

*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: [June 4, 2025 - Regular Meeting Recording](#).*

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, June 4, 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, Jill Fitzsimmons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons and Jennifer Van Gorder

**ABSENT:** Commissioners: Dante Tagariello and Chair Shelby Pons

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Vice Chair Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Frank Anthony Dulce, a teacher at Hubbell, Ivy Drive, Northeast, Edgewood, and South Side from 1968 to 2002, and Robert Zysk, a Social Studies teacher at Bristol Eastern High School from 1969 to 2004.

**STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION** - The Board recognized the following staff and students:

- 2026 Paraeducator of the Year – Daniel Costa – Community Vocational Program
- 2026 Teacher of the Year – Sarah Lindstrom – World Language Teacher – Bristol Central High School
- Seal of Biliteracy 2025 [Student Recognition](#)
- BoE Senior Student Representative Recognition – Abigail Wasta (BCHS) and Peyton Troth (BEHS)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**May 7, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

*The Board of Education voted to approve the May 7, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.*

*Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Operations Committee** - Commissioner Carlson reported that there will be one item from the committee to come up under Deliberated Items.

**Policy Committee** - Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula reported that the committee met on May 28th. They received a presentation from the Rotary Club about the International Exchange Program. They discussed and reviewed the current travel and exchange program policy and the Connecticut School Climate Policy, both policies will appear later on the agenda.

**Student Achievement** – Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula reported that the committee met on May 21st, and moved six curriculum revisions to the board for a vote.

**Safety Committee** – Commissioner Osenkowski reported that the committee met on May 14th, the meeting was held in executive session with the Security Director, Steve Cabelus, Superintendent White, and Deputy Superintendent Hawk. Items discussed were feedback on Mental Health Security Bonds, ALICE Training sessions, and a security plan. The next meeting will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**School, Family and Community Partnerships** – Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met and looked at our community partnership reports. Southside School PTA was featured, and the President, Christina Gutierrez, spoke about the amazing work that they're doing. She was also present to talk about the impacts that the PTA has had on the Southside School community. Superintendent White and Deputy Superintendent Hawk shared the school community shout-outs they shared at the meeting. Commissioner Simmons encouraged people to share a school community shout-out at the School, Family and Community Partnerships meeting. The committee discussed liaisons again. Jody Goeler from CAFE was present discuss how we could use liaisons and staff celebrations as part of our culture. Nick Caruso from CAFE was also present to talk about his work with student representatives and how to engage student representatives differently, maybe having a seat at the table and conversations about the things that we are doing, especially the things that impact students. Dr. Broderick gave his final School Family and Community Partnership Goal and Action Plan report.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### **Bristol Central**

Bristol Central Junior Representative Amelia Browne presented the monthly Bristol Central Student Representative report. Highlights of Amelia's report included: The Junior prom was held on May 2nd; five (5) Bristol Central students received an award for their outstanding volunteering performance and being youth and prevention leaders. (Lissette Castillo, Samara Alyosfi, Grace Mazzone, Jackson Ray, Madison LaMarre, Kyra Feeney-Wallace and Amelia); clubs and sports are coming to end, band and theater had their New York trip; theater students went to the Halos for their theater nominations, students Amelia Amara and Damon Gagne, were winners; senior prom was held May 31st; sports teams are recruiting for next year; dance team held their last recital on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and graduation will be held in two weeks.

### **Bristol Eastern**

Bristol Eastern Junior Representative Paige Anash presented the monthly Bristol Eastern Student Representative report. Highlight of Paige's report included: United Way Youth Board volunteered at North Cemetery cleaning tombstones, weeding, or raking leaves during United Way's 33rd Day of Caring; Model UN hosted a mock conference on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>; the Music Department hosted several middle school students on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, for Music in Our Parks, several music groups performed and were judged before their trip to Lake Compounce; National Honor Society hosted its first meeting Monday, June 2nd, with its new inductees for the 2025-2026 school year; Mr. Baker and Mr. Lauer have started two girls' powder puff football teams. Both teams have a number of student coaches from the boys' football team; For Teacher Appreciation Week, the Student Council had a variety of events such as decorating the cafeteria, getting pizza for teacher meetings on Wednesday, student appreciation, and providing a snack cart full of treats brought in by student council members; Student Council picnic lunch to be held June 6th, Students will be able to go outside to the cafeteria courtyard during lunch waves, they can bring blankets and towels and picnic with their friends, there will be games such as Giant Yahtzee. Cornhole, hopscotch, bubbles, and more; Student Council will hold the last meeting of the year and hold officer elections for the 2025-2026 school year; finals begin on Thursday, June 12th, and will continue until Tuesday, June 17th, with June 18th reserved for makeups; Mr. Fusco, our child, family, and community teacher, will be selling stress balls during lunch days to help students keep calm for their upcoming finals and June 18th is graduation for the beloved seniors.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Pons was not in attendance, and Vice Chair Simmons did not have a report to share.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Ms. White provided the monthly Superintendent Report.

**Budget Update** - Following the City adoption of its budget, the board will hold a budget workshop on Wednesday, June 11th at 5 o'clock, before the regularly scheduled Finance and Operations Committee Meeting, followed by a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. to include any proposed budget cuts. Any recommended budget cuts will be made available to commissioners on Monday afternoon, so you have time to review and ask any questions.

**Legislative Update** - During last month's Board of Education meeting, Ms. White indicated that there was a proposal to possibly reduce the number of alliance districts, which would mean that Bristol would no longer be an alliance district, based on the DPI Accountability Index measurement that the legislature was using. She was notified this afternoon by the CSDE Turnaround Office that, as of this afternoon, Bristol is still an Alliance District, and they will wait until tomorrow to confirm Bristol's status as an Alliance Grant. The Connecticut Senate approved the biennial budget, which now goes to the governor for his expected signature. House Bill 5001 passed. This bill focuses on the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut. Within the bill, there is a provision for what's called a SEED Grant, SEED standing for Special Education and Expansion Development. This would expand districts' on-site special education services or expand Tier 2 interventions with math and reading, academic, or behavioral supports. We're trying to help prevent students from needing additional services. According to what was in the bill, Bristol would receive \$802,474 in FY'26 and FY'27 to help support the SEED grant. As part of this bill, it also requires CSDE to set a rate schedule to be reviewed every two years, limiting how much providers can charge for services. It also prohibits special education institutions from raising rates in the middle of the school year.

Discussion followed regarding rate schedules, budget workshop, voting on position cuts and attendance at the Board of Finance meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

### **8.1. PERSONNEL**

#### **8.1.a. Administrative Resignations - Effective June 30, 2025**

Boisvert, Lynn - BoE - Director of Finance and Operations  
Culkin, Dr. Kimberly - BoE - Chief of Talent Management  
Huber, Dr. David - SSS - Principal  
Keane, Alissa - MTV - Interim Principal

*The Board of Education voted to accept the Administrative Resignations - Effective June 30, 2025 as presented.*

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.*

#### **8.1.b. Teacher Retirements - Effective June 30, 2025**

Ciralli, Vicki - CHMS - Math Intervention Specialist  
Johnson, Lynn - CHMS - Literacy Intervention Specialist  
Lewandoski, Walter - SSS - Art Teacher

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Teacher Retirements - Effective June 30, 2025, as presented.*

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.*

#### **8.1.c. Teacher Resignations**

Beauchamp, Nicole - GH/BCHS - Math Coach effective May 30, 2025  
Darcy, Julia - SSS - Math Coach effective June 18, 2025  
Onofrio, Kelsey - WB - Grade 8 Math Teacher effective June 18, 2025  
Yoder, Julianna - WB - Grade 2 Teacher effective June 18, 2025

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

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.*

## 8.2. GRANTS

### 8.2.a. SDE Primary Mental Health Grant, “BOOST” Grant managed by FRC Application Approval

The Board of Education voted to approve the SDE Primary Mental Health Grant, “BOOST” Grant Application as presented.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

### 8.2.b. Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation Grant Approval

The Board of Education voted to accept the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation Grant as presented.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

Questions and discussion followed regarding teachers taking advantage of the separation agreement and the potential savings and the unfortunate resignation of Dr. Huber and Mrs. Keane.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

## DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### Report on Dress Down Days for the 24-25 school year

Ms. White presented the Report on Dress Down Days for the 2024-2025 School Year. The Board of Education agreed to waive the staff dress code for monthly dress down days that would benefit students and/or staff. Attached is this year’s [list of charities](#) and the monthly amount raised. Staff donated a total of \$16,358.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

### Authorized Signatory Resolution for the Bristol Board of Education

Ms. White presented the Authorized Signatory Resolution for the Bristol Board of Education. With the recent leadership changes, we must update authorized signatories for the Bristol Board of Education. The Board will name Iris White, Superintendent of Schools, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Jodi Bond, Accounting Supervisor as authorized signatories for the Board of Education.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Authorized Signatory Resolution for the Bristol Board of Education as presented.

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

### Certification of Authorized Signers of the CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education (Form ED-099) Agreement for Child Nutrition Program

Ms. White presented the Certification of Authorized Signers of the CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services, and Adult Education (Form ED-099) Agreement for Child Nutrition Program. With the recent leadership changes, we must update the authorized signers of the CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education (Form ED-099) Agreement for Child Nutrition Program. The Board will name Iris White, Superintendent of Schools, and Jodi Bond, Accounting Supervisor as authorized signatories for the Board of Education.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Certification of Authorized Signers of the CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education (Form ED-099) Agreement for Child Nutrition Program as presented.*

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.*

**Revisions to the Parent Conference Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar**

Carly Fortin presented the Revisions to the Parent Conference Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar. The parent conference dates initially proposed for 2025-2026 were revised due to March 20, 2026, being Eid al Fitr. The BFT contract prohibits teachers from attending after-school meetings on the day before a non-working day. It is recommended that the parent conference dates be changed to the following week.

***The Board of Education voted to approve Revisions to the Parent Conference Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar as presented.***

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**Energy Efficiency Project**

Ms. White presented the Energy Efficiency Project. A couple of months ago Commissioner Carlson, along with a presentation by Mr. Fusco, spoke about the Energy Efficiency project and resource liable energy. We did not vote on the project, so we wanted to revisit it. Energy efficiency upgrades will be performed at all BoE facilities, including LED lighting and lighting controls. The project is estimated to save \$724,003 in annual electricity costs.

***Discussion followed regarding The Board of Education voted to approve the Energy Efficiency Project as presented.***

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**Pupil Personnel Services Report**

Amy Martino presented the monthly Pupil Services Report. Mrs. Martino reported that as of May 1, 2025, 1,839 of the 8,094 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.72% of the total BPS student population. As of May 1st, 125 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There are 93 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of April, 2025, 22% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration. None of the newly enrolled students were receiving their programming in an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of April, there were 22 - 211 and 8 - 911 calls.

**Spring Fine Arts Report**

Ken Bagley presented the Spring Fine Arts Reports. Mr. Bagley updated the Board on the activities and accomplishments in the Fine Arts Department for the Spring of 2025.

**Winter and Spring Sports Recap**

Student Leadership from Bristol Eastern and Bristol Central (Leslie Arthur Adzo - BE Leadership President, Kate Patterson - BE Leadership Vice President and Caitlyn Carbone - BC Leadership President, and Christopher Mika - BC Leadership Vice President) presented the Winter and Spring Sports Recap. The presentation highlighted the individual and team accomplishments from each school.

**CURRICULUM REVISION****Algebra I - Academic Curriculum Revision**

Laura Lanza presented the Algebra I - Academic Curriculum Revision. This Algebra 1 course develops students' understanding of algebraic relationships, progressing systematically from linear through exponential and quadratic functions. Beginning with linear equations and systems, students learn to create, graph, and solve equations in both one and two variables. They then extend these concepts to inequalities and systems of inequalities, learning to represent and interpret constraints in context. Throughout these initial units, students also analyze bivariate data and develop linear models, connecting algebraic representations to real-world situations.

**Algebra I - Academic Curriculum Revision – cont'd**

The middle portion of the course formalizes students' understanding of functions as mathematical relationships. Students learn to use function notation, analyze key features of graphs, and interpret different representations of functions. This foundation enables them to explore exponential functions, where they contrast exponential and linear growth, apply properties of exponents, and model real-world growth and decay scenarios. The course concludes with an introduction to quadratic functions, where students analyze different forms of quadratic expressions, graph parabolas, and interpret key features in context. Throughout the six units, students engage in mathematical practices that develop their ability to problem-solve, model real-world situations, and construct mathematical arguments. The course emphasizes multiple representations of relationships (graphs, equations, tables, and verbal descriptions) and the connections between them.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Algebra I - Academic Curriculum Revision as presented.*

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

**Intro to CWE Curriculum Revision**

Laura Lanza presented the Intro to CWE Curriculum Revision. In Introduction to Career Work Experience (CWE) students will gain essential skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in future employment. Topics include career readiness, career acquisition, employability skills, employment laws, and job safety. Students who successfully complete the course with a minimum grade of 75% will meet the prerequisite for CWE 50/100. The CWE 50/100 course provides an opportunity to participate in an internship within the student's chosen career pathway.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Intro to CWE Curriculum Revision as presented.*

*Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Lorianne Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.*

**Construction Technology Curriculum Revision**

Laura Lanza presented the Construction Technology Curriculum Revision. This course introduces students to the fundamental principles and practices of the construction industry. Through hands-on projects and classroom instruction, students will explore residential, commercial, and civil construction techniques, materials, tools, and safety protocols. Emphasis is placed on blueprint reading, site preparation, framing, electrical, plumbing, and finish work. Students will also learn about construction math, project planning, sustainability, and career pathways in the skilled trades. This course prepares students for further study in construction-related fields and develops essential skills for entry-level employment or technical certification.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Construction Technology Curriculum Revision as presented.*

*Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Russell Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

**Grades 3 - 5 Math Curriculum Revision**

Jillian Romann presented the Grades 3 - 5 Math Curriculum Revision. The grades 3-5 Math curriculum was last updated in 2020. The goals of the revision were to transition to the new Illustrative Math 360 edition, update learning targets and success criteria, increase supports for all students and add family support materials. Some of the supports for all students include: the addition of the Universal Design for Learning teacher actions and supports for Multilingual learners.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Grades 3 - 5 Math Curriculum Revision as presented.*

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

**AP Psychology Curriculum Revision**

Leszek Ward presented the AP Psychology Curriculum Revision. This revision was Prompted by revisions to the AP exam made by the College Board, the course now aligns with the updated Course Exam Description and,

**AP Psychology Curriculum Revision – cont'd**

by extension, recommendations made by the American Psychological Association (APA) Introductory Psychology Initiative. The framework is organized into five units ranging from the biological basis of behavior to mental and physical health, and is Equivalent to an introductory college-level psychology course.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the AP Psychology Curriculum Revision as presented.*

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

**Law and Justice Curriculum Revision**

Leszek Ward presented the Law and Justice Curriculum Revision. Students will examine competing definitions of justice, the structure and constitutional principles of the court system, the major categories of offenses against persons and property, as well as the stages of the criminal justice process. The course culminates in a mock trial experience where students apply their knowledge of legal procedures, argumentation, and courtroom roles.

*The Board of Education voted to approve the Law and Justice Curriculum Revision as presented.*

*Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Lorianne Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.*

**TEXTBOOK ADOPTION****Textbook Recommendation for History of American Popular Music - First Presentation**

Ken Bagley presented the Textbook Recommendation for History of American Popular Music. The textbook for our new UCONN ECE course, History of American Popular Music needs to be approved for implementation. Because it is an ECE aligned course, we must use the recommended textbook for the course: American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3. The second reading will be at the August Board of Education meeting.

**POLICY REVISION****Policy 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy**

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented Policy 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy. This policy was developed to provide districts guidance on those provisions and it was developed in collaboration with the guidance from the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, Equity, opportunity, and other members of the statewide social, emotional working and school climate collaborative. It is required to be in effect by July. and it was recommended for us to go with it as is.

*The Board of Education voted to approve revisions to Policy 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy as presented.*

*Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.*

**Policy 6145.6 - Instruction, Travel and Exchange Programs**

Commissioner Simmons presented Policy 6145.6 - Instruction, Travel and Exchange Programs. This revision is to amend language in our current policy for this school year coming up to waive the tuition requirement. So that should Bristol public schools want to have an exchange student, a student from another country come in and experience our amazing, wonderful district that there is the opportunity for them to do that.

Members of the Bristol Rotary Club were present to answer any questions regarding the exchange program.

*The Board of Education voted to approve revisions to Policy 6145.6 - Instruction, Travel and Exchange Programs to reflect that for this school year removing the language that requires the tuition.*

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

## **INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

Maria Simmons – Provided a liaison report regarding the Bristol Eastern and South Side School

Council Liaison Erick Rosengren – Shared information regarding Family Fun Day and acknowledged the work of the Bristol Early Childhood Alliance and School Readiness Council.

## **VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Education Voted to Convene Into Executive Session for the purpose of: a. Discussion Concerning the Superintendent's Evaluation. They would invite Superintendent White to join Executive Session.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder.

Discussion followed regarding early notification of the Executive Session.

Following a Roll Call vote of (1) one commissioner (Simmons) IN FAVOR of the motion and (6) six commissioners (Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, and Van Gorder) OPPOSED, the motion FAILED.

Discussion followed regarding scheduling the Executive Session to conduct the Superintendent's Evaluation, perhaps not on a board meeting night, and with ample notification to commissioners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. (9:21 p.m.).

Respectfully Submitted



Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education