

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Todd Sturgeon, Dante Tagariello, Karen Vibert, and Christopher Wilson (virtual); **ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Jill Browne, Business Director, and Jolene Lusitani, Council Liaison

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

Chair Dube called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for Lynda F. Kanenberg a Teacher at Ivy Drive, South Side, Westwood, Callen and Bingham School with 35 years of service, and Loretta Teevan a Latin Teacher at Bristol Central High School with 43 years of service.

Chair Dube read the meeting norms into the record.

- All participants will actively participate, engage in the work of the meeting, and have an equal voice and airtime.
- Assume positive intentions by respecting and honoring the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and perspectives.
- Cultivate trust by being honest and focusing on ideas, practices, and the work...not people.
- Norms will be upheld during all meetings and in all interactions outside of formal meetings.

**STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION**

The Board of Education recognized Kara Jones a math teacher at Bristol Eastern High School Teacher for being selected as a fellow in the Noyce Math Teacher Leaders Program and Julia Darcy a teacher at Greene-Hills School for being invited to the State Board of Education monthly meeting to share some of the work of Bristol Public Schools. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Darcy were both present to be recognized and share their experiences with the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 5, 2022- Regular Meeting**

Following a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the January 5, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

**January 12, 2022 - Special Meeting**

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the January 12, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes as written.

**January 18, 2022 - Budget Workshop**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the January 18, 2022, Budget Workshop Minutes as written.

**January 25, 2022 - Budget Workshop**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved **to APPROVE** the January 25, 2022, Budget Workshop Minutes as written.

**January 25, 2022 - Special Meeting**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the January 25, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes as written.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** – Commissioner Tagariello reported that the committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup>. There is not a lot to report. We remain on budget for most items and our current fund balance is in excess of 2 million dollars. The cafeteria budget performance continues to improve over the last month with the participation rate around 70%. The school system was notified that our reimbursement rates for breakfast and lunch have increased for the current year. The Finance Committee received back bid proposals for Transportation contracts. We had three bids First Student, Dattco, and W&E Transportation, and after consideration of all items which include but are not limited to the number of buses, staffing, proximity, district similarity, and cost the committee made the unanimous recommendation to forward First Student for full Board approval of the contract and the full board subsequently adopted that recommendation. Finally, at the next committee meeting on February 9, the committee will review the proposed budget that was presented at the workshops held on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in those deliberations can join the meeting in person or on Zoom.

**Operations**

Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee did not hold a regular meeting, but did have two special meetings. One for the underground storage tank at Chippens Hill Middle School where Alfred Benesch & Company was chosen for \$40,400. The other special meeting was concerning the Edgewood roof project where Friar Associates was chosen for \$35,000.

**Policy** – Commissioner Giantonio reported that the Policy Committee met on January 26th and discussed a new policy that will appear later on the agenda – Policy 6163.33 – Live Animals in the classroom. The committee also discussed Policy 3520.13 – Database Information and Management Systems part of that discussion concerned the possibility of encryption in emails and sensitive document communication between parents and the district and the district does have the capability should a parent request it.

**Student Achievement** – Commissioner Sturgeon reported that the committee on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The only items discussed were new curricula for BAIMS all of which were approved for forwarding to the full board for approval.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Bristol Central** – Sydney Rodriguez, Senior Representative from Bristol Central reported on recent activities from BC, highlights from the report included: the first snow day of the year where students did not log into a zoom meeting and instead took the day to themselves The boys' basketball team was invited to play in the Spalding Hoop Hall of Fame Classic vs the number one team in Massachusetts, Springfield

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS – cont'd**

### **Bristol Central**

Central. The boys brought home a hard-fought 53 - 44 victory and remain the number one team in Connecticut. The girls' basketball team is currently riding a six-game win streak and finally beat Bristol Eastern for the first time since 2004 with a 55- 42 Victory last Tuesday. The Center Stage crew continues to prepare for their production of The Lion King in the Spring. Most recently they have been working with Anne Cubberly; the artist-in-residence through our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant; she is a puppet maker from Hartford and an expert in large puppetry and helped the students create the wild beasts in the headpiece props for the show using Broadway models and recycled materials. Midterms are complete and Second Semester is underway. Course selection for 2022-203 is ongoing. Seniors are four months away from graduation. Graduation cap and gown orders are already being taken. BCHS kicked off Black History Month yesterday by introducing students to Bristol's own Johnnie Floyd a former track and cross-country coach at Bristol Eastern who influenced so many athletes. The cross-country course at Page Park was dedicated in his memory the past fall.

**Bristol Eastern** – Max Stavens, Junior Student Representative from Bristol Eastern reported on recent activities from BE, highlights from his report included congratulating Mr. Gervais on his first month of being a part of the Bristol Eastern Community. Midterms have ended and the second semester has begun. Course selection has started and students are happy about the course selections such as Personal Finance II and Black and Latino Studies. Looking ahead into the spring some activities include SAT Day, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Junior Prom on May 21st at the Doubletree, and Senior Prom on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Looking at Winter Sports, Max congratulated fellow Lancer Alexander Marshall on his 200<sup>th</sup> win and both basketball teams are still in contention to make the state tournaments. The Model UN club is preparing for its New York conference from March 19th to the 21st; which will include a series of debates and meetings that span over three days and will close on Sunday night. The drama club will be producing Shrek the Musical with performances on May 6th and 7<sup>th</sup>. Max congratulated his teacher, Miss Jones, on her recognition from earlier this evening.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** - Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report.

### **FY23 Budget Review- Budget Workshops - January 18, 2022, and January 25, 2022**

Dr. Carbone shared highlights of the budget workshops where the administration respectfully submitted the Superintendent's recommendations to the Board of Education for their consideration and approval. A summary of the major drivers to the budget was presented here as a review for our greater Bristol Community as well.

- our bargaining unit obligations for staff currently in place yields a 2.24% increase,
- General fund savings in the cost of employee benefits, lowered by 1.59%,
- Projected increases in Utilities, Supplies, and Equipment supporting our new facility, and increased transportation costs reflective of a new transportation contract account for a .1 and .64 % increase respectfully.
- Decreases in out-of-district tuitions are offset by the increase in Professional Services, allowing an opportunity for reimbursement for service covered by Medicaid.
- School Supplies & Materials district-wide show a modest decrease and we anticipate \$282K more in revenue over last year; lastly,
- new positions in the budget to staff BAIMS, move two On-Track Coordinators to the general fund, and add 1.5 Special Education teachers as a result of a 0.78% increase to the budget.

Overall, our budget request total is a 2.14% increase over the prior year. As reviewed, the materials, resources, and personnel impact on the general fund across within the FY 23 budget include; additional

staffing of 1.5 Special Education teachers, 2 On-Track Coordinators, additional instructors at Bristol AIMS; and the increase in year 1 of our 4-year bus contract. The total of these additions and innovations is \$1,908,631 within the general fund. We also discussed and reviewed the use of Alliance, Title I, IDEA,

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – cont’d**

ESSER II, and ESSER ARP funds. With regard to grants, innovations funded by our Alliance grant and the proposed increase in the grant allocation include the addition of a Social Worker at Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School; 2 Behavior Interventionists at the high schools; 5 Campus Climate & Safety Supervisors; one (1) Dean of Special Services. Utilizing ESSER ARP funding, staffing levels at Edgewood will be maintained, staff allocated to the grant include, a school Psych, Social Worker, Instructional Coach, and Instruction Support Teacher, 0.75 SPL services, two (2) Special Education Teachers, one (1) Head Secretary and four (4) Paras. Additionally, HVAC projects at CHMS and Hubbell, site work at various schools and maintenance equipment, AC for data rooms, and increased security. In total, budget offsets and grant projections total, \$12,330,919 Dollars. Costs to the general fund would be significantly higher if we did not strategically and thoughtfully plan for: 1) the closing of Edgewood as an elementary school; 2) shifted a number of staff within the middle grades, to best utilize staff across all middle-grade programs, 3) and maximize grant sources to best meet the needs of our scholars and district. Our budget demonstrates alignment to our district priorities, responsiveness to the requests of our administrators, and shows a commitment to improving academic programming, climate initiatives - additionally, it demonstrates the purposefulness of the use of federal relief funds to meet our district's current and future needs. The total recommended general fund budget for FY 2023 reflects a 2.14% increase from the current budget of \$121,650,000. The next step in the process is for the BoE Finance Committee to review the FY 2023 Superintendents Recommended Budget, approve and move it to the full board. The Board of Education has been asked to present the FY23 budget to the Bristol Board of Finance in March.

**BAIMS Update** – There is progress both with the building project and with the programming at BAIMS continues during this past month we have completed the second lottery round - to date 203 middle-level students in grades 6-8 for the 2022-23 school year have accepted their seat and have chosen their arts pathways.

**BAIMS Staff Welcome - January 26, 2022** - On Jan 26, Dr. Dietter, Dr. Sarli, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. Fortin and I met with the staff that will be teaching at BAIMS next year to begin their onboarding - in the coming months they will begin to meet as staff, tour the facilities, and create the processes for open houses, school tours, and students' activities for the coming school year.

**HS Parent Information Session - January 27, 2022** – A well-attended, high school parent information session was held to review the programming at BAIMS and the course selection process for a student considering pathways at BAIMS or their traditional high school.

**Elevate and Innovate Continuation Plan - Revised January 2022** – The revised Elevate Innovate Continuation plan is on the district website. Revised in January, the continuation plan included resources for families and students, the CIAC winter sports update as well as updating guidance regarding quarantine, isolation, testing, contact tracing information for our families.

**Kindergarten Registration - Born Jan 1, 2017** — Kindergarten registration began yesterday for any child born January 1, 2017, or after, to welcome our new kindergartners for next year.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dube called for approval of the Consent Agenda which included Items VIII.A.1. through VIII.B.6.

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

## **VIII.A. PERSONNEL**

### **New Administrator Hires**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following New Administrator Hires as written.

Bagley, Kenneth - BOE - Supervisor of Fine Arts - TBD  
Tierinni, Steven - CHMS - Dean of Students - February 7, 2022

### **Teacher Resignations**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously accepted the following Teacher Resignations as written.

Chesnes, Tricia - EPH - Grade 2 Teacher - January 18, 2022  
Voisine, Stephanie - CHMS - Grade 8 Math Teacher - January 31, 2022

### **New Teacher Hires**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following New Teacher Hires as written.

Chesnes, Tricia - EPH - Grade 2 Teacher - January 18, 2022  
Voisine, Stephanie - CHMS - Grade 8 Math Teacher - January 31, 2022  
Capozzi, Tracy - EDGE/NEMS - Speech and Language Pathologist - TBD  
Fabrizio, Michael - WB - School Psychologist - February 14, 2022  
Goncalves, Vanessa - BEHS - On-Track Coordinator - TBD  
Lewis, Sarah - EPH/STAF - Library Media Specialist - January 13, 2022  
Moore, Sarah - STAF - Interim Social Worker - February 23, 2022  
Rossi, Mitchell - CHMS - Special Education Teacher - January 19, 2022  
Russman, Amanda - WB - Grade 1 Teacher - January 13, 2022  
Zhuta, Ardita - CHMS - Interim Grade 6/7 Math Teacher – TBD

### **A-1 Teacher Hires**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following A-1 Teacher Hires as written.

Petrillo, Amy - CHMS - Green Team Leader - January 26, 2022

### **A-3 Teacher Hire**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following A-3 Teacher Hires as written.

Pratt, Stacey - WB - K-8 Math Coordinator - January 3, 2022

## **GRANTS**

Following a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following Grants as written

## **GRANTS – cont'd**

VIII.B.1. FRC Grant: CBDG, FAST Grant

VIII.B.2. FRC Grant: United Way for Sparkler program expansion, training, and Support

VIII.B.3. FRC Grant: Pet Partners P.A.C.K Grant

VIII.B.4 FRC: United Way, SEARCH Grant for developmental screens of children entering PreK and K

VIII.B.5. FRC "WORKS" Grant

VIII.B.6. Stocker Foundation - Raising Readers Grant

**New Administrator Hires** – Dr. Carbone introduced the New Administrative Hires that were just approved by the Board. Mr. Bagley and Mr. Tierinni were both present and addressed the Board regarding their appointments.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Dube read in the record five (5) public comments that were received prior to this evening's meeting.

Andrea Emmert – 458 Marcia Drive - addressed the Board regarding masks mandates and choice.

Theresa Cirillo-Vernagli – 79 Beechwood Lane – addressed the Board regarding masks mandates Theresa Motel – 222 Tyler Way – addressed the Board regarding unmasking our children.

Jason DeConti – 111 Old Turnpike Road – addressed the Board regarding unmasking our children.

Buenna Neaupaver – 93 Haviland Street – addressed the Board regarding unmasking our children.

The following community members were present and addressed the Board.

Patrick Mills – 294 Lake Avenue – addressed the Board regarding no masks in school.

Michael Witham – 294 Lake Avenue – addressed the Board regarding no masks in school.

Caleb Mills - 294 Lake Avenue – addressed the Board regarding no masks in school.

Emily Bailey – 21 Tiffany Lane – addressed the Board regarding parent choice.

Paul Cambell – 183 Sims Road – addressed the Board regarding masks.

Lauren Vernagli – 79 Beechwood Lane – addressed the Board regarding Parent Choice

Susan Zabohonski – 28 Boardman Street – addressed the Board regarding mandates.

Mayra Sampson – 371 Emmett Street Unit52 – addressed the Board regarding masks.

Annabelle Miner – 26 Terry Road – addressed the Board regarding abuse in school from masks.

Carrie DeNino – 20 Woodside Way – addressed the Board regarding masks.

Cindy LaMarre – 301 Old Orchard Road – addressed the Board regarding no masks in school.

Nickie LaPort – 180 Lake Avenue – addressed the Board regarding masks and CRT.

Tom Baril – 498 East Road – addressed the Board regarding CRT.

Jen Vangorder – 272 Candlewood – addressed the Board regarding mandates and resolution.

Kristen Bevins – 41 Leon – addressed the Board regarding no masks.

Briana Tirado – 41 Leon – addressed the Board regarding

Kristen Bergergon – 295 Redstone Hill Road – addressed the Board regarding mandates and resolution.

Jazmyn and Mary Hicking – 25 Kelley Street – addressed the Board regarding bus issues.

Emily Michaud – 19 Driftwood Road – addressed the Board regarding unmasking our children.

Alison Adams – 35 George Street – addressed the Board regarding unmasking our children.

## **DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **Appoint BoE Commissioner to the ESSER/ARP Building Committee**

Jill Browne, Business Director explained the Appoint BoE Commissioner to the ESSER/ARP Building Committee item. At last month's City Council meeting this building committee was formed. The first order of business is to appoint three (3) members to the committee; one (1) from the Board of Education, one (1) from the Board of Finance, and one (1) from the City Council. Once the three core members are established per the City Charter six more members will be appointed through our three members and the remaining members will be two (2) citizen taxpayers that must be from the school area to be served one (1) citizen taxpayer from the district community as a whole, one (1) representative from the professional education staff here at the Bristol School district and then two (2) members from the professional and or commercial or industrial Community of the city. Tonight, you are going to appoint a member from the

**Appoint BoE Commissioner to the ESSER/ARP Building Committee – cont'd**

Board of Education. Chair Dube wished to appoint Commissioner Dante Tagariello to the ESSER/ARP Building Committee.

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Todd Sturgeon

The Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Commissioner Dante Tagariello to the ESSER/ARP Building Committee.

**January 1 Enrollment Count for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Dr. Samuel Galloway, Director of Talent Management present the January 1 Enrollment Count for the 2021-2022 School Year. Enrollment numbers are reported out three (3) times a year; at the beginning of the year, in October, and in January. The numbers presented tonight are a comparison of this January to last January. Dr. Galloway summarized his report, by giving the overall numbers rather than school by school. From last January to this January the K-5 numbers increased by four (4). The average class size in K-5 is 20.5. In our schools with 6 7 and 8 (Greene Hills, Northeast, Chippens Hill, West Bristol) there is a decrease of 44 students from last year at this time. In the high schools (Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern) there is an increase of 27 students. Overall, district-wide there has been an increase of 17 students from last January to this January, and 19 students have returned to the district from magnet schools.

Questions followed regarding what the class size would be for K-5 with the reimaging plan and a request was made to provide the number of homeless students in the district as well as the number of students that have chosen homeschool, but the LEA is still responsible for advising.

**CURRICULUM REVISIONS**

**Dramatic Theater (First Reading)**

Dr. Samantha Sarli presented the Dramatic Theater Curriculum. Dr. Sarli recognized teachers Theresa MacDonald, Lisa Carroll, and Lindsey DiPietro for creating the entire theater curriculum. Dramatic theater is a half-credit course with no pre-requisite and will be offered in the fall semester only. Students will study contemporary and classic plays while learning performance skills and basic theater elements. The class will culminate in a performance of either a play or scenes from various plays. There is a total of 7 units that are designed to scaffold off of each other to prepare them for the performance. This is the first reading of the curriculum and questions in the subsequent month can be directed to Dr. Sarli.

**New Curriculum: Instrumental Ensemble (Second Reading)**

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by John Sklenka

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Instrumental Ensemble Curriculum.

**New Curriculum: Intermediate Acting (Second Reading)**

On a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Intermediate Acting Curriculum.

**New Curriculum: Musical Theater (Second Reading)**

On a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by Eric Carlson

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Musical Theater Curriculum.

**New Curriculum: Physical Theater and Movement (Second Reading)**

On a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by John Sklenka



The Board of Education unanimously approved the Physical Theater and Movement Curriculum.

## **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION**

### **Textbook Selection: AP/ECE Chemistry (First Reading)**

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg presented the AP/ECE Chemistry Textbook Selection for a first reading. Early in the fall, the AP and ECE chemistry teachers reviewed three textbooks. The goal was to identify a text that contained the contents that best matched the recently adopted AP and ECE Chemistry curricula. During the textbook review process, the team analyzed the various textbooks in a variety of ways, some of which included:

- Alignment of content to ECE/AP curriculum
- Alignment to BPS curricular objectives
- Accurate presentation of content
- Promotes higher-order thinking
- Includes authentic activities aimed at building students' understanding.
- Addresses skills and practices identified in AP/ECE curriculum
- Utilizes a variety of modalities to meet the needs of diverse learners
- Facilitates differentiated instruction for students with varying abilities, interests, and learning styles.

Upon review, Chemistry-The Central Science and Chemistry-A Molecular Approach scored the same in the review. Chemistry-The Central Science (11th edition) is our current textbook. Teachers were comfortable with both the text and the online component, making it the final choice. This updated version (+4 editions), was better aligned to the AP curricular layout, but also contained all of the necessary content for the ECE course. As this is the first reading, Dr. Rechenberg will have copies of the textbook available to any commissioner that wishes to preview. Please reach out as needed.

## **POLICY REVISION**

### **Policy 6163.33 - Live Animals in Classroom**

Dr. Dietter presented Policy 6163.33 - Live Animals in Classroom. This policy has been reviewed by the policy subcommittee and we are asking for your approval. We have expanded the frequency of inviting these highly trained therapy animals into our buildings. Based on the increase, we determined that we needed to move to a place to codify uniform procedures and policies across the board; this would include credentialing, insurance, proper training, etc. For a point of clarification, these are therapy animals which are different than service animals; service animals would be covered under the ADA. The Policy Committee has reviewed the documents that are shared in the agenda and recommended it be moved to the full board for approval.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Todd Sturgeon;

The Board of Education unanimously approved Policy 6163.33 - Live Animals in Classroom.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

## **BUILDING REPORTS**

### **MBIAMS Update**

Dr. Dietter provided the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Update. Photos of the building's progress were shown during Dr. Dietter's presentation. As reported previously the lottery is underway the final round will be completed this coming weekend, there has been tremendous interest in



### **MBIAMS Update – cont'd**

the program. OTL continues to impress with the quality and rigor of course offerings for pathways at BAIMS as well as in our existing schools and programs. The project continues with substantial completion of the third floor and finishes emerging on all levels. As we discussed at a previous meeting FF&E schedule has been submitted to OPM for their approval. Mrs. Landon and Mr. Callahan are working through this multi-day task. The project continues on time and within budget. Two weeks ago, we did take delivery of our theater light. It was returned to the building and was installed without incident. Dr. Dietter shared photos of the restoration process and installation. The restoration took place at a local shop, Melnick's which is adjacent to the Board of Education building. The light is an important artifact for the city, many features were made here locally at the Sessions factory over 100 years ago. Dr. Dietter once again thanked the generous donations are both D'Amato Construction and QA&M Architecture, their combined donation of \$50,000 is being applied to restoration efforts within the theater space and we are very grateful and fortunate for that donation.

### **South Side School HVAC Project**

Tim Callahan provided an update on the South Side HVAC Project. South Side is moving along. We still have an issue with one of the Dakin units that is on the roof, it has been leaking. It leaked on January 20th with the driving rain and winds that day. We are working through some more water tests. We are hoping to get that solved. Dakin is stepping to the plate and continuing to help us with that and we plan on doing one more water test this Friday to check to make sure that we have that last problem solved. We are working through punch list issues and everything is on schedule.

### **Discussion and Possible Action Concerning A Proposed Resolution Re: The Governor's Executive Powers**

Chair Dube shared that a copy of the resolution had been forwarded to commissioners. The resolution would be sent to Governor Ned Lamont, Matt Ritter, Speaker of the House, CT State Legislature, Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, CT State Legislature, Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, CT State Board of Education Commissioner and Manisha Juthani, MD, Commissioner of the State of CT Department of Public Health. Commissioners were asked to speak on the issue once and only after all commissioners have had an opportunity to speak could they speak again. Commissioner Giantonio called for a motion to adopt the following resolution regarding returning full decision-making back to the local Boards of Education in lieu of operating under an emergency executive authority or legislative mandate. The resolution reads as follows:

*Whereas the State of Connecticut has been operating under a State of Public Health Emergency declared by Governor Lamont for nearly two full years; and*

*Whereas the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has ebbed and flowed while our understanding of the virus and the ability of our healthcare system and local government to manage it have steadily increased; and*

*Whereas there is no current emergency which prevents or prohibits state or local government from meeting to make policy for their constituencies; and*

*Whereas our system of laws and justice in Connecticut and throughout the United States of America relies on a recognition that individual citizens are the highest authority when it comes to their personal choices, including but not limited to decisions affecting their health, travel, employment, association, and customary lawful behavior; and*

*Whereas local town governments, including our own Board of Education and City Council, is the proper body to determine policy affecting the citizens of our town; and*

**Discussion and possible action concerning a proposed resolution re: the Governor's Executive Powers – cont'd**

*Whereas our local government has been restricted in making policy for our town and our school system by the actions of Governor Lamont and state government agencies under his control, including but not limited to the State Department of Public Health, and the State Department of Education; and*

*Whereas state government and the Governor of the State of Connecticut are poised in the next several weeks to adopt legislation extending the authority of the governor unilaterally to override the proper power of local government and to diminish the right of the free citizens to exercise their own liberty and judgment; and*

*Whereas the Constitution calls on three (3) co-equal branches of government and the legislative branch debates and passes laws and the executive branch enforces those laws and administers state government; and*

*Whereas the people of our town have spoken and expect us to act on their behalf, to defend their constitutional freedoms and to set policies for our town,*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Bristol Board of Education in regular session assembled calls upon the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly to rescind any executive or legislative authority created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that overrides the proper local control of the Board of Education of the city of Bristol and to halt any further similar actions by the Executive or Legislative Branch.*

*Be it further resolved that the Board of Education shall be restored as the policy making body for their local school district, as it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it shall make policy in keeping with the state and federal Constitutions and the consent of the people who elected them to office.*

Following the motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello; the motion was open for discussion and questions.

Commissioner Pons posed questions to the adoption of the resolution.

Commissioner Pons called for a motion to postpone the adoption of the resolution to the next Board of Education meeting.

Following the motion by Shelby Pons and a second by Christopher Wilson; the motion was open for discussion and questions.

Commissioner Wilson spoke to the motion of postponement.

Chair Dube shared that in the event the vote is along party lines, the Republican caucus or the Democratic caucus can send a similar communication/resolution and they can sign it. Commissioners that are dissenting do not have to be a part of it. You would never be put in the position where anything is put out that does not have your approval.

Commissioners Tagariello, Vibert, and Sturgeon spoke to the motion of postponement.

Chair Dube called for a roll call vote.

The motion **FAILED**, following a roll call vote of three (3) commissioners (Pons, Vibert, and Wilson) **IN FAVOR** of the motion; and six (6) commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, Sklenka, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) **OPPOSED**.

Discussion continued on the original motion to adopt the resolution.

Commissioners Carlson, Tagariello, Vibert, Wilson, Giantonio, and Pons spoke to the motion of adopting the resolution.

Commissioner Vibert and Pons asked that it be noted on the resolution that they cast a dissenting vote.

Chair Dube called for a roll call vote.

The motion **PASSED**, following a roll call vote of six (6) commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, Sklenka, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) **IN FAVOR** of the motion and three (3) commissioners (Pons, Vibert, and Wilson) **OPPOSED**.

### **Special Services Leadership Report**

Dr. Culkin presented the monthly Special Services Leadership Report. As of the January 3rd, student count, 1,678 of the 8,099 Bristol students were eligible and identified as students requiring Special Education programming. As of January 3rd, we have a 20.72% identification rate in Bristol Public Schools. During the month of December, 45 of our newly registered students identified as students with special needs at the time of registration also during the month of December, two (2) students newly enrolled in Bristol Public Schools arrived already receiving their programs and services through out-of-district special education programs. As of January 1st, 118 of our 1,678 students are requiring out-of-district placements at special education private school programs and 69 students required their special education programming while they attend other public out-of-district schools such as magnet schools. That number reflects seven (7) additional private out-of-district placements and two (2) fewer public school placements as compared to last month. Dr. Culkin also presented an update regarding planning for the ESY program.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the interest in working for the ESY program and when notifications regarding the program are sent to parents and ensuring enrichment opportunities for all students.

### **INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Carlson reported that QA&M will be the architect for the Northeast Middle School building project.

Commissioner Giantonio shared a report from Dr. LeVasseur at West Bristol School.

**VOTE TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION** *for the purpose of discussing:*  
Superintendent's Annual Evaluation and 21 - 22 Goals (9:40 p.m.)

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Todd Sturgeon, Dante Tagariello, Karen Vibert, and Christopher Wilson (virtual); **ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent of Schools

**Called to Order:** 9:50 p.m.

**Superintendent's Annual Evaluation and 21 - 22 Goals**

Dr. Carbone presented the 21-22 goals and shared the annual evaluation process.

**Reconvene Into Public Session** *to take any votes on items discussed in Executive Session.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the board, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned. (10:30 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Everett".

Susan Everett, Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education

DRAFT