval to be rescinded. Motion passed.

5.5 Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background on Policy 5131.8 (Out of School Misconduct), noting that the current policy required updates following a recent CABA audit. Revisions were developed using the latest CABA model as a framework, with blue text indicating new additions and red text signifying proposed deletions. The policy was last updated on February 7, 2007.

No questions or discussion.

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended moving Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct to the full board for approval with revisions as presented.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to forward Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct to the full board for approval with revisions as proposed. The motion passed.

5.6 Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented an update to Policy 5141.5, Suicide Prevention and Intervention, as part of a CABA audit requirement. The revision integrates language to make the 988 crisis line widely available and incorporates updated risk factors for youth suicide developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board. Ms. Fitzsimons-Bula noted that while CABA identifies this as a mandated policy, the revisions specifically align the policy with the requirements of Public Act No. 23-167, which necessitates written procedures for youth suicide prevention. The policy was last updated on January 15, 2021, and the proposed changes are presented with new additions in blue and deletions in red.

No Questions and discussion regarding proposed revisions.

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended moving Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention to the full board for approval with revisions as presented.

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to forward Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention to the full board for approval with revisions as proposed. The motion passed.

5.7 Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented Policy 5141.24 (Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS), noting that a recent CABE audit determined the policy remains appropriate as written, subject to minor updates to remove ARC language and add or update relevant legal references. Proposed deletions are indicated in red strikethrough text and additions in blue text. The policy was last updated on April 4, 2007.

No questions or discussion

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula recommended moving Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS to the full board for approval with revisions as presented.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to forward Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS to the full board for approval with revisions as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

5.8 Policy 5117 - School Attendance Areas

Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk introduced current Policy 5117 alongside CABE sample policies and an example from Milford Public Schools to facilitate a discussion on proposed revisions. Last updated on January 3, 2007, the policy requires review following district redistricting and a rise in out-of-area requests.

The Committee discussed the provided language and examples, focusing on the district's overall objectives regarding out-of-area requests.

Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk recommended tabling Policy 5117 (School Attendance Areas) to allow for further review and discussion.

A motion was made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to tabling Policy 5117 - School Attendance Areas for further review and discussion. The motion passed

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [08/12/2026-Regular Policy Meeting](#)

6.Adjournment

With no other business, Commissioner Fitzsimons- Bula motioned to adjourn the Regular Policy Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Kara Ledger.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

DRAFT