

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
May 5, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O’Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski and Christopher Wilson; Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Jill Browne, Business Director, and Peter Kelley, Council Liaison (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING NORMS

Commissioner Dube acknowledged the meeting norms and asked that they be adhered to throughout the meeting.

STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board recognized CABE Leadership Award winners. Principals from each school introduced their award-winning students. The following students were present virtually to be recognized:

Nathaniel Gomez - Bristol Central H.S. - Gr. 12
Damani Hough - Bristol Central H.S. - Gr. 12
Ryley Plourde - Bristol Eastern H.S. - Gr. 12
Jeffrey Taillon - Bristol Eastern H.S. - Gr. 12
Peyton Hasler - Northeast M.S. - Gr. 8
Jonathan Casarola- Northeast M.S. - Gr. 8
Brooke Patnode - Greene-Hills - Gr. 8
Jordy Chacon - Greene-Hills - Gr. 8
Ruth Smith - West Bristol K-8 - Gr. 8
Grace Mazzone - West Bristol K-8 - Gr. 8
Darrek Griffith - Chippens Hill M.S. - Gr. 8
Aniyah James - Chippens Hill M.S. - Gr. 8

The CABE Student Leadership Awards Program was developed to allow local boards of education to recognize student achievement and potential. Students nominated by their school principal should exhibit the following leadership skills: Willingness to take on challenges, Capability to make a difficult decision, Concern for others, Ability to work with others, Willingness to commit to a project, Diplomacy, Ability to understand issues clearly and Ability to honor a commitment. Congratulations to all of our scholars.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 14, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Karen Viber and a second by Thomas O’Brien.

Approval of the **April 14, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion. Commissioner Giantonio Abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations – Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee met on April 28, 2021. The committee received a presentation by AT&T to place a cell tower at Northeast Middle School. The committee unanimously voted down

Operations Committee Report – cont'd

the proposal. The committee also received a presentation from Milone and McBroom with an update concerning Reimagining Bristol Public Schools Regarding Feasibility Planning. They addressed additional criteria that the committee wanted to be included and the entire package will be presented at the Board of Education workshop, tentative date May 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel – Commissioner O'Brien reported that a Personnel Committee held their initial negotiations session with 2267 and a few proposals were exchanged. The committee is looking forward to more progress tomorrow when they meet at 10:00 a.m. The committee will be scheduling opening sessions with 3551 and 818. It is still the goal to have all contracts finalized by July 1.

Policy – Commissioner Giantonio reported that the committee met on April 28, 2021, the committee did not move Policy 9327.1 - Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks out of committee, no action was taken, there will be no new policy. The committee discussed magnet school enrollment at MBIAMS and there was an update given regarding legislation that had just passed regarding vaccinations. Dr. Dieter will be discussing in further detail enrollment at the magnet school later on the agenda.

Student Achievement - Commissioner Wilson reported that the committee met on April 21, 2021, and received two presentations. Jillian Romann, Supervisor of Elementary STEM presented information on the curriculum revision to Grades 3-5 Mathematics. This item will appear on this evening's agenda for a second reading. The committee also discussed the Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum. Mrs. Fortin shared a few of the practices within curriculum development and Leszek Ward, Supervisor of Secondary Humanities presented the revisions to the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum; this will appear on this evening's agenda for a second reading. The committee discussed ESSER Funding of Academics: Mrs. Fortin reviewed some of the academic programs that have been supporting our students in academics after the end of a regular school day. The programs are: BPS Wraparound Supports, BPS BOOST, BPS Recharge for HighSchool (which is piloted at Bristol Eastern High School), BPS Advance, BPS Bolster, and BPS Aspire.

Communications and Community Relations - Commissioner Pons reported that the committee met earlier this evening. The committee learned about two-way communication and reviewed new technology platforms; ThoughtExchange and ParentSquare. They received a presentation regarding the transition from SchoolMessenger to ParentSquare and the capacity that it holds for parents and how StudentSquare can be used by the student. The committee also discussed the rebranding of BPS to create uniformity and possible changes to the logo; recommendations were made to involve students in the rebranding process. There was discussion regarding outreach which included home visits and media connections. Grants and partnership opportunities were also discussed.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Eastern High School – Madison Turner – Senior Representative from Bristol Eastern gave her final report to the Board of Education. Madison shared information from Bristol Eastern, highlight of the report included: Teacher Appreciation Week and tokens of appreciations for all that they do; Senior Outing May 14 at Quassy Amusement Park; BE will host the Bristol Veterans Council event to honor those entering the military following graduation; Senior Sunset to be held June 11, students may watch a movie, create a time capsule and sign the BEHS rock; Bristol Eastern will be graduating at 5:30 p.m. on June 14th at Muzzy Field; After Graduation Party will be held at Sonny's Place in Somers, CT; AVID Senior celebration to be held on Wednesday, May 26; National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held on May 27; Scholarship and Academic Awards ceremony to be held on June 1; High School Musical will be performed outdoors on June 5th and 6th; Finals will be held June 1-8 and BE vs. BC baseball and softball games will be played this week.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - cont'd

Bristol Central High School – Madison Laprise – Senior Representative from Bristol Central thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the BCHS student representative. She has learned a lot and giving her final report is bittersweet. Madison shared Bristol Central activities. Highlights of the report included; Juniors inducted into the National Honor Society had a celebratory breakfast and the induction ceremony will be held May 13th; the Liberation GBT Club will be filming a series of videos to be shown in advisory regarding AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) month; Buckets for Justice Club is selling merchandise, profits will be donated to the Bristol NAACP; AP Testing will take place in person for the next two weeks; May 21-23 will be the first in-person school play since last fall an outdoor performance of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will take place; on May 27 a virtual awards ceremony; Seniors will have their Prom at Quassy Amusement Park on May 8th; Senior lunch on will be held on May 28th; Graduation will be held June 14th at Muzzy Field following Bristol Eastern; the senior grad party will be held at Sparetime.

CHAIR REPORT – Chair Jennifer Dube offered words of encouragement to students, parents, and staff to continue on this course with us; noting how far we have come, what we have accomplished, and what we have to look forward to.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Today marked the return to full in-person learning (5 days) for those students that wished to return; Bristol Eastern's graduation will take place at Muzzy Field at 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2021, and Bristol Central's graduation will take place following Bristol Eastern at Muzzy Field at 7:30 p.m. on June 14, 2021. Commissioners are invited to both graduations. Dr. Carbone thanked the Park Board and Park and Recreation for helping us make this in-person event possible. We are in the midst of testing, the Next Generation Science Standards Test for Grade 11 will take place May 18th - May 31st; ELA and MATH Smarter Balanced Assessments for Grades 3-8 are taking place May 3rd - June 5th. The SDE guidance on remote learning was released. It is no longer mandatory to offer remote learning to our families, we will be discussing remote learning at our next Student Achievement Committee meeting. Remote Learning due to inclement weather will also be discussed at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. Dr. Carbone gave an update related to Reimagining BPS 2023 and the options that have been shared and reviewed with the Operations Committee. At the BoE Workshop being held on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Options 5 and 5a will be discussed in detail along with the restricting plans and the two phases that go along with these options. The Board will also review feedback from ThoughtExchange from K-8, K-5, 6-8, 9-12 Parent and Staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dube called for the approval of the Consent Agenda which includes Items 8.1.1 through 8.2.1.

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio.

Approval of the **Consent Agenda PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

PERSONNEL

8.1.1. Teacher Retirement - Effective June 30, 2021

Habecker, Lisa – WB – EL Teacher

Rogan, Debra – MTV – Literacy Coach

Yager, Mary – EDGE/NEMS – Speech-Language Pathologist

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio.

Approval of the **Teacher Retirement - Effective June 30, 2021, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

8.1.2. Teacher Resignations - Effective June 14, 2021

Hussey, Julie – SSS – Grade 3 Teacher

Martin, Kristen – EPH – Grade 1 Teacher

McCarthy, Connor – STAF – Grade 4 Teacher

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio.

Approval of the **Teacher Resignations - Effective June 14, 2021, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

8.1.3. New Teacher Hires

Duffy, Clayton - WB - Math Teacher - Effective August 24, 2021

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio.

Approval of the **New Teacher Hires PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

8.2. GRANT

8.2.1. Bristol Adult Education Center Program Enhancement Project Grant Application

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio.

Approval of the **Bristol Adult Education Center Program Enhancement Project Grant Application PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the board.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

10.1. Quarterly Enrollment Report

Dr. Galloway presented the Quarterly Enrollment Report. Questions followed regarding how many classes have one student in them; how many students have disenrolled; and what are the projections for BPA enrollment for next year. Dr. Galloway will email commissioners with answers to the question posed.

10.2. MBIAMS Creative Consortium Report

Mrs. Fortin presented the MBIAMS Creative Consortium Report. On April 21, 2021, Bristol Public Schools held a Creative Consortium in which we brought together educators from Bristol along with creative minds from within the arts field at the New Britain Museum of American Art to unearth a framework of creative thinking and learning for the program of studies at Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School. Representatives from the New Britain Museum of American Art, the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol, Western Connecticut State University, the University of Connecticut, and members of our faculty discussed ideas around these three guiding questions: "What is creativity and innovation?", "What skills and dispositions will we need to build among our creative learners?", and "What are the attributes of a creative teacher?". The collective thinking around these three questions will form the guiding principles and framework for our curriculum development. Mrs. Fortin thanked our partners in planning for the Program of Studies for Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School.

- Maura O'Shea, Margaret Freedman, and Stephanie Strucaly from New Britain Museum of American Art
- Morgan Urgo, New England Carousel Museum

MBIAMS Creative Consortium Report - cont'd

- Dr. Wiggins and Dr. Dorion, Western Connecticut State University Music Dept.
- Daniella DeRosa, University of Connecticut
- Bristol Public Schools faculty, supervisors, and administrators

10.3. Our Happy Place Grant

Dr. Dieter presented the Our Happy Place Grant. Dr. Dieter shared a grant presentation video from Stacey Tank, one of the founders of the Our Happy Place Grant. This grant is made possible by Dr. Susan Moreau (former Superintendent) and her daughters Stacey Tank and Jacqui Kemp. Our Happy Place Grant is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to helping children, families, and educators successfully navigate childhood anxiety and other mental health challenges. Founded by a mother and her young son, Our Happy Place provides access to materials that build coping skills and promotes positive outcomes for children and families. Bristol Public Schools is being awarded their first \$5,000 grant. OHP funding will be used for the training of two Triple P trainers and providing materials for home/school bags for student and family use, we are grateful for the support of OHP and their Board.

10.4. Special Services Leadership Team Report

Kim Culkin presented the monthly Special Services Leadership Team Report. Mrs. Culkin presented the Special Services Leadership Team Report. Mrs. Culkin shared that as of April 1, 2021, we had 1,754 students out of 8,110 that identified as eligible for special education programming; that represents 21.63% of all Bristol students. In March, 21.05 % of newly enrolled students joined us as students already eligible for special education programming and services. From April 2020 to the present we have had eight (8) newly enrolled students come to Bristol already receiving out-of-district Special Education school programs. As of April 1, 113 of our 1,754 students were requiring receiving their services in out-of-district special education placements. 75 students are receiving their services at a public or magnet school. Mrs. Culkin provided an update of the Special Services Professional Development that is currently taking place and she shared revisions to Special Services Specialized Programs that will begin the 2021-2022 school year. Questions followed regarding moving the GOAL program to Ivy Drive; parent concerns regarding moving the program to one location, and staffing for the ESY program.

11. CURRICULUM REVISION

11.1. Discovery Techbook (First Reading)

Leszek Ward presented the Discovery Techbook for its first reading. Current 6th-grade textbooks were purchased in 1999, before the adoption of the updated CT Social Studies Frameworks. Due to this fact, and because of the revisions made to the 6th grade Social Studies curriculum, the curriculum committee recommends the adoption of Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook as the primary instructional resource for 6th grade. To support ongoing revisions to the middle school social studies curriculum and provide our students with updated, aligned materials, the curriculum team examined a variety of textbooks before eventually recommending the adoption of the Discovery Education Techbook. This digital resource is closely aligned to our curriculum revisions and the 5E instructional model. The techbook approaches each topic through a variety of compelling and supporting questions and organizes resources in each topic based on their suggested use, placing them in one of five digital tabs: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. This structure provides our students with a familiar and unified approach to support their learning in social studies. As a digital resource, the Techbook also provides a variety of multimedia and instructional support for all learners, including multiple reading levels, authentic Spanish translation, text to speech capability, highlighting and note-taking capabilities, and structured graphic organizers. Questions followed regarding the techbook being related to the current 6th curriculum and techbook access for students and parents at home. This is the first reading of the Techbook. If you would like to see a demo in the intervening month, please contact Mr. Ward.

11.2. 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum (Second Reading)

Mr. Leszek Ward presented the 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum for a Second Reading. Mr. Ward thanked the involved in drafting the curriculum revision. The CT Social Studies Framework states that “World Regional Studies is a two-year course for Grades 6 and 7. Students study at least eight world regions, and, through the lens of geography, they explore and learn about economies, history, and civics throughout the world.” This spring, teams of teachers worked to revise our 6th-grade curriculum to more closely align to the CT frameworks and introduce students to a regional study of physical and human geography across the globe. Students begin the course with an introduction to the tools and topics of the discipline, which they then use to study increasingly distant regions of the world, including North America, Latin America, Europe, Russia, and Central Asia, and finally, Northern Africa and Southwest Asia. In each unit, students start by orienting themselves to the physical and human geography of the region before exploring human/environment interactions, people and culture, governments and economies, and current issues. The study of each region culminates in a document-based inquiry that delves deeper into one of these spiraling themes and builds towards an evidence-based argument. These summative inquiries are built using the Inquiry Design Model (IDM) Blueprint, which is based on the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework and the inquiry standards in the CT Social Studies Framework. By revisiting these themes across a variety of regions and constructing a series of evidence-based arguments, students will learn essential academic knowledge about the world around them, prepare to make meaningful contributions in a rapidly changing global society, and move closer to achieving Bristol’s vision of the Graduate. The curriculum was presented at the April Student Achievement committee meeting and forwarded to the full board for a vote.

On a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Thomas O’Brien a motion to approve the 6th Grade Curriculum Revision was called. Discussion followed regarding moving the curriculum revision back to the committee for further discussion.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and second by Thomas O’Brien a motion to move the curriculum revision back to committee for the second reading and further discussion was called. Discussion followed regarding the curriculum and textbook revision process and the changes that were made from the old curriculum.

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and second by Thomas O’Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the motion to **postpone the vote of the 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum and send it back to Student Achievement for further discussion PASSED** following a roll call vote of six (6) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Sklenka, Wadowski, and Dube) in favor of the motion and three (3) Commissioners (Pons, Vibert, and Wilson) opposed.

Commissioner Wilson withdrew his original motion to approve the 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum; Commissioner O’Brien withdrew his second.

11.3. Grades 3-5 Mathematics Curriculum (Second Reading)

Jillian Romann presented the Grades 3-5 Mathematics Curriculum for a Second Reading. The curriculum was presented at the April Student Achievement meeting and forwarded to the full board for a vote. The grades 3-5 curriculum was last revised in 2011 with the adoption of the CCSS. This curriculum was aligned with the CCSS, however, it was not written in a problem-based instructional format. The new curriculum has been written to align the grades 3-5 content and practices with the grades 6-8 and Algebra problem-based Illustrative Mathematics curriculum. This will create consistent programming starting at the elementary level through Algebra at the high school level. The documents submitted are based on work by the Grade 3-5 Curriculum Committee which included Mathematics Coaches Sara Kulig, Tania Palmieri, Scott Ruel, Joanna Vastola, and Debra Vitale. In addition, most all Grades 3-5 teachers are in their first year of implementation and have been able to provide feedback.

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Karen Vibert questions followed regarding electronic, written, and visually impaired access to the curriculum.

11.3. Grades 3-5 Mathematics Curriculum (Second Reading) – con't

Approval of **Grades 3-5 Mathematics Curriculum PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

12. POLICY REVISION

12.1. Policy 5117.1 - Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Enrollment

Dr. Dieter presented Policy 5117.1 - Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Enrollment. The policy was discussed at the April Policy Committee meeting. This was the second discussion of the policy. This policy will lay the framework for how the Board of Education will conduct the student selection lottery for the Memorial Boulevard Intra-District Arts Magnet School Program (MBIAMS).

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Allison Wadowski.

Approval of **Policy 5117.1 - Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Enrollment PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Wilson) in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS - There was no New Business to come before the board.

BUILDING REPORTS

MBIAMS Update - Dr. Dieter presented the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Update. Dr. Dieter shared the following updates:

1. Anticipated turnover date of June 5, 2022
2. Substantially completed work of all the porticos on the east side of the building
3. Completed all the late gauge framing on the first floor
4. New foundation and wall replacing rubble foundation
5. Installed the fire suppression system on the second and third floor
6. Low level barring walls with masonry within the addition in the rear of the building
7. Further preparation and framing have continued in the project.
8. First and second floor we are proceeding with ductwork and plumbing
9. Enlarged openings on the first-floor door frame to bring everything up to code
10. In the process of conducting very specific abatement to the stage floor

South Side HVAC Project Update

Mrs. Browne gave an update on the South Side HVAC Project. Phase 1 (original project) has reached substantial completion as of mid-April. Phase 1 Cooling Start (May 2021) once it is up and running. Commissioning agent coming out to make sure all it is working properly (cooling component needs to be tested & commissioned - has not been warm enough until now. Runs on ambient air temp (outdoor air temp). Phase 2 (multi-purpose cafetorium) bids received in Special Meeting on April 6th (under budget by \$23,000, Allstate Construction is the successful bidder, moved forward to City Council for final approval at their April 13th meeting). Phase 2 Submittals started for Long Lead mechanical Equipment (April 26) - come from construction - Allstate provides their suggested equipment, engineer submits approval. Long lead time for these mechanical units. (8-12 week average lead time). Phase 2 construction starts June 14. Phase 2 Substantial Completion in late August (August 27).

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Peter Kelley, Council Liaison shared a little information regarding a brick fundraiser from Memorial Boulevard. This is still in the works. Looking forward to the BE v. BC softball game this week.

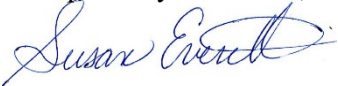
Commissioner O'Brien posed a question from a parent regarding a minor student with a gender identity issue. Do we have a policy regarding how the student should be addressed and treated? Dr. Carbone shared that we do have a non-discrimination policy and that the parent can contact the Superintendent's office and this can be discussed with the administration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board and

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by John Sklenka, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned. (8:47 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan P. Everett
Executive Secretary to the Board of Education

DRAFT