

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**March 3, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski and Christopher Wilson; Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Sam Galloway, Director of Talent Management, Kim Culkin, Director of Special Services, 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**

Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Josephine Penta a Teacher at O'Connell School and Ivy Drive from 1963 to 2000.

**MEETING NORMS**

Commissioner Dube read the meeting norms.

**STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION**

**Barbara J. Startup Sportsmanship Award** - Dr. Carbone introduced Bristol Eastern High School Principal Michael Higgins to recognize the Bristol Eastern Girls' Volleyball team for receiving the Barbara J. Startup Sportsmanship Award. Athletic Director John Stavens, Coach Stephanie Reay, and Student Zoe Lowe were also present to be recognized by the Board. This is a special honor as it is awarded by the CT Board of Volleyball Officials, and it is something that the team strives for each year. Congratulations Lancers!

**Student Recognition for Excellence in Art & Music** - Dr. Carbone introduced Dr. Samantha Sarli, Supervisor of Fine Arts. Dr. Sarli shared several slides recognizing and highlighting student participation, accolades, and performances. The following students were recognized:

**Fire Prevention Winners**

Isabella Guzman grade 4; Ivy Drive, Danille Noyes (art teacher)  
Niveaa Williams grade 5; Ivy Drive, Danille Noyes (art teacher)

**Ivy Drive Excellence in Art - Danielle Noyes (art teacher)**

Daria Dyrbavka, Kindergarten  
Harlow Cadrain, 1st Grade  
James Mckenna, 2nd Grade  
Steven Edgerton, 3rd Grade  
Josh Osenkowski, 4th Grade  
Aliana Chase, 5th Grade

Greene-Hills elementary art participation shared photographs from Jen Chase (art teacher)

**Scholastic Art Award Winners**

Rosalie Arre, Drawing and Illustrations, Silver Key, 12th grade, BCHS; Leslie Fernandez, Art Teacher

**Elementary Band Students in Seasons Greeting Card:**

Mason Foertsch, Ivy Drive; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)  
Elijah Emmert, Ivy Drive; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)

**Elementary Band Students in Seasons Greeting Card – cont'd**

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Lilliana Bottino, Ivy Drive; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)  
Samuel Robinson, Hubbell; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)  
Logan Pierre, Hubbell; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)  
Kalyssa Yetke, Greene-Hills; Kyle Camerato (band teacher)  
Airyn Berube, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Callan Chasse, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Steven DeNino, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Charlotte Gomes, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Emalyn Kirk, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Quinn Malley, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Brett Maynard, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Julia Moriarty, Edgewood; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Mia Bougie, Mountain View; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Elizabeth Clark, Mountain View; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Christian DuPlessis, Mountain View; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Mya Hatcher, Mountain View; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Brianna Ojeda, Mountain View; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Isabella Bashaw, Stafford; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Charles Lawson, Stafford; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Ava Loukoumis, Stafford; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Lily Sherrick, Stafford; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Gabiella Stanford, Stafford; Joy Cannata (band teacher)  
Joseph Quiroga, South Side School; Niece Zabawa (band teacher)  
Jacob Colucia, South Side School; Niece Zabawa (band teacher)  
Nashly Basora, South Side School; Niece Zabawa (band teacher)  
Matthew Duval, West Bristol; Sara Hoyt (band teacher)  
Blake Ferrucci, West Bristol; Sara Hoyt (band teacher)  
Gianna Ferrucci, West Bristol; Sara Hoyt (band teacher)  
Greta Hennessey, West Bristol; Sara Hoyt (band teacher)

**BEHS**

Chloe Van Nelson, 11th grade, - Northern Region Music Festival; Ken Bagley (band teacher)  
Rebecca Albright, 12th grade, - Northern Region Music Festival; Ken Bagley (band teacher)

**BCHS**

Devora Trestman, 12th grade, Flute - NAFME All-National Orchestra; John Abucewicz (band teacher)

**BEHS – Acapella Group - Strawberry Fields members:**

Soprano - Kathryn Simpson (grade 12)

Mezzo - Faith Boilard (grade 11)

Alto - Kylie Bernier (she was busy)

Tenor- Madison Chasse (grade 12)

Baritone - Logan Mason (grade 12)

Bass - Gabe Howell (grade 12)

\*The original song "Happy" was written by Kylie Bernier (Grade 11). She also helped with the arrangement and sang the solo. Sound engineer and video editing Michael Coderre (choir teacher).

Commissioners can reach out to Dr. Sarli or Ms. Everett to receive any of the performances shared this evening.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### February 3, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the **February 3, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### February 10, 2021 – Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **February 10, 2021 – Special Workshop Meeting Minutes PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance** – Commissioner Vibert reported that the committee met in February and discussed the January 31st snapshot of the 2020-21 fiscal year. At that time, the Operational Budget showed an available balance of \$3M and marks the end of the second quarter. We are running below budget in all areas of the budget, except in magnet school tuitions where we are slightly over budget. There is currently a spending freeze, but are honoring certain expenses for student supports, curriculum, individual education plans, and required repairs and maintenance. Connecticut was scheduled to receive an additional \$492,426,458 in Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief funds also known as ESSER II from the Federal level. Bristol has been allocated a little over 8M dollars. Commissioner Vibert reported that the cafeteria is currently running a deficit of \$171,000 this includes State reimbursement funds via the Healthy Snack Program. There were no large appropriations or transfers to report.

**Operation** – Commissioner Carlson reported that the regular meeting was canceled due to parliamentary procedures. A special meeting was held last night, Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The committee looked at the Reimaging, redistricting/reconfiguration options. We have narrowed it down to two options, but the options are not set in stone yet. Two options were identified to move to the full board. Commissioner Carlson explained Option 1- Edgewood becomes PreK only, all other elementary schools reconfigure and redistrict to PreK-4, in a 5-8 model, and Option 3 – Edgewood becomes PreK only, all other schools are redistricted under the current mixture of K-5 and 6-8 model. Commissioner Carlson reported that after speaking with the Board Chair, he would like to add an option to Option 1. Commissioner Carlson would like to formally recommend that we expand the data search to see if more parity is achieved if West Bristol was turned into a K-5 and Greene-Hills was turned into a 6-8. If one of the board's goals is to create equity in the instructional model across the district, then we need to do our due diligence and investigate other options that may aid in that endeavor. Commissioner Wilson called for a Point of Order, as the option presented this evening was not discussed at the Operations Committee meeting last night, so the committee has not weighed in on this option. Commissioner Carlson called for a motion to add the item to the agenda for discussion.

Following a motion by John Sklena and a second by Eric Carlson, a roll call vote was called

Approval to **add an item to the agenda for discussion under New Business** was **PASSED** with seven (7) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Wadowski, and Dube) in favor of the motion and two (2) commissioners (Vibert and Wilson) **OPPOSED**.

**Personnel** – Commissioner O'Brien reported that a Personnel Committee met in preparation for negotiations with Local 2267 and those have now been scheduled for March 24, 2021.

**Policy** – Commissioner Giantonio reported that a special meeting was held last night, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, because the regular meeting was canceled due to parliamentary procedures. The committee discussed new policies in regards to board member use of the internet social networks and an appendix to that policy which would handle social media etiquette, an acceptable computer network use policy, a social networking policy, and use of network  
**Policy - cont'd**

tools policy all of which will be brought to the full board with more information at the April meeting. There was also a discussion item added to the agenda regarding Senate Bill 568 and House Bill 6423 regarding school vaccinations and the removal of the religious exemption. The committee discussed the impact of the bills on the district after receiving an informational report from a local legislator that sits on the committee that heard the public hearing.

**Student Achievement** - Commissioner Wilson reported that the committee met on February 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the African American/Black And Puerto Rican/Latino Studies elective following a presentation from Leszek Ward, Supervisor of Secondary Humanities. This will begin in the 2022-2023 school year. This is required by the State Department of Education; we are still waiting for the details of the curriculum. The committee received a presentation regarding a partnership with QA+M and the Board of Education. They have agreed to partner with us to mentor students at the middle and high school level, and they have agreed to work with us to create pathways and partner with us on some CTE pathways. We will have twelve (12) students enrolled in a cooperative experience for QA+M. The committee also received a presentation and discussed English Language Learners (ELL) in the Bristol Public Schools. There are currently 422 ELL students, which is up 60% over 10 years. There are currently six(6) schools designated as bilingual. Larry Covino was present and provided information on how the district identifies students and how the process works.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Bristol Central High School** – Madison Laprise - Senior representative from Bristol Central shared information from Bristol Central. Starting Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, all students who wish to return to school four days a week may do so. To accommodate the extra students there will now be five lunch waves each day; Wednesdays will still be remote. Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> will be a “Ghost Day” for the School Day SATs. Students not taking the SAT will be part of a college and career focus day. March 25<sup>th</sup> will be a half-day to hold parent/teacher conferences after school. Several sports have entered into conference play. In honor of Black History month a daily video was included in each advisory slide show called the “Black History Minute” each video highlighted significant black figures in history. Student leaders of this project are part of a club called “Buckets for Justice”. Special thanks to Dr. Samuels for organizing the Black History Minute and Mr. Horan for filming.

**Bristol Eastern High School** – Madison Turner, Senior representative from Bristol Eastern shared information from Bristol Eastern. Sophomores and Junior are being invited back into the building beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. Bristol Public Schools is currently having meetings with CVL parents and planning next year. We expect half the sophomores and juniors will come back and we will have about 650 total with 300 still wishing to learn from home. Madison shared club activities from the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. Performing Arts are trying to put on a spring production; which would be High School Musical and winter sports have begun again, and spring athletes are looking forward to the spring season since they missed it last year. Course selection has started for next year. SATs will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>; students in grades 9, 10, and 12 will participate in resume writing and career activities; ACT testing will take place the first two weeks in May. The administration and the Grad Party Committee are looking at ways to celebrate seniors. Quassey Amusement Park has been reserved for May 14<sup>th</sup> as a senior event. Work is being done to put together peer tutoring supervised by adults, Spirit week is March 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and they are thankful that Dr. Carbone has taken time to meet and have conversations about how the year is going and they are looking forward to doing that again soon.

**CHAIR REPORT** - Chair Jennifer Dube shared information regarding communication of the Reimagining BPS 2023 plan.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** - Dr. Carbone recognized board members as March is designated as Board Appreciation Month. City Council Liaison Peter Kelley read a proclamation from the City of Bristol. Dr. Carbone provided district updates regarding staff vaccination clinics to be held March 3, 2021, March 5, 2021, and March 12, 2021; CT School Day SAT to be held Wednesday, March 24, 2021; health data for the district; we had 69 positive cases in February and have conducted 437 Tracing Events. Dr. Carbone presented an overview of last night’s Operations Committee meeting which she presented in conjunction with Rebecca Augur from Milone and McBroom.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dube called for the approval of the Consent Agenda which includes Items 8.1.1 through 8.1.4.

Following a motion by Allison Wadowski and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **CONSENT AGENDA PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Teacher Resignation**

Minnocci, Gabriele – BCHS – Special Education Teacher - Effective June 14, 2021

Following a motion by Allison Wadowski and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **Teacher Resignation PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### **A-2 Hire**

Kelly, William – BEHS – Math League Co-Advisor - Effective April 3, 2021

Following a motion by Allison Wadowski and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **A-2 Hire PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### **A-3 Hire**

DiFusco, Kimberly – SSS – K-5 Tech Leader - February 3, 2021

Following a motion by Allison Wadowski and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **A-3 Hire PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### **Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence**

Ewers, Emily – WB – Special Education Teacher – effective February 17, 2021, through the end of 20-21 SY

Following a motion by Allison Wadowski and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Dube read the Public Comment rules and read the email received prior to this evening's meeting.

Ernest Pitti – 65 Palmorr Place addressed the board regarding a suggestion that may help improve student participation in the free and reduces breakfast and lunch programs.

## **DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **Adult Education Cooperative Eligible Entity Agreement**

Larry Covino Director of Adult Education presented the Adult Education Cooperative Eligible Entity Agreement. Bristol Adult Education Center has been chosen by the Southington Board of Education and the CT Adult Education State Director to enter into a Cooperative Eligible Entity(CEE) agreement. This means that Bristol will take overall day-to-day operations for Southington's Adult Education Program. All incurred costs for this operation will be paid by Southington and the CSDE in accordance with an agreed upon contract. This will be a year-to-year agreement, with annual renewals. This will cost Bristol nothing but does provide several expanded opportunities for both programs surrounding program availabilities and grant funding opportunities.

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

Approval of **Adult Education Cooperative Eligible Entity Agreement PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### **Preliminary Calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years (Second Presentation)**

Dr. Galloway presented the second reading of the Preliminary Calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years. The calendars have been reviewed by BAPS, BFT, AFSCME 818, AFSCME 2267, AFSCME 3551, and the PTA/PTO's.

Commissioner Wilson asked that we hold a workshop to discuss Columbus Day and Indigenous People Day and how the district will list and observe the day going forward.

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio, seconded by Eric Carlson and discussion a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **Preliminary Calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years (Second Presentation) PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion and one (1) Commissioner (Vibert ) **OPPOSED**.

### **Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2021-2022 and SY 2022-2023**

Carly Fortin presented Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2021-2022 and SY 2022-2023. Following the first reading of the calendars at last month's meeting. The calendars were reviewed by school administrators and supervisors to set the parent conference and marking period dates for these two school years. There are no changes to the number of dates that will be available for parent conferences. Parent conferences in the fall at the high school level will all be held in the evening.

Following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Thomas O'Brien a roll call vote was called.

Approval of **Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2021-2022 and SY 2022-2023 PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) in favor of the motion.

### **Special Services Leadership Team Report**

Mrs. Culkin presented the Special Services Leadership Team Report. Mrs. Culkin shared that as of February 1, 2021, we had 1,736 of the 8,086 Bristol Public School students identified as eligible for special education programming; that represents 21.47%, of all Bristol students. The identification rate at the end of last year was 21.17% with a total of 1,772 students at that time. Of all newly enrolled students during the month of January 2021, 20.69 % of students were eligible for special education services at the time of registration. Additionally, as we keep track of how many students come in as new students, from April to April; since April 2020, six (6) newly registered students entered already enrolled in Out of District Placements for their special education programming; this past month we had two such students enter. As of February 1, 114 of our 1,736 students were requiring out-of-

### **Special Services Leadership Team Report – cont'd**

district placements and school programs, and 76 students requiring special education programs while they attend public out-of-district schools, such as magnet schools.

### **PreK to Kindergarten Transition**

As we look ahead to the 2021 – 2022 school year, our PreK and receiving Kindergarten school teams across the district have been meeting and planning for the transition of nearly 75 PreK students who will be entering kindergarten requiring special education programs and instruction.

### **District-wide specialized programs**

Staff and administrators have been fine-tuning the location sites and programming details for some of our districtwide and specialized programs. We will be announcing times and dates for parent informational sessions shortly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Additional Option Discussion**

Commissioner Carlson would like to formally recommend that we expand the data search to see if more parity is achieved if West Bristol was turned into a K-5 and Greene-Hills was turned into a 6-8 school.

Commissioner Giantonio seconded the motion, and Chair Dube called for discussion. A lengthy discussion followed. Chair Dube called for a roll call.

Approval of an **Additional option for discussion, if West Bristol was turned into a K-5 and Greene-Hills was turned into a 6-8 school PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Skelenka, Vibert, Wadowski, and Dube) in favor of the motion and one (1) commissioner (Wilson) **OPPOSED**.

A workshop for further clarification and discussion will be set up later this month.

## **BUILDING REPORTS**

**MBIAMS Update** - Dr. Dieter presented the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Update. Dr. Dieter shared that the Downes and D'Amato team have been doing a fantastic job keeping the work moving forward. At this time, the following things are happening on the MBIAMS Project:

- abatement is nearing completion with only incidental remediation remaining;
- lightweight concrete has been poured throughout to address surfaces disrupted by removal of soft concrete;
- footings and walls in the rear of the building have been poured and will eventually support the gymnasium and back theater spaces;
- window packages have been received and reviewed and we will be moving forward on complete replacement with a substantial balance remaining in the allowance. A special meeting will be held next Thursday 3/11;
- Capasso Restorations is currently on the bottom floor transitioning to the theater on 3/6;
- Masonry infills and metal framing nearing completion on the second and third floor;
- The first BPS construction-related podcast can be found on the Bristol Press homepage;
- Site-related changes will be starting in earnest as the season changes;
- Fire suppression and ductwork has been delivered and is being staged;
- FFE is ramping up to begin the selection of specialty furniture and fixtures;
- Change orders have been addressed within allowance and contingency lines and we remain on budget and within a comfortable schedule, tentative turnover is the end of May '22.

Lastly, Dr. Dieter reminded commissioners to mark their calendars for Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 pm for the next MBIAMS Community Forum. The program will include updates on construction, discussion of the enrollment/lottery process, and pairing of spaces with pathways.

**South Side - HVAC Project** - Tim Callahan presented the South Side HVAC Project report. Mr. Callahan reported that we have completed the construction documents for Phase 2 of the South Side HVAC project (multipurpose

room heating and cooling). We are going out to bid at the end of the week, we should have bids back by the end of March. Construction will start at the end of school in June. We are on schedule for the completion of that work with substantial completion in August. We are currently on schedule and under budget with the estimates that we did for the construction document estimate.

**INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

This month commissioners received K-8 and Middle school reports. Commissioner Giantonio shared that she read virtually at Greene-Hill School to two classrooms. Commissioner Pons reported that she read to two PreK 4 classrooms at South Side School and Commissioner Vibert read to 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students at South Side School and shared a photo from South Side School where students wore pajamas for the Pennies for Patients at CCMC. Commissioner Wadowski shared that she read at Ivy Drive School and shared information from Northeast Middle School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Eric Carlson and

There being no other business to come before the Board of Education the meeting should adjourn. (8:54 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

*Susan P. Everett*

Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education