

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Policy Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link:
<https://youtu.be/qYroJrxrSHA?si=pz18la9cxkbzJ-b5>



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2025

A Bristol Board of Education Regular Policy Committee meeting was held on August 27, 2025, in the BoE Auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Maria Simmons, Lorianne Osenkowski

ALSO, PRESENT: Mary Hawk, Carly Fortin, Cera Orner (Virtual)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes: 05/28/25 – Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Policy Committee voted to approve the May 28, 2025, Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

3. Public Comment:

There were no Public Comments to the Board.

4. Discussion/Revision – Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements

Fortin explained that due to last year's budget reductions, there was a cut in physical education. Previously, school policy required two credits of physical education, but the state of Connecticut only mandates one credit. Fortin is currently revising the graduation requirements to align with the state's minimum requirement of one credit in physical education, while maintaining the overall requirement of twenty-five (25) formal credits for graduation.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons for the full board approval. Motions passed unanimously.

5. Discussion/Revision – Policy 6145.2 – Extra-Curricular and Co-curricular Activities

Orner presented Policy 6145.2 regarding academic eligibility for athletics. Based on the adjustment to the graduation requirement for PE and Wellness for juniors and seniors, the athletic academic eligibility policy would also need to be revised. Previously, the policy required juniors and seniors to be enrolled in 5.5 academic credits plus 0.5 credits of PE. Now, juniors and seniors would be required to be enrolled in 5 credits total.

Discussion/Revision – Policy 6145.2 – Extra-Curricular and Co-curricular Activities-Cont'd

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons – Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons for the full board approval. Motions passed unanimously.

6. Discussion/Revision – Policy 6141.51 – Advanced Courses or Programs Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

Hawk presented Policy 6141.51. Concerning the eligibility criteria for students enrolling advanced courses. All students at the high school level will be provided an opportunity to participate in a rigorous and academically challenging curriculum. There has not been a policy in place for advance course or programs eligibility for criteria for enrollment, and it's a mandated policy.

Fortin makes a recommendation to change the language for producers/criteria/guiding principles to first sentence for the paragraph of “ The board is aware that minority students are chronically underrepresented in advanced level high school courses and programs of similar rigor. As well as the second sentence, “Low awareness of advanced courses and programs, insufficient preparation, and fear of social isolation prevent low-income and minority students from enrolling in such courses or programs.” Fortin makes sure to focus on the equity of students.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons – Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons for the full board approval. Motions passed unanimously.

7. Discussion/Revision - Policy 6141.52 - Challenging Curriculum Policy

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons, to move the Policy 6141.52 – Challenging Curriculum Policy to next Policy Committee meeting. Motions passed unanimously.

8. Discussion/Revision - Policy 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons, to move the Policy 6172.1 – Gifted and Talented Students to next Policy Committee meeting. Motions passed unanimously.

9. Discussion/Revision - Policy and Regulation 1324 – Fundraising

The fundraiser policy currently does not address the situation of general budget funding not supporting uniform replacements. The revised language with fundraising stipulations surrounding the use of fundraising for uniform replacements would address the occurrence of the fiscal school year budget not supporting the replacements of uniforms and would apply only in situations when the general budget does not allot of funds to replace uniforms.

Discussion/Revision - Policy and Regulation 1324 – Fundraising- Cont'd

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons- Bula and seconded by Maria Simmons to the move the Policy and Regulation 1324- Fundraising. Motions passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula adjourned the Policy Committee Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shina Shoubato".

Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education