

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
August 12, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via the Cisco WebEx Meeting Platform and in person at the Bristol Board of Education auditorium.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka (virtual), Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski (virtual) and Christopher Wilson (virtual); Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Sam Galloway, Director of Talent Management

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. An American Flag was displayed on-screen.

A moment of silence was observed for Deborah Krenicki a Special Education Aide/Paraeducator at Memorial Boulevard Middle School and Hubbell from 11/26/01 to 7/24/20.

MEETING NORMS – Meeting norms were read by Chair Dube.

STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Carbone wanted to recognize Devora Trestman a senior flutist at Bristol Central who was named to the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All National Honors Ensemble. Devora was having difficulty joining the meeting, but sent a message to the Board, thanking them for the recognition, she was honored to be recognized.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Eric Carlson and seconded by Thomas O'Brien it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the July 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Chair Dube abstained.

July 22, 2020 – Special Meeting

On a motion by Thomas O'Brien and seconded by Eric Carlson it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the July 22, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Commissioner Vibert reported that the committee met on August 10th. We are currently forecasting a \$1.6M surplus for the 2019-20 school year. We will request that the Board of Finance reserve the surplus in anticipation of additional expenditures as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 virus. The operational budget shows an available balance of \$110,038,578 as we work to encumber salaries for the year and create purchase orders for operational costs, supplies, and tuitions for the coming school year. To date, we have depleted the CARES Act funding provided to the District, purchasing tablets for Prek-2, licensing for new tablets and donated HS laptops, software for all grades, \$175K to our local community private schools, and PPE with the remaining funds. We have purchased approximately \$188K using g/f monies for PPE and other COVID-related supplies such as hand sanitizer, classroom dispensers, plexiglass, individual desk dividers, masks, clear masks, face shields, and classroom charging stations. The Bristol Public Schools Summer Food Service Program has been operating successfully in several locations, offering summer options to students and young children attending camps across the community. Two sites open to the public, one at Bristol Central High School

Finance Committee – con't

and one at Bristol Eastern High School. Parents can pick up Grab & Go meals Monday - Friday which include both breakfast & lunch each day. The Summer Food Service Program has been self-sustaining, proving an additional revenue opportunity that will help to offset the regular school year cafeteria budget. As of July 31st, we have served 8,957 meals to community youth across the City.

Student Achievement Committee

Commissioner Wilson reported that the committee met on July 15th and reviewed many items. There were five (5) curriculums were presented for revision and several new curricula were presented. All curriculum will appear later on the agenda for a vote and review.

Operations Committee

Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee met on July 22nd, they received an update of the NEMS building projects. The ceiling tile project is progressing well, the project is on schedule and under budget. The gym floor project is moving ahead, abatement is complete and installation of the new floor has begun. The project is on schedule and under budget. The feasibility discussion has been tabled until Bristol Public Schools is back to normal operation. The Community Eligibility Provision was presented by Jill Browne, the committee voted to adopt the Community Eligibility Provision and move it to the full board for a vote. The committee also received a report from Dr. Carbone, Jill Browne, and Peter Fusco regarding the operations and reopening of schools.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the following District Priority Topics regarding school opening:

- School and Classroom Visits were conducted on August 12th, 13th, and 14th with Dr. Carbone, Dr. Dietter, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Culkin, and Marco Palmeri (BBHD)
- Addendums have been added for items 1-5 of the SDE: Adapt, Achieve, Advance Reopen Plan
- Cooperative Virtual Learning or In-Person survey has been sent out. To date, there are 3,183 responses.
 - Opting in to Virtual School – 917 – 28%
 - In-Person - 2266 - 72%
 - Of the In-Person Students - 1024 - 45% - Opting OUT of transportation
 - Of the In-Person Students - 1242 - 55% - Will be using transportation
- BPS Addendum 1 regarding - Preschool Face Coverings
- Convocation and Staff Professional Learning Dates: August 25, 26, 27, 31 and September 1, 2, and 3
- First Day of School - September 8, 2020. Phase-in Schedule for the 2020-21 School Year will be utilized
- CIAC Decision on Fall Sports was announced
 - Fall sports will take place as of this date
 - Spectators are prohibited
 - Cooperative Virtual Learning Students participating in athletics is a local decision

CONSENT AGENDA

PERSONNEL

Administrator Hire

Rivera, Victor – BEHS – Vice-Principal – Effective August 31, 2020

Romann, Jillian – BOE – Elementary STEM Supervisor – Effective August 17, 2020

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Administrator Hires PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Teacher Retirements – Effective November 1, 2020

Dakin, Noreen – MTV – Grade 2 Teacher

PERSONNEL – con’t

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Retirements PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Teacher Resignations

Doherty, Julia – BEHS – Business Teacher – effective August 7, 2020.

Griebel, Alasia – BCHS – Special Education Teacher – effective July 19, 2020

Kelly, Allison – SSS – Music Teacher – effective July 31, 2020

Koulouris, Eftyhia – GH – Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher – effective August 24, 2020

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Resignations PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

New Teacher Hires – Effective August 25, 2020

Bernier, Rachel – CHMS – Speech/Language Pathologist

Ciervo, Rachel – Ivy Drive – Special Education Teacher GOAL

DeLaRosa, Steven – CW – Physical Education Teacher

Grabowski, Joseph – CHMS – Grade 6-8 Social Studies Teacher

Kelleher, Caitlin – CW – K-5 Library Media Specialist

Marino, Victoria – STAF/BECC – Speech and Language Teacher

Meehan, Kayla – WB – Grade 3 Teacher

Mongillo, Laura – WB – CW Speech and Language Teacher

Perugini, Rebecca – SSS – Grade 1 Teacher

Rossi, Jennifer – WB – Grade 6-8 Intensive Math Instructional Support Teacher

Traner, Ashleeann – CW – K-5 Library Media Specialist

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **New Teacher Hires PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Dr. Carbone introduced the new Administrators that were just approved, Jillian Roman and Victor Rivera. Mrs. Roman was present and briefly addressed the Board. Mr. Rivera was having difficulty joining the meeting, once he is connected, he will briefly address the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dube read the Public Comment rules. Public comments were received via email and members of the public were present in the audience to address the board.

Melina Floyd – 108 Carol Drive – addressed the Board regarding racism within the district.

Michelle Wnuk – 1175 Farmington Avenue – addressed the Board regarding representation in books.

Avery Taylor – 1175 Farmington Avenue – addressed the Board regarding representation in books

Athena Rayak – 5 Upson Street, Apt. 3 – addressed the Board regarding racism.

Christina Servellon – 8 Edgewood Road – addressed the Board regarding Special Education.

Lennon Sevellon – 8 Edgewood Road – addressed the Board regarding Special Education

Jeff Caggiano – 27 Cricket Hill Road – addressed the Board regarding CEP.

Lea McCabe – 349 Ivy Dive – addressed the Board regarding CEP.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Dr. Dietter presented the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. David Foulds, Food Services Director was online to answer any question. The district currently has eight (8) schools participating in CEP as they qualify on an individual basis. Current percentages have ten (10) schools qualifying on an individual basis, adding Mountain View and Edgewood. The administration is recommending that the District fully participate in the CEP program and include all twelve (12) sites for the 2020-21 school year.

Following a motion by Shelby Pons and a second by Karen Vibert discussion followed.

Commissioner Giantonio made a motion for the vote to be tabled; no second was received on the motion.

Approval of the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of seven (7) Commissioners (Carlson, O'Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson and Dube) voting YES; one (1) Commissioner (Giantonio) voting NO; and one (1) Commissioner (Sklenka) ABSTAINING.

New Teacher Hiring Overview for 2020-2021

Dr. Galloway presented the 20-21 New Teacher Hiring Overview. Highlights of the report included: Two (2) minorities have been hired for the 20-21 school year. There are currently two teachers in the CREC program that we are anticipating will join Bristol. We also have a Teacher in Residence who will be recruiting veterans and Dr. Galloway continues to participate in the CREC Minority Teacher Recruitment.

BPS Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate Reopening Plan Update

Dr. Carbone presented the Bristol Public Schools' Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate Reopening Plan. The plan includes detailed information pertaining to operations, health practices and protocols, health monitoring, containment, cancellation of classes, academics, professional development, social-emotional needs of family and student engagement, staffing and personnel, and cleaning protocols as the district plans to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan was presented at the Special Board of Education meeting held on July 22, 2020, and commissioners received an update of the reopening plan.

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **BPS Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate Reopening Plan PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

CURRICULUM REVISION

AP Environmental Science - Second Reading

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **AP Environmental Science PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

AP Calculus - Second Reading

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **AP Calculus PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

CURRICULUM REVISION – con't

AP Chemistry - Second Reading

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by John Sklenka a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **AP Chemistry PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

K-5 ELA - Second Reading

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **K-5 ELA PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Italian ECE Curriculum Revision - Second Reading

Following a motion by Thomas O'Brien and a second by Karen Vibert a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Italian ECE Curriculum PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Language and Culture Curriculum - New - First Reading

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the September agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Leszek Ward in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

AP Principles of Computer Science - New - First Reading

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the September agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Introduction to Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) - New - First Reading

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the September agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 50 - New - First Reading

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the September agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 100 - New - First Reading

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the September agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

BUILDING REPORTS

MBIAMS Building Report

Dr. Dietter presented the MBIAMS building report. The project is moving along. There is a lot of action on the site. A meeting was held on July 8th with the fire marshal to go over taking care of the building and doing fire suppression work during construction. Fire Marshal has suggested a standpipe be installed during construction – located adjacent to the building. July 9th there was a walkthrough – working on the code modifications and there was a Plan Completion Review (PCR) with OSCGR. The process went smoothly, almost everything is in order. There are meetings on the job site on

BUILDING REPORTS – con’t

Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. The architect received approval to go out to bid. Minimal conditional approvals needed before contractors sign contracts Code modifications are still in the works – Expect to have them wrapped up within a day or two. OSCGR is allowing the architect to re-date the bid set. There was a discussion of speaker placement in the auditorium and Asbestos abatement is ongoing. Security cameras are in place. Looking into an appropriate time for the groundbreaking. Schedule pre-bid walkthrough, bids are due approximately 8/24. Anticipate engaging in a press release once bids come back. \$2,520,906 has been expended, it represents mostly soft costs, \$899,570 has been reimbursed by the State.

Stafford School - Roof Project – the project is moving along.

South Side - HVAC Project - the project should be substantially complete prior to the start of school.

Northeast Middle School Projects - report received earlier in the agenda under Operations Committee

LIAISON/INFORMATION REPORTS

There were no liaison or informational reports.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Karen Vibert and seconded by Shelby Pons it was unanimously

VOTED: There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting should be adjourned. (8:55p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

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Executive Secretary to the Board of Education