

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: [March 5, 2025 - Regular Meeting Recording](#).

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons, Jennifer Van Gorder and Chair Shelby Pons (virtual)

ABSENT: Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and Dante Tagariello

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

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

Vice Chair Simmons asked the audience to join her in a moment of silence for Doris Sidella an Administrative Assistant in Athletics/Physical Education at the BoE from 8/30/82 to 7/7/00; Suzanne Hubble a Teacher at Northeast from 9/7/65 to 2/18/66 and Citywide and Hubbell from 01/3/67 to 05/20/69 and Michael Morin a Teacher at Northeast from 1969 to 2006.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2025 - Budget Workshop Minutes

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 Budget Workshop Minutes as written. Commissioner Giantonio asked for an amendment to show that Carly Fortin, Amy Martino, and Dr. Culkin were present at the meeting.

The Board of Education voted to approve the February 4, 2025 - Budget Workshop Minutes with the aforementioned amendment.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

February 5, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the February 5, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minute as written.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously.

February 12, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the February 12, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Lori Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.

February 26, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the February 26, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Lori Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Operations Committee

Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee met and discussed a lighting efficiency project. The item will appear later on the agenda for a vote.

School, Family and Community Partnerships

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on February 26th. The committee activated well-being as they do at every meeting. The committee discussed the School, Family and Community Partnerships, Goal and Action plan updates that were presented by Dr. Broderick. They discussed what was happening throughout the district, and the district's continued investment in establishing and celebrating school-family, and community partnerships and ways to engage the student representatives in a more active manner. A community partnerships report was presented by Sandra Godin from our FRC and they discussed the role of board liaisons and the way we interact with our assigned schools or our assignments and how we may be able to explore bringing changes to the work, and so that it best serves the needs of the district.

Policy Committee

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee looked CAFE's model policy for student representatives, and looked at the policy regarding wands and search and seizure policies, and will be doing some more work on that moving forward.

Safety Committee

Commissioner Osenkowski reported that the committee met and they held a Special Meeting with the Policy Committee. They are still discussing the two policies and hand-held wands. The next school safety meeting is in May.

Student Achievement Committee

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on February 19th. Carly Fortin presented information on next-generation accountability performance indicators. The committee looked at NISE, a student English immersion program. The committee received curriculum presentations for the following curriculum: K-5 Social Studies, Journalism and Precalculus.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Central

Bristol Central, Senior Representative Abigail Wasta, presented the Bristol Central monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report included: a recent meeting regarding the roles of the Student Representatives; senior decision letters have come out, students have been accepted at UCONN, Alabama, Villanova, and Harvard; Italian students participating in a weekly virtual exchange program through the American Association of Teachers of Italy; juniors have been inducted into the National Honor Society at the annual NHS tapping breakfast; winter sports have come to a close, progress reports have closed and students are looking forward to the spring season.

Bristol Eastern

Bristol Eastern, Senior Representative Peyton Troth presented the Bristol Eastern monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report included: the winter sports season coming to an end; the boys' basketball team had a tough loss in the 1st round of the State tournament; the girls' basketball team won the 1st round of the State tournament versus Guilford; the student teacher volleyball game was held; the color guard has created a recycling drive of sneakers; the jazz and choral groups are hosting their annual Coffee House performance; there was a Black history month activity where students and teachers had the chance to also go to the library to have a read-in with black poets and writers; seniors are visiting colleges through school either in-person or with a representative; students; and students have access to scholarships through the Main Street Community Foundation program. Peyton shared that she committed to the University of Alabama, on a full tuition scholarship, and plans to obtain a degree in broadcast journalism, with a concentration in sports reporting. Peyton thanked her teachers and administrators for their support.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Pons presented the monthly Chair Report. Click the following link to read the full report. [Monthly Chair Report](#)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

CLA Fiscal Audit Presentation

Superintendent White introduced the CLA Fiscal Audit Presentation and provided a background of the audit. Members from CLA (Mr. Jeff Zipler, Aaron Perillo and Lindsey Intrieri) were present in the audience and online to give an overview of the financial assessment that they perform for the district.

2025-2026 Budget Update

Superintendent White shared that the Central Office held a meeting with the Board of Finance Members last night and tomorrow morning the Central Office team will be working to develop the two scenarios that the Chair spoke about that will be presented at next week's Finance Committee meeting. They will be looking at different scenarios in terms of budget cuts and presenting the hard choices that need to be made, and what those choices will look like, so that there is full transparency, and that the Board of Education has the information needed to make the decision before adopting the budget that needs to be presented to the Board of Finance on March 19th.

Edgewood PreK Academy Update

We had a successful reopening of the PreK Academy. Our lead programs are at West Bristol and the other students are back at the senior center. We are thankful to the West Bristol team for welcoming those students in this week Pete Fusco presented a timeline of the anticipated work at Edgewood. The nominating committee met last week, and nominations are going to city council on Tuesday, March 11th for approval. The first building committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24th This will be a roof replacement and targeted alterations project. We will discuss the approach and begin defining the scope of work at that meeting.

Question followed regarding when board members will have the cabinet's budget recommendations to review.

Board Appreciation Month

March is Board Appreciation Month. On behalf of Bristol Public Schools, Ms. White acknowledged the work of the Board and thanked them for all that they do for the students, staff, and families of Bristol. She recognized that they volunteered their time and thanked them for the work that they do.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Items 7.1.a – 7.1.b.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

7.1. PERSONNEL

7.1.a. Teacher Resignation

Basroon, Jenifer - CHMS - Grade 7 Science Teacher effective June 30, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Resignation as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

7.1.b. New Teacher Hires

Perrotti, Maria - BEHS - Spanish Teacher effective March 10, 2025

Stroh, Brian - EPH - Special Education Teacher effective February 13, 2025

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

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Simmons read the REVISED Public Comment rules.

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Healthy Foods Certification for the 2025-2026 School Year

Lynn Boisvert, presented the Healthy Foods Certification for the 2025-2026 School Year. The Healthy Food Certification (HFC) statute (C.G.S. Section 10-215f) requires that each local board of education or governing authority (BOE) for public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) each year must certify whether all food items sold to students (separately from reimbursable meals) will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The BOE must complete a vote on the required motion language by July 1, 2025, or the BOE will not be eligible for HFC during SY 2025-26 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026). Required healthy food option vote for all Boards of Education, which implements the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f. The motion and board-approved meeting minutes must include the exact language as it appears below.

Vice Chair Simmons read the **Healthy Food Options Motion:**

That pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Bristol Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

Kristen Giantonio read the **Food and Beverage Exemptions Motion:**

That the Bristol Board of Education vote to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Lori Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.

Preliminary Calendars for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years (Second Presentation)

Superintendent White presented the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Year calendars (Second Presentation). Last month the board reviewed the calendars, based on feedback received, Veteran's Day was removed as a holiday. After the meeting based on feedback from the board as well as the community, we added that holiday back to both calendar years. As is customary the revised calendars were sent out to the unions. BFT responded with feedback, concerned about the number of holidays and pushing late into June. Discussion continued regarding the approval of the calendars for planning purposes and the need for additional conversation regarding holidays and the ability to revise the approved calendars at a later date.

Preliminary Calendars for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years (Second Presentation) – cont'd

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years as presented.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously.

Energy Efficiency Project

Peter Fusco presented the LED light upgrades project. The project involves energy efficiency upgrades that will be performed to all BoE facilities including LED lighting, and lighting controls. The project is estimated to save 724,003 in annual electricity costs. Discussion followed. No vote was taken.

Pupil Personnel Report

Amy Martino presented the Pupil Personnel Services Report. As of February 1, 2025, 1,823 of the 8,084 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.55% of the total BPS student population. As of February 1st, 121 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 87 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of January 2024, 36% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration; none of the newly enrolled students received their programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of January, there were (47) 211 calls and (9) 911 calls.

CURRICULUM REVISION

Introduction to Journalism Curriculum Revision

Leszek Ward presented the Introduction to Journalism Curriculum Revision. This is the second reading of the revised Introduction to Journalism Curriculum, it was presented to the Student Achievement Committee on February 19th. The course was reorganized and updated to create a smooth progression within the Journalism Pathway.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Introduction to Journalism Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Revision

Azra Redzic presented the K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Revision. The K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Revision was designed to ensure that all K-5 classrooms engage in high-quality Social Studies instruction. CT Social Elementary and Secondary Studies Standards and Framework was approved in October 2023. The K-5 curriculum revisions ensure alignment to the newly approved standards, specific student learning targets, rigorous anchor/ mentor text, and quality instruction to meet the VOG and ensure equity for all.

The Board of Education voted to approve the K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously

Precalculus (Academic) Curriculum Revision

Laura Lanza presented the Precalculus (Academic) Curriculum Revision. This course is the fourth course in the college preparatory mathematics sequence. It is a prerequisite for the analytic geometry and calculus courses offered by colleges. The curriculum was revised over the course of the last 6 months by teachers at both Bristol Central High School and Bristol Eastern High School.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Precalculus (Academic) Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Precalculus (Academic) Textbook Adoption (First Reading)

Laura Lanza presented the Precalculus (Academic) Textbook Adoption. This text will support the new revision of the Precalculus (Academic) Curriculum. The textbook review committee considered four textbooks. They met with sales representatives and rated each textbook. The Pearson Precalculus 7th Edition by Blitzer rated the highest and will support the goals of the revised curriculum. Commissioners will have the opportunity to view the textbook in the intervening month. It will be voted on at the April Board of Education meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the board.

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Lori Osenkowski – Provide a liaison report for Ivy Drive School.

Jennifer Van Gorder – Provided a liaison report for Hubbell School.

Maria Simmons – Provided a liaison report for South Side School and Bristol Eastern High School.

Council Liaison Erick Rosengren – Shared information from the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. (8:38 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted



Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education