



Student Achievement Committee
April 19, 2023
MINUTES - DRAFT

Present: Catherine Carbone, Michael Dietter, Jennifer Dube, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Carly Fortin, Kristen Giantonio, Mary Hawk, Amy Martino, Jaime Rechenberg, Azra Redzic, Jillian Romann, Todd Sturgeon, Melanie Vetrano, Leszek Ward

Also Present: Eric Carlson and Maria Pirro Simmons

Call to Order

Commissioner Sturgeon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Decision: Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2023 meeting:

On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Todd Sturgeon, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to approve the minutes of February 15, 2023.

Public Comment

Mr. Russell Anderson of 93 Wolcott Road and Mrs. Shelby Pons of 143 Larkspur Lane addressed the committee members in regards to the BAIMS lottery.

Information: School Calendar- Religious Observances

Mrs. Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, presented the amount of students absent in the last few years on Eid al Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Three Kings' Day and compared them to the amount of students absent on the first Monday in April from the same year for comparison purposes. According to the data, Eid AL Fitr and Three Kings' Day have more absences than an average school day, however, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kuppur did not have a significant difference. Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, presented the data on staff members throughout the district that are absent on those holidays. There was a 100-person increase in absences for Yom Kippur, Three Kings' Day and Rosh Hashanah, and a 78-person increase for Eid al Fitr.

According to Policy 6115: Ceremonies and Observances, student absences for religious observances shall be excused. No field trips, exams or projects will be scheduled on religious holidays.

In regards to guidance to educators, Dr. Carbone sends out a yearly memo on how we can create a supportive environment for Muslim students who are fasting during Ramadan.

Questions and discussion followed.

Information: BAIMS Lottery

Mr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, presented information on the lottery process for BAIMS. When Bristol Public Schools applied for funding for the renovation of Memorial Boulevard School, we submitted an Operational Plan which we are expected to follow for a three -year period. In addition, Dr. Dietter shared that the CSDE requires that public schools maintain a balance in race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status. The enrollment for grade 6-8 at BAIMS follows these same guidelines to ensure that the school represents the community of Bristol at large. There are no special reasons for entrance outside of the lottery system with the exception of an inability to fill a ratio-driven number of students from each school. If so, those additional students will be selected from the lottery wait-list. For grades 9-12, students are scheduled into courses

housed at BAIMS using the same process as any other elective for high school.

Dr. Carbone and Mrs. Fortin presented the current status of enrollment and lottery at BAIMS. The current data shows that we have a very high retention rate of students that will be returning to BAIMS. Grade 6 has a retention rate of 97% and Grade 7 has a retention rate of 98%.

Questions and discussion followed.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sturgeon adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katlyne Laprise

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