

*The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Special Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link: [Special BoE Meeting 11/12/25](#) Passcode: Q46@SZpX*

Bristol Board of Education  
Bristol, Connecticut  
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 – 5:15 p.m.  
Special Meeting Minutes

A Special Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in the Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut and via the Zoom meeting platform.

**Present:** Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Maria Simmons, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Kara Ledger, Lorianne Osenkowski, Barbara Tedesco and Jennifer Van Gorder.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Iris White and Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Pons called the Special Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Meeting attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Chair Pons briefly explained the process of nominations of Board Officers ( Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary). Pons announced that all board officers are to step down when there is a new board in place. Shelby Pons will step down as Chairperson, Maria Simmons will step down as Vice Chair and Jill Fitzsimons- Bula will be stepping down as Secretary. Those are the three positions that we will be voting on tonight.

**Chairman of the Board of Education**

Chair Pons called for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Education.

Commissioner Ledger nominated Shelby Pons to the position of Chairman: Commissioner Simmons seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Van Gorder nominated Maria Simmons to the position of Chairman and explained. Commissioner Giantonio seconded the nomination. Commissioner Simmons did not accept the nomination.

Chair Pons declared the nominations closed and called for discussion

Chair Pons closed the discussion and asked that ballots be distributed to commissioners. Written ballots for the position of Chairman were returned to Superintendent White to be tallied. Superintendent White read the results alphabetically.



[illegible]

Superintendent White announced that Maria Simmons was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Education

**Secretary of Board of Education**

Chair Pons called for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board of Education.

Chair Pons nominates Jill Fitzsimons-Bula to the position of Secretary; Commissioner Ledger seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Giantonio nominates Lorianne Osenkowski to the position of Secretary; Commissioner Van Gorder seconded the nomination

Chair Pons declared the nominations closed and called for discussion

Chair Pons closed the discussion and asked that ballots be distributed to commissioners. Written ballots for the position of Secretary were returned to Superintendent White to be tallied. Superintendent White read the results alphabetically.

[illegible]

Commissioner TEDESCO										
Commissioner VAN GORDER										

Superintendent White announced that Jill Fitzsimmons-Bula was elected Secretary of the Board of Education

### 3. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair Pons read the revised Committee Assignments.

#### Finance & Operations Committee

Mara Simmons, Chair  
Russell Anderson  
Kara, Ledger

#### Alternate

Jill Fitzsimons - Bula

#### School, Family & Community Partnerships (SCFP)

Barbara Tedesco, Chair  
Jennifer Van Gorder  
Kara Ledger

#### Alternate

Maria Simmons

#### School Safety Committee

Jill Fitzsimons - Bula, Chair  
Kristen Giantonio  
Lorianne Osenkowski

#### Alternate

Barbara Tedesco

#### Policy Committee

Jill Fitzsimons - Bula, Chair  
Maria Simmons  
Lorianne Osenkowski

#### Alternate

Kara ledger

#### Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee

Kara Ledger, Chair  
Barbara Tedesco  
Jill Fitzsimons - Bula

#### Alternate

Russell Anderson

Commissioner Ledger makes a motion to accept the committees as presented and Commissioner Tedesco seconded.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the choices for committee assignments.

The Board of Education voted to approve Committee Assignments as read with five (5) Commissioners ( Ledger, Tedesco, Fitzsimons-Bula, Simmons, and Pons **IN FAVOR** of the motion; and three (3) Commissioner ( Van Gorder, Osenkowski, and Giantonio) **OPPOSED**.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISOR OF MATH, SCIENCE, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Superintendent White recommends that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Ms. Debra Vitale as Instructional Supervisor for Mathematics, Science, and Informational Technology

Commissioner Ledger makes a motion and second by Commissioner Simmons. Motion passed unanimously.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the interview process for the position.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF THE ELEMENTARY ( PK-5) HUMANITIES SUPERVISOR**

Superintendent White recommends that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Zachary Maher as Elementary (PK-5) Humanities Supervisor.

Chair Pons makes a motion and second by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the interview process for the position.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Special Board of Education Meeting should adjourn. ( 6:00 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education