

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
June 3, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via the Cisco WebEx Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka (left at 8:40 p.m.), Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski and Christopher Wilson; Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Sam Galloway, Director of Talent Management, Jill Browne, Business Director, Carly Fortin, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Peter Kelley, Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked the attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. An American Flag was displayed on-screen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for Regina Klonoski a Math Teacher at Memorial Boulevard M.S. from 9/3/68 to 6/30/85, Gisele Blanchette (the longest serving Crossing Guard in the district a Crossing Guard) for 41 Years from 1978 to 2019, and Pat Clavette a Crossing Guard from 2012 to 2018.

STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION -The following staff and students were recognized by the board:

2021 Bristol Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year

Carly Fortin presented the 2021 Bristol Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year as Bristol Central High School paraeducator Rheannon Harvey. This is the first time Bristol has selected a paraeducator who will represent our district in the Connecticut competition for the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award. This award recognizes the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement. The award is named in honor of Anne Marie Murphy, a paraeducator who lost her life at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. Mrs. Harvey embodies our Bristol Public School mission of teaching with passion and purpose. Paraeducators are uniquely positioned to support all of our students in finding their passion and purpose and Mrs. Harvey has made this her personal mission. Mrs. Harvey began in Bristol as a student in Southside School, Memorial Boulevard School, and Bristol Central High School. She has worked for the past fourteen years as a Bristol paraeducator at Southside School, Ivy Drive School, Chippens Hill Middle School, and is currently at Bristol Central High School. Mrs. Harvey has modeled lifelong learning for her students. For the past two years, Mrs. Harvey has been taking advantage of the *Free College Program* provided to all paraeducators through the American Foundation of State, County, and Municipal Employees to pursue a college degree in her greatest passion: teaching.

2021 Bristol Public Schools Teacher of the Year

Carly Fortin presented the 2021 Bristol Public Schools Teacher of the Year as Bristol Central Italian teacher Mrs. Gina Gallo Reinhard. Mrs. Gallo Reinhard emerged as the top candidate from among the dozens nominated for recognition as the 2021 Bristol Teacher of the Year and she will represent Bristol's 635 teachers in the statewide Competition. Mrs. Gallo Reinhard truly embodies Bristol All-Heart. She began as a student at Southside School, Memorial Boulevard School, and Bristol Central High School, where she has taught Italian for the past fourteen years. Mrs. Gallo Reinhard shared that one of her responsibilities as a Bristol educator is to give back to the community by paying forward the "love, life skills and encouragement" she received as a student to those students who now sit before her. Mrs. Gallo Reinhard is truly a lifelong learner. She has recently attained her teaching certification in Latin and is about to embark on a journey toward achieving her doctorate in Italian. She is active in professional organizations; most

2021 Bristol Public Schools Teacher of the Year – con’t

recently, spearheading a mentoring program for CT Language teachers. She was also named the CT COLT Language Teacher of the Year for 2021.

CABE Student Leadership Awards

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. The following students are recipients of the CABE Student Leadership Award:

Lorrin Jackson –Bristol Central H.S. – Gr. 12
Tyler Manzone –Bristol Central H.S – Gr. 12
Anabelle Redline –Northeast M.S. – Gr. 8
Patryk Kustra – Northeast M.S. – Gr. 8
Alex Kuzniar – West Bristol K-8 – Gr. 8
Brittany Cantres–Cruz – West Bristol K-8 – Gr. 8
Jacob Stringer – Chippens Hill M.S. – Gr. 8
Arianna Rivera – Chippens Hill M.S. – Gr. 8

CAS Awards

Katherine Funk and Mark Petrosky – Bristol Central – CAS Scholar Athlete
Lorrin Jackson and Mackenzie Pina – Bristol Central – CAS Arts Awards
Rebecca Bender and Drew Dauphinee – Bristol Eastern – CAS Scholar Athlete
Luke Ashworth and Kelvin Catalano – Bristol Eastern – CAS Arts Awards
Austin Childers and Vanessa Drury – Chippens Hill
Liam Gagnon and Ava Gesner – Northeast
Nathan Johnson and Aleida Lyon – Greene-Hills
Emil Berube and Isabel Paolino – West Bristol

Student Representative/ Bristol All Heart Leadership Award Recognition

Drew Dauphinee – Bristol Eastern High School – Grade 12
Katherine Funk – Bristol Central High School – Grade 12

All-State in Basketball Recognition

Donovan Clingan – Bristol Central – Grade 10

All-State in Track and Field

Angel Jose Ramirez – Bristol Central – Grade 12

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 6, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Karen Vibert a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **May 6, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES and one (1) Commissioner Carlson, Abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations – Commissioner Wilson reported on the Operation Committee. The committee met and received updates on several topics. Dr. Carbone gave an update on Greene-Hills Litigation. There is one more deposition that they are waiting for. Once all depositions are received, they will move to a jury trial (delayed due to COVID), the committee will continue to be updated once a jury can be selected. A Turf Fields update was given. The turf has pulled away from the drain causing field failure, we currently working toward litigation and working with Corporation Counsel to enter into mediation if all parties agree. Tim Callahan gave an update on NEMS Building Projects. The ceiling tiles project contractor is Conn Acoustics. There is a Construction meeting scheduled for May 29, 2020, to review the progress. The project is approximately 30% complete with almost all demo complete and grid work installed. The project is currently \$17,000 under budget and should be complete by the end of July. The Gym Floor contractor is Kenvo Floors. This project is moving ahead. A meeting was held with Kenvo Floors on May 26, 2020, to discuss hazmat abatement and schedule. A Feasibility Plan Update was also given to commissioners. Questions from the last meeting were addressed and the four options were reviewed and discussed. Option 1 - PreK Specialization, K-4, 5-8, 9-12, Option 2 - PreK Specialization, K-5, 6-8, 9-12, Option 3 - PreK Specialization, Mixed K-8, 9-12 and Option 4 – Mixed PreK-8, 9-12.

Personnel – Commissioner O'Brien reported that bargaining units were approached about a furlough day next year. The contracts still need to be ratified, before they will come to the board for a vote.

Finance – Commissioner Vibert reported that this month's report is taken from the April 30th snapshot in the 2019-20 fiscal year. Three areas of the budget exceeded budgeted amounts: General Control, Transportation, and Special Education; however, we have begun to see some movement as we approach year-end, particularly in Transportation and Special Education. The supply line in General Control accounts for much of the overage which has been for the purchase of paper throughout the District, but we have begun to close other outstanding purchase orders, and the overage in this budget character has been improved by approximately \$20K over last month's report. The Transportation budget now shows a surplus of approximately \$409K, reflecting negotiated End of Year amounts due to the closure of traditional school. Likewise, in the Special Education overall budget due to the same reason, negotiation of our outplacement transportation providers. In total, our transport settlements have been in the range of 65-75% of the remaining contracted amount (for the time period of 3/13 – June 30th) and resulted in a savings of approximately \$1.05M. Special Education is currently over-budget by approximately \$399K – a considerable improvement over last month's \$679K deficit. While staff and professional services account for a small portion of the deficit, it is the cost of private outplaced tuitions that cause this area of the budget to be over-budget. Year-to-date, the district has collected approximately \$2.03M in rental, tuition, Medicaid, and Excess Cost Grant revenue. The CSDE issued an updated estimate of excess cost revenue; at this time, we estimate an additional \$1.506M traditionally received by the end of May. We have begun the process of forecasting our year-end balance, though due to the unprecedented climate and volatility caused by the Covid-19 virus, year-end projections are proving to be challenging. Presently, we do foresee a surplus amount, though we are unable to accurately forecast this early. We have been in close communication with the City Comptroller and have agreed that a surplus amount of up to 1% of our budget will be set aside for additional special education tuition in FY21. This is excellent news and we are most appreciative of this planning.

Cafeteria - The April 30th snapshot of the cafeteria budget depicts a deficit amount of \$126,027. We look to the absence of cash sales within schools as the primary reason for this shortfall. Several factors will impact this amount as we approach year-end. For example, this amount reflects purchases that include frozen sandwich options that will last through the end of June; additional supplies for food distribution; and an additional labor differential for those working in the cafeteria distribution centers. We are eligible for FEMA reimbursement for these additional expenditures and expect reimbursement of 70-75% of our expenses. Once received, we can apply this directly and our snapshot will adjust accordingly.

Finance – con't

As of May 12th, we have served a total of 58,712 breakfasts and lunches for a total of 117,424 meals to the greater Bristol community.

We did experience an error in the payment for some cafeteria employees during the COVID-19 food distribution – some employees received a duplicated amount of hours, and as a result, were overpaid. This was discovered as we were completing forms to request FEMA reimbursement. The error has been communicated to the union president and the employees impacted. The overpayment will be recouped in equal installments over the six remaining pay periods in FY20.

Appropriations & Transfers – Due to a computer equipment lease turnover was delayed at three schools due to school closure, an additional lease amount of \$900 was transferred among three school locations (STAF, NEMS, and WBK8).

Communications – Commissioner Pons reported that the committee met earlier this evening and Dr. Carbone presented the results of the recent parent surveys. The committee also received an update on the Communications Director position; we are currently still looking to fill the position.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Jennifer Dube gave an update on the MBIAMS Forum. Pictures from the webinar presentation were shown. The entire presentation is on the Board of Education website.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Commissioners were provided information on the following topics: District Priorities, Summer School, Closing Activities, Transitions, 2020 – 2021 Re-Opening, and shared results from the SEL Parent/Guardian Survey.

CONSENT AGENDA

Personnel

Teacher Resignations

Coan, Amy – BEHS – Chemistry Teacher – effective June 30, 2020

Collin, Karen – NEMS – 0.5 Math Intervention Teacher – effective April 30, 2020

Smith, Kirstin – GH – Grade 4 Teacher – effective June 30, 2020

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Resignations PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

New Teacher Hires

Bortugno, Matthew – Split BCHS/BEHS – School Psychologist – effective August 25, 2020

Cawley, Meghan – Gr. 7 Language Arts Teacher – effective August 25, 2020

Elliott, Lauri – BEHS – Chemistry Teacher – effective August 25, 2020

Kelley, Jillian – CHMS – Special Education Teacher – effective August 25, 2020

Sisson, Suzanne – CHMS – Math Teacher – effective August 25, 2020

Wayton, Matthew – NEMS – Special Education Teacher – effective August 25, 2020

Weiland, Peter – WB – Special Education Teacher – effective May 18, 2020

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

New Teacher Hires – con’t

Approval of the **New Teacher Hires PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

GRANTS

Approval of Title IV, Part A - Funds for Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant
Bristol has received a federal grant for \$136,532 through Title IV, Part A. With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Every Student Succeeds Act provides funding under the newly authorized subpart of Title IV with the intention to 1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; 2) improve school conditions for student learning, and 3) improve the use of technology to improve academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. Priority in funding must be given to those schools that are identified as having students with the greatest needs, the highest number of students from low-income families.

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Approval of Title IV, Part A - Funds for Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public submitted comments to the Board.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

TEAM Mentors/Cooperating Teachers Applicants

Carly Fortin, Director of Teacher and Learning presented the TEAM Mentors/Cooperating Teachers Applicants. Teachers trained to serve as TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) mentors and cooperating teachers provide assistance and support to student teachers and first-year beginning teachers in the district in areas such as lesson design and classroom management and provide feedback and support in the areas of instructional planning and student assessment. Cooperating teachers are those teachers who are trained to work with student teachers. We need to increase the number of cooperating teachers in the district to meet the need of student teachers. Mentors must be assigned to first-year teachers to provide mentoring and support to newly certified teachers; this program is required by the State Department of Education. Principals recruit teachers to apply to be a TEAM mentor/cooperating teachers; the applications are reviewed by the TEAM Coordinating Committee. The following teachers were approved by the TEAM Coordinating Committee and are recommended to be TEAM Mentors/cooperating teachers. Approved teachers must attend a three-day training program and update their training every three years.

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Lindsay Revoir	Grade 8 English Language Arts Teacher, CHMS
Miranda Caisse	Grade 3 Teacher, EDGE
Kristine Monaco	Art Teacher, BCHS
Alyson Silva	Social Studies Teacher, CHMS

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **TEAM Mentors/Cooperating Teachers Applicants PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

Summer School Options

Carly Fortin, Director of Teacher and Learning presented the Summer School Option. Bristol Public Schools is developing several opportunities for learning this summer to boost students' grade-level learning before entering school next fall. All students will have access to self-directed virtual learning boosters. Students who have demonstrated that additional learning support will be needed will be invited to participate in teacher-directed virtual learning boosters. These boosters will include both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. High school students who are not able to complete credit will have the opportunity to earn credit through credit-recovery options that include asynchronous and synchronous learning. Learning opportunities will begin on July 6 and will run through the middle of August.

Extended School Year for students with Disabilities

Carly Fortin, Director of Teacher and Learning presented the Extended School Year for students with Disabilities. Decisions regarding a child's eligibility for Extended School Year for students with Disabilities services are to be made by Planning and Placement Teams (PPT's) on an individual basis based on the needs of the child. Students will be provided with remote learning aligned to their Individualized Educational Programs to the greatest extent possible. Special education teachers will plan both "live" virtual and remote instruction. Related service providers will plan for both "live" virtual and remote services.

CURRICULUM REVISION

Curriculum Proposal – Botany

Jaime Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented the Curriculum Proposal for Botany. The Connecticut adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, along with the requirement of administration of the Connecticut Next Generation Science Assessment, necessitated a revision to our high school science core and elective curriculum. Botany is an elective course that provides students access to additional NGSS standards while engaging in rich learning around the plants. This course encapsulates three-dimensional learning that will allow students to actively engage with scientific practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of Core Ideas in order to explain phenomena and solve problems. Units of instruction include such relevant and interesting topics such as an introduction to Botany, pollination, and growth, plant structures and function, and the connections between plants and humans. Each unit has a storyline structure that is anchored with a phenomenon or design problem. Each learning sequence attends to science content, provides access to student use of the science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts, and that applies directly to the phenomenon or design task.

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Botany Curriculum Proposal PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

Environmental Issues and Sustainability Curriculum

Jaime Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented the Environmental Issues and Sustainability Curriculum. The Connecticut adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, along with the requirement of administration of the Connecticut Next Generation Science Assessment, necessitated a revision to our high school science core and elective curriculum. Environmental Issues and Sustainability is an elective course that provides students access to additional NGSS standards while engaging in rich learning around the environment. This course encapsulates three-dimensional learning that will allow students to actively engage with scientific practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of Core Ideas to explain phenomena and solve problems. Units of instruction include such relevant and interesting topics such as humans and sustainability, biodiversity, land and water use, energy resources, and terrestrial and aquatic pollution. Each unit has a storyline structure that is anchored with a phenomenon or design problem. Each learning sequence attends to science content, provides access to student use of the science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts, and that applies directly to the phenomenon or design task.

Environmental Issues and Sustainability Curriculum – con’t

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Environmental Issues and Sustainability Curriculum PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

General Music Curriculum Revision (Grades 1-5)

Samantha Sarli, Fine Arts Supervisory, presented the General Music Curriculum Revision (Grades 1-5). In 2014 there was a national revision of music standards that had been in existence since 1994. The major emphasis and difference in the 2014 Music Standards are the focus on Music Literacy. The standards emphasize conceptual understanding in areas that reflect the actual processes in which musicians engage. The standards cultivate a student’s ability to carry out the Four Artistic Processes of Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting. These are the processes that musicians have followed for generations, even as they connect through music to themselves and their societies. Our teachers have created the curriculum to reflect these national standards and used the work of John Feierabend to achieve the highest level of music literacy. John Feierabend is a music education researcher, pedagogue, and author. He is known for his First Steps in Music and Conversational Solfege music education curricula, as well as his contributions to the music intelligence education for young children. His methodologies combine the teachings of Edwin Gordon and Zoltán Kodály. He is currently the Director of Music Education at the Hartt School of the University of Hartford. Bristol students in grades K-5 experience music once a week for 45 minutes. There are 6 units of study that carry through to 5th grade and then layered in throughout the years. By 5th grade, there are a total of 11 units that vary between year-long and trimester based units of study. There are no textbooks associated with the new curriculum revision.

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **General Music Curriculum Revision (Grades 1-5) PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

High School Mathematics Curriculum Revision - Algebra 1

In recent years our Middle and High School mathematics data has indicated both a lack of rigor and attainment of the math standards through the previously adopted curriculum. As a result of this data and significant research, the BPS has revised the middle school and Algebra I curriculum to be informed by the standards-based program Illustrative Mathematics. The Illustrative Mathematics approach supports the attainment of the Common Core Mathematics Standards and follows a “learn by doing” philosophy.

Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. This revised Bristol mathematics curriculum embeds this learn-by-doing philosophy by focusing on high expectations for all students and providing students with opportunities that build conceptual understanding, computational and procedural fluency, and problem-solving through the use of a variety of strategies, tools, and technologies. The mathematics curriculum is responsive to the individual needs of students while providing a structure tied to the Common Core State Standards in Connecticut.

The learn-by-doing philosophy develops mathematically literate and productive students who can effectively and efficiently apply mathematics in their lives to make informed decisions about the world around them by doing math. To be mathematically literate, students must understand major mathematics concepts, possess computational facilities, and can apply these understandings to situations in daily life.

High School Mathematics Curriculum Revision - Algebra 1 – con’t

Revised units of study allow students to read, discuss, and write within the discipline of mathematics, as these are integral skills that support mathematical understanding, reasoning, and communication. Revised units provide the opportunity to think critically and creatively to solve problems is important to deepen mathematical knowledge and foster innovation. Each unit offers rich hands-on mathematical experiences essential to building foundational knowledge and skills that prepare students to be mathematically literate, productive citizens.

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

Approval of the **High School Mathematics Curriculum Revision - Algebra I PASSED** following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting Yes.

BUILDING REPORTS

Commissioner received the following building reports from Dr. Dietter and Tim Callahan:

MBIAMS Update – Dr. Dietter

Stafford School – Roof Project – Tim Callahan

South Side – HVAC Project – Tim Callahan

Northeast Middle School Projects –Tim Callahan

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the board.

LIAISON/INFORMATION REPORTS

Commissioner Carlson reported on his recent walk-thru of the buildings with the custodial staff.

Commissioner Wilson reported on the work of the Regional Advisory Team that has been established to work on the back to school plans.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting should be adjourned. (9:11 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education