



**Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee**  
**November 20, 2024**  
**MINUTES - DRAFT**

*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [November 20, 2024 SAC Meeting Recording](#)*

PRESENT Committee members: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio (Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Bagley, Carly Fortin, Sara Hale (Zoom), Laura Lanza, Shelby Pons (Zoom), Azra Redzic, Jillian Romann, Kristy Trelly (Zoom), Melanie Vetrano, Leszek Ward, Iris White

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Decision: Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2024 meeting:**

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the minutes to the December 18th Student Achievement Meeting.**

**Information: 23-24 Multilingual Learner Achievement and Growth**

Mrs. Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, and Mrs. Azra Redzic, Elementary Humanities Supervisor, presented highlights on the academic achievements and growth of multilingual learners in Bristol Public Schools. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in ML student enrollment, including a 14% rise from last year to this year. In response, the district increased staffing, including TESOL instructors, which has had a positive impact on students' performance.

Questions and discussion followed.

**Information: 23-24 Freshman On-Track Data**

Mrs. Fortin and Mrs. Melanie Vetrano, Assistant Principal at Bristol Eastern High School, presented that Bristol Public Schools has made significant progress in improving the percentage of ninth-grade students on track to graduate, with the highest rates in the past three years. This improvement is attributed to targeted interventions, creative scheduling, and the addition of on-track counselors, especially after the pandemic's disruption. Notably, the district has focused on closing performance gaps for students receiving specialized instruction and has implemented support strategies like shortened classes that meet every day and specialized programs such as Algebra 1 Foundations.

*Questions and comments followed.*

### **Information: 23-24 Smarter Balanced Assessment Data**

Administrators in the Office of Teaching and Learning presented recent Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) data, showing that while student achievement has improved, growth rates have slowed compared to previous years. This suggests a need for more focused efforts on accelerating learning, especially for already proficient students. Notably, Ellen P. Hubbell School, with a high percentage of high-needs students, outperformed the state average, thanks to effective instructional practices like teacher collaboration and learning walks. The district plans to build on these successes and further refine strategies to ensure continued student progress.

*Questions and comments followed.*

### **Decision: History of American Pop Music ECE**

Mr. Kenneth Bagley, Supervisor of Fine Arts, presented the curriculum revision for American Music Studies which was previously written in 2004. This course will now be named "History of American Pop Music." This course was updated to include new National Core Arts Standards and will receive University of Connecticut college credits.

*Discussion followed.*

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the History of American Pop Music curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

### **Decision: Music Theory I and II ECE**

Mr. Bagley presented the curriculum revision for Music Theory I and II. These courses will now be able to receive University of Connecticut college credit. These courses were last written in 2004 and have been updated to include new National Core Arts Standards.

*Questions followed.*

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Music Theory I and II ECE curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

### **Decision: Grade 3-5 Science**

Mrs. Jillian Romann, Elementary STEM Supervisor, presented the curriculum revision for grades 3-5 science. The goals for this revision are to adjust lessons to better fit the 6 week cycles with Social Studies, increase ease of use for teachers, and update resources.

*Comments followed.*

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Grades 3-5 Science curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Marketing II (New)**

Mrs. Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented the new Marketing II course. This course will expand student opportunities in the Marketing Pathway beyond Marketing I. This will be a college-credit bearing course, articulated with the University of Bridgeport.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Marketing II curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: PLTW Cybersecurity (New)**

Mrs. Lanza presented the new Cybersecurity course. This course will expand student opportunities in computer programming and strengthen the Creative Construction Pathway. Units will include: Personal Security, System Security, Network Security, and Applied Cybersecurity.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Cybersecurity curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Three-Dimensional Modeling (New)**

Mrs. Lanza presented the new Three-Dimensional Modeling course. This course will expand student opportunities within the Engineering and Technical Sciences Concentration Area and the Creative Construction Pathway at BAIMS.

*Questions and discussion followed,*

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio,*

*Followed by a Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Three-Dimensional Modeling curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

***Katlyne Laprise***

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