

*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: [March 12, 2025 - Special Meeting Recording](#).*

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

A Special Bristol Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Auditorium, located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut, and via the Zoom meeting platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons (virtual), Dante Tagariello, Jennifer Van Gorder and Chair Shelby Pons

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lynn Boisvert, Mary Hawk, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Iris White, Acting Superintendent

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Pons called the Special Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Overview of the Superintendent's FY 2026 Recommended Budget**

Superintendent White provided a brief overview of the Superintendent's FY 2026 Recommended Budget. She then turned it over to Mrs. Boisvert to share the budget cuts rationale. Mrs. Boisvert walked the commissioners through a line-by-line explanation of the suggested budget cuts. The cuts included positional and non-positional cuts.

**Program and Staff Stipend Reductions**

- Professional Development reduced to \$15,000.
- Supervisor Salaries (Elementary Only) were reduced by \$9,152 (shifted to Alliance).
- Library Media Salaries (Before & After School at High Schools) were cut by \$6,000.
- Co-curricular stipends for various programs (e.g., Art, Theater, Wellness, TESOL) reduced or eliminated.
- Professional Education Services in Music, Theater, and Art cut to previous levels.
- Software/Licenses have been reduced by \$22,000, a decision made after careful evaluation of usage and the necessity to optimize the budget.
- Overtime in Technology cut by \$2,500.

**Athletics and Student Activities**

- Uniforms (HS: \$56,274, MS: \$1,800) cut.
- Athletic Memberships were reduced by about \$43,285.
- Student Recognition across various departments cut or reallocated.
- Middle and High School Athletics Recognition was cut by about \$15,276.
- Bowling Bus (BEHS) eliminated.

### **Arts and Music Reductions**

- Art Budget was cut by \$17,211 (adjusted to match 2023-24 levels).
- Music Equipment and Instructional Supplies were significantly reduced.
- Theater and Music Professional Development & Stipends cut.

### **Transportation and Field Trips**

- Summer School Transportation was cut by \$25,000 and moved to a grant.
- Field Trips across multiple schools are cut or reduced to a set amount per school.

### **Facilities and Maintenance**

- Security Repairs and Maintenance were reduced by \$15,000.
- Repairs and maintenance for multiple departments and schools were cut or shifted to other funding sources.
- Vandalism Fund reduced by \$14,000.

### **Instructional and Office Supplies**

- Textbook Purchases cut across the district.
- Office and Instructional Supplies in various schools were reduced or eliminated.
- Student Planners eliminated across buildings.

### **Administrative and Miscellaneous Reductions**

- Administrative Supplies were cut for multiple departments.
- Memberships for staff in various subjects were reduced or eliminated.
- Additional "new" stipends were removed.

Resulting in \$4,013,638 in reductions to the General Fund budget.

### **Positional Reductions**

- 12 KTAs, which are kindergarten teaching assistants - Alliance grant - \$347,792
- PE teachers, two at each high school - \$262,920
- One-half of the Business Office Secretary - Alliance, \$36,360
- One Climate and Culture Supervisor - \$164,689
- One Theme Coach - \$65,730
- One-half of an Art Teacher - \$32,865
- One-half of the Music Teacher - \$32,865
- Seven Science Lead Teachers - Elementary level - \$4,076
- Two Library Media Specialists, one at each high school - \$131,460
- One 6-8 Instructional Support Teacher - \$109,153
- Four High School Teachers - \$262,920
- One 6-8 Coach from a K-8 school - \$65,730
- Five middle school curriculum coordinators; Cutting five middle school curriculum coordinators to have one per course per grade level, - \$7,727
- One 6-8 Library Media Specialist from a K-8 school - \$65,730
- Move two administrators currently at 12 months to 11 months - \$30,000
- Supervisor of High School Facilities - \$92,168

Mrs. Boisvert explained that when you take into account the Social Security, Medicare, and benefits, it is \$2,157,544 in cuts, bringing the new budget total from \$146, 899,581 to \$140,839,680, which is a \$6 million reduction.

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action on the Superintendent's FY 2026 Recommended Budget

Chair Pons called for a motion so that the board could go into discussion.

On a motion made by Dante Tagariello and seconded by Eric Carlson

The Board of Education voted to accept the budget as is and open discussion.

Each commissioner was allowed to speak about the cuts, give their opinion, and offer suggestions.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Board needed to decide if they were going to vote on a number total or line by line total.

Maria O'Brian, Liaison to the Board of Finance clarified that at the March 19th budget presentation the board would be presenting a budget that is a specific number. As an individual member of the Board of Finance, she said the focus is going to be on that number and how they fulfill their role and authority to help advise and manage the City of Bristol's total financial picture. Once the final number is given to the board, it is the board's role and authority to decide on how it will be utilized. The board has some time to finalize the cuts as the city does not take a final vote until on or around April 22nd.

This evening the board would need to decide on a budget with 5 million dollars' worth of cuts and one with 6 million dollars' worth of cuts, so it's either \$141,777,64 or \$140,839,680.

Commissioner Tagariello withdrew his motion and the board can vote through the non-position reductions because they were over 4 million dollars. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Tagariello moved to accept a final budget number of \$140,839,680, with the proposal before them as a non-binding suggestion. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Giantonio asked that the board formally schedule a workshop, at the convenience of everyone. The board will schedule a workshop to continue the discussion on what budget cuts will be made.

Commissioner Giantonio requested that a Roll Call be called for the motion.

Following a Roll Call Vote, the motion **PASSED** with nine (9) commissioners (Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Simmons (virtual), Tagariello, Van Gorder, and Chair Pons) **IN FAVOR** of the motion.

### 4. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting should be adjourned. (8:33 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education