



Special Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee
April 29, 2026
MINUTES

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [April 29, 2026 SAC Meeting Recording](#).

PRESENT Committee members: Kara Ledger, Barbara Tedesco, Robert Parenti (Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Bagley (Zoom), Carly Fortin, Sara Hale, Laura Lanza, Zach Maher, Melanie Vetrano (Zoom), Leszek Ward, Iris White

Call to Order

Commissioner Ledger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Decision: Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2026 meeting

On a motion made by Commissioner Tedesco and seconded by Commissioner Ledger, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to approve the January 21, 2026 Student Achievement minutes.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Information: New CNA Program

Mrs. Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, announced that we are relaunching our CNA certification program as a sustainable, grant-funded pilot for the 2026-2027 school year through a partnership with the local Excel Academy. By utilizing the Perkins grant, the district will cover all student costs—including uniforms, instruction, and exam fees—enabling students to graduate with an industry-recognized credential and immediate earning potential of approximately \$25 per hour. The program features a rigorous 110-hour curriculum and clinical placements, prioritizing seniors to meet high student demand while maintaining fiscal and operational stability.

Discussion followed.

Decision: Chemistry ACA/ACC Curriculum Revision

Mrs. Lanza presented the curriculum revision proposal for academic and accelerated chemistry, which was last revised in 2019, to align with NGSS standards, emphasizing real-world phenomena like the Radium Girls case and airbag mechanics. The new framework utilizes a unified document to clearly distinguish between academic and accelerated levels while integrating digital simulations and hands-on labs to scaffold student learning. This collaborative effort established a district-wide shared resource drive, fostering teamwork between Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern teachers to ensure instructional consistency and better prepare students for state assessments.

Comments and questions followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tedesco and seconded by Commissioner Ledger, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Chemistry ACA/ACC Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: PE Elective Credit for Summer (New course)

Mrs. Sara Hale, Supervisor of PE and Health, introduced a 0.5-credit summer PE elective that utilizes a hybrid model of in-school and at-home instruction to help students stay active or catch up on graduation credits. Organized by "places" rather than specific sports to accommodate varying gym availability, the curriculum requires students to develop and refine a personal fitness plan aligned with Connecticut state standards. While the course provides a flexible way to reach the 25-credit graduation threshold, it is strictly an elective and does not replace the core physical education credit required for graduation.

Comments and questions followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tedesco and seconded by Commissioner Ledger, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the PE Elective Summer Course to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: Ninth Grade Health Curriculum Revision

Mrs. Hale presented the curriculum revision for the 9th Grade Health course. The curriculum has been redesigned to follow a skills-based model that prioritizes seven essential life skills over traditional rote memorization of health facts. This revision vertically aligns high school health with middle school wellness, using student-centered experiences to teach topics like nutrition, mental health, and substance use through practical application and decision-making. By adopting these modern standards, the district ensures that students are not only informed but are equipped with the functional tools needed to navigate real-world health challenges through graduation and beyond.

Comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tedesco and seconded by Commissioner Ledger, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Ninth Grade Health curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: English I-III Curriculum Revision

Mr. Leszek Ward, Supervisor of Secondary Humanities, presented the curriculum revision for grades 9-11 English. The curriculum was revised to create a vertically and horizontally aligned framework where complex literary skills, such as analyzing unreliable narrators and fragmented timelines, scale in difficulty each year. The new model replaces abstract goals with theme-based units—covering topics like individual agency and American ideals—while utilizing diverse anchor texts to ensure consistent pacing across the district. While the first three units are standardized to guarantee equity and rigor, a fourth capstone unit preserves teacher autonomy by allowing for student-centered projects and elective reading choices.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tedesco and seconded by Commissioner Ledger, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the English I-III curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Ledger adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katlyne Laprise

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