

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Regular Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: [11/5/25- Regular BoE Meeting](#) Passcode: ?F\$6f&?!

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Russel Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello, and Jennifer Van Gorder

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

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was in memory of Nancy Winters Denehy – BE, BC Latin Teacher, School Counselor, Head of Guidance.

Staff and Student Recognition

Superintendent White Recognition's are:

1. Commissioner Kristen Giantonio- Recipient of the 2nd Annual Dorian Award Recognizing the Impact of an Outstanding Parent Advocate.

Approval of Minutes

September 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Shelby Pons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

October 1, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the October 1, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Shelby Pons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

October 30, 2025 – Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the October 30, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Shelby Pons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

School, Family, and Community Partnerships – Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on October 22, 2025 and discussed aligning the bylaw language to the committee. The committee developed a goal and action plan to achieve accomplishments.

Student Achievement – Commissioner Fitzsimons – Bula reported that committee met on October 15, 2025 primarily focusing on 24-25 Smarter Balance Assessment achievement growth data and our last 25-26 date.

Policy Committee – Commissioner Fitzsimons – Bula reported that the committee met on October 22nd. Two policies were moved forward to the full board for consideration and approval and will further discuss in the agenda.

School Safety Committee – Commissioner Osenkowski reported that the committee met on October 8th. Mr. Cabelus provided safety updates and a policy for armed security guards was presented, discussed, and voted on which then went to policy committee. Our next meeting will be January 14th 2026.

Finance and Operations Committee – Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee is financed and operating; it's all good.

Student Representatives Report

Bristol Central

Bristol Central Senior Representative Amelia Browne presented the monthly Bristol Central Student Representative Report. Highlights of report included preparing for the upcoming holiday this month. The athletic leadership council is prepping a Thanksgiving food drive. Interact Club, a volunteer club are organizing a Powderpuff Football game where the girls play football and boys cheerlead. All proceeds are going to the Make – A – Wish foundation. They have raised over \$60,000 for the foundation with this specific event. Later in the month, the club will start gathering resources like baskets, turkey, gravy and more to give to a family in need. They working to give a family everything they need for a perfect Thanksgiving dinner. Dance and Cheer Team are both collaborating for the football season halftime shows. The next appearance together will be during the Battle of the Bell and as well prepping for the holiday pre-rally. Last Friday, DECA is the business club, they attended a fall leadership conference about 1k students attended that are from Connecticut.

Bristol Eastern

Bristol Eastern Senior Representative Paige Ansah presented the monthly Bristol Eastern Student Representative Report. Highlights of report included past, current and upcoming events at BE. Paige reported that their homecoming on October 18th was a success of a theme of Rhythms of Rio and Student Council did an amazing job setting up and managing the event. Student Council is also helping out with Pajama Day for this year. Pajama day will be on Friday, December 12th. Students and Teachers are encouraged to try and donate to help raise funds for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center this holiday season. BE’s Model United Nations have been working hard to fundraising for their 4-day trip to attend the Model United Nations Conference in New York. BE football team won their first game of the season away against RAM high school last Saturday, November 1st. With fall sports ending, winter sports restarting again soon. Wrestling and Boys Basketball have the meeting on October 28th, and trials will begin soon for basketball. Indoor Track has a meeting this coming Monday, November 10th and Winter Cheer Trials are on November 19th and 20th.

Chair Report

The Board made significant progress over the past year, highlighted by the successful implementation of the first open-ended, anonymous school climate survey for educators, which received over 500 responses. The board also addressed critical facility needs, including advocating for the renovation of the preschool building, and supported enhanced school safety district-wide through the successful implementation of ALICE training. These efforts reflect a commitment to ensuring safe and supportive learning environments for all.

Chair Pons commended Superintendent White for her strong leadership during the 2024-25 school year, noting her integrity and professionalism. The Superintendent has solidified a highly capable cabinet, including in Human Resources, Chief of Talent Management Joe Grabowski and promoted Director of Finance Jodi Bond. Under Superintendent White's leadership, teacher retention rates have improved, safety plans have been strengthened, and she continues to create opportunities for community engagement, as exemplified by her outreach to the Diversity Council.

The report included a farewell to two departing commissioners, Dante Tagariello and Eric Carlson, thanking them for their dedication. Mr. Tagariello's financial expertise and knowledge of Robert's Rules were praised, while Mr. Carlson was recognized for his expertise in operations, facilities, and exemplary bipartisan leadership over six years. Looking ahead, the board will welcome two new members, former teachers Barbara Tedesco and Kara Ledger, who will be sworn in next week. A special board meeting will be scheduled on the preceding Wednesday to ensure a smooth transition and discuss future priorities. The Chair encouraged all returning and newly elected commissioners to consider serving on a committee, as committee work is critical for the success of the schools and allows for public transparency, with all meetings being recorded and available online.

Superintendent Report

The Superintendent provided an update on 2025-2026 priorities, focusing on community partnerships. This includes a collaborative discussion with John Prescott from the United Way about a potential partnership for guest readers on Read Across America Day and securing book donations from corporate sponsors. The Superintendent also met with City Diversity Council representatives, Chair Marcus Patton and Dave Rackliffe, to discuss how the Council can partner to support youth, especially by reconnecting with the high schools to gather student feedback on diversity and potentially involve students in Council meetings. Furthermore, Erica Treannie and Cecilia Grey from the Office of Climate and Culture are organizing a citywide food drive on November 14th to support families in need, strategically scheduled to replenish local agency supplies. The Central Office is also conducting a November food drive for the Agape House, and a visit from the Connecticut Democracy Kid Governor Tour at Mountain View School engaged 4th and 5th-grade students on the importance of voting.

A successful district-wide ALICE training for staff was held, with recognition extended to Stephen Cabelus (Director of Safety and Security) and Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk. The training involved scenarios, building familiarization, and lesson plan review led by certified instructors. Pending plans for ALICE include scheduling a makeup training session, hosting an in-person parent information meeting on Thursday, November 13th, at the BOE Building, and implementing consistent K-12 student instruction through classroom lesson plans. It was clarified that students will not participate in hands-on scenarios, and the district is planning for the first hour's lockdown drills.

The Superintendent formally recognized the departing BOE Commissioners. Dante Tagariello was praised for being kind, helpful with financial/budgeting matters, quick-witted, and an invaluable mentor. Eric Carlson was thanked for his constant support, serving as a "father figure," being a man of principle, and consistently putting people and causes above politics, also noting his service on building committees. Finally, the Superintendent offered congratulations to re-elected Commissioners Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and Jennifer Van Gorder, new Commissioners Tara Ledger and Barbara Tedesco, Board Liaison Eric Rosengren, and incoming Mayor Alan Zappo Sassasu, while also thanking outgoing Mayor Jeff Caggiano for his years of service.

Consent Agenda

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent agenda, which include items from 8.1.a – 8.1.e

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1 Personnel

8.1.a Teacher Retirement

Borosvsky, Penny – BEHS/GH – Speech and Language Pathologist effective June 30, 2026
Pecevich, Brenda – STAF – Special Education Teacher effective June 30, 2026

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Retirement

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1.b Teacher Resignations

Abrams, Nicole – WB – Grade 8 Mathematics Teacher effective September 30, 2025
Pezza, Christopher – NEMS - .5 Math Intervention Specialist effective October 18, 2025
Stroh, Brian – EPH – Special Education Teacher effective October 18, 2025
Tevnan, Abbryann – STAF – Special Education Teacher effective October 31, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Resignations.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1.c A-2 Resignations

Baker, Lorenzo – BEHS – Grade 10 Co-Advisor effective August 26, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the A-2 Resignations

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1.d A-2 Hire

Anderson, Tarra – BEHS – Grade 10 Co-Advisor effective September 30, 2025
Dornfield, Jessica – BCHS – Grade 9 Co-Advisor effective September 25, 2025
Mirmina, Shawn – BCHS - Grade 9 Co-Advisor effective September 25, 2025
Parsons, Rebecca – NEMS – Climate Coordinator effective September 29, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the A-2 Hire

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1.e Teacher Leave of Absence Requests

Nugent, Alyssa – BEHS – Social Studies Teacher effective March 16, 2026 through April 9, 2026

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Leave of Absence Requests

Motion made by Dante Tagariello and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

October 1 Enrollment Count for the 2025-2026 School Year

Joseph Grabowski presented the October 1 Enrollment Count for the 2025-2026 School Year report. The October 1st, 2025, enrollment report shows a total of 7,598 students, excluding 270 magnet students. Middle School (6-8) saw the largest change, with a 3% increase (49 students), mainly at Chippins Hill. Elementary (K-5) enrollment decreased by about 2% (72 Students), but this change did not necessitate reducing the number of classrooms. High School (9-12)

enrollment also decreased by about 2.5% (59 students). Pre-K enrollment decreased significantly (35 students) due to the conversion of Pre-K 4 to a full-day program and limited space at the current Giamatti location. The total enrollment, including all students tied to the district (enrolled, magnet, and outplaced for IEP support), is closer to 7,868.

Question followed.

Bridge Grant

Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services presented a great opportunity. This grant is funded through the State of Connecticut, offered \$40,000 across two years. Enhances student transitions from high school and middle to higher education and career readiness.

Questions followed.

Public Comments

Chair Pons reads the rules for public comments to the audience.

1. Domna Hamzy spoke on the behalf of her father and family, thanking the Board for honoring Alex Hamzy by naming the Northeast Middle School Gymnasium after him.
2. Alan Ruddewicz spoke his concerns on the redistricting process for Northeast Middle School.
3. Mike Arashinko expressed his support for Policy 5142.41-armed security officers in Bristol Public Schools.
4. Jen Tagariello gave her remarks for the newly elected and re-elected Board of Education Commissioners, as well as giving remarks to the two commissioner who will be leaving the board. Eric Carlson and Dante Tagariello.
5. Marie O'Brien thanks Commissioner Carlson and Tagariello for their service on the Bristol Board of Education.
6. Eric Verrone expressed his concern regarding Policy 5142.41-armed security officer
7. Morris Patton gave his remarks for Commissioner Carlson and Tagariello.

Deliberated Items/District Leadership Team Reports

Pupil Personnel Services Report

Amy Martino presented the monthly Pupil Personnel Services Report. Mrs. Martino reported as of October 1st 2025, 1,763 of the 7,872 enrolled Bristol Students are identified as requiring Special Education Programming. This enrollment reflects 22.40% of the total BPS student population. As of October 1st, 119 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 93 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of September 2025, 22% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration with no student receiving their

programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of September, there were 49 211 calls and 0 911 calls.

As of October 1, 2025, all budget lines represented are trending as expected. The Extended School Year, Pre-School, Section 504 and Equipment were removed from the chart as the Extended School year line has all expenditures accounted for at this time. As noted during the September 1st report, the Preschool line is over by \$54, 905.47 due to salaries being encumbered. The Section 504 and Equipment lines were unremarkable/unchanged for this month's reporting.

Redistricting Report

Superintendent White introduced MP Planning. Bristol Public Schools entered into a contract with MP Planning group led by Patrick Gallagher and Michael Zuba, who assisted with the Phase 1 redistricting. The focus of their work on Phase 2 is to develop redistricting boundaries for Phase 2 of the Reimagine BPS plan that will go into effect for the 2026-2027 school year.

MP Planning group developed updated 10-year enrollment projections, established enrollment targets for the elementary and middle school.

NEMS Phase III FF&E approval

Tara Landon, Operations and Facilities Manager provided update for this approval. As part of the state requirement for the Pre-bid Conference on November 10th, 12th and 13th, 2025, the school building committee and the BOE must review and approve the final plans and project manuals for Phase III-FF&E. These were shared with the BOE commissioners on October 31, 2025.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and second by Dante Tagariello. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Revisions

Policy 5142.41-Armed Security Officers

Chair Pons gave a brief understanding of the revision for the policy,

Mary Hawk gave an overview for the purpose this policy and has passed the podium to Director of Security, Stephen Cabeleus and Chief Morrello, Bristol Police department discussed the purpose of having armed security officers to ensure a secure and confident learning environment.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons- Bula and seconded by Lorianne Osenkowski. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy 6145.2 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular

Carly Fortin presented the Policy 6145.2 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular. Fortin opens the discussion on eligibility to participate in extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Middle school administrators propose removing the standard of conduct from eligibility rules to align with high school policy, which focuses only on academics. Misbehavior can still limit participation case by case, but removing the standard of conduct prevents students from losing eligibility due to a report card mark. The goal is to keep students connected and supported through extracurricular activities.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Naming of the new Northeast Middle School Gym, the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Gymnasium

Tara Landon presented the New Business. This was approved in August, at the building committee meeting and discussed with Mayor Caggiano. She asks the board with full approval of Naming the new Northeast Middle School Gym, the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Gymnasium.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and second by Russel Anderson. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Naming of Greene-Hills Gym, the Lieutenant Dustin DeMonte Gymnasium

Superintendent White presented the New Business. Superintendent was able to connect with Mrs. DeMonte for this opportunity. She asks the board for full approval of Naming Greene-Hills Gym, the Lieutenant Dustin DeMonte Gymnasium.

Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and second by Eric Carlson. Motion passed Unanimously.

Information/Liaison Reports

Commissioner Simmons gave a comprehensive report on South Side School and Bristol Eastern.

Chair Pons gave a Liaison report about BAIMS student art projects.

Commissioner Carlson and Tagariello gave their last remarks with the Bristol Board of Education.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Regular Board of Education Meeting should adjourn. (9:30 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education