

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: [February 5, 2025 - Regular Meeting Recording](#).

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Iris White, Acting Superintendent, Lynn Boisvert, Business Director, and Erick Rosengren, Council Liaison

Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 8, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the January 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

January 25, 2025 – Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the January 25, 2025, Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously.

Commissioners Giantonio, Osenkowski, and Fitzsimons-Bula Abstained.

January 29, 2025 – Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Tagariello asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he was absent from the meeting. Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the amended minutes.

The Board of Education voted to approve the January 29, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes with the amendment.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously.

Commissioners Giantonio and Tagariello Abstained.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Pons presented the monthly Chair Report. Click the following link to read the full report.

[Monthly Chair Report](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the Policy Committee met on January 20th. Items that were discussed were the 25-26 Policy Committee meeting dates, Title IX policy, armed Security Guards, and a discussion regarding handheld security wands. Policy 2141 was tabled and moved to their upcoming meeting, which is scheduled for February 26th. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula added that a Special Policy committee

Policy Committee – cont'd

meeting was held and they discussed the use of handheld wands and the policy related to that which she will be adding, under New Business this evening.

Student Achievement Committee

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on January 15th. The committee discussed post-secondary readiness enrollment. They reviewed two curricula that will appear later on tonight's agenda; Digital Art and Design and Middle School Art Grades 6 through 8. The next Student Achievement Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

School Family and Community Partnerships

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on January 22nd. The committee activated well-being as they do at every meeting and they approved the 25-26 meeting schedule. The committee talked about the relational leadership intensive that is coming up in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Two school staff members Erika Treannie and Kristi Trelly will be participating. The final discussion item was the School, Family and Community Partnerships, Goal and Action Plan Report. Dr. Ryan Broderick presented some of the baseline data which spoke to what we are doing as a school district. Some of the data that we've already collected and how we're going to move the work forward to serve our school community in the best way we can.

Safety Committee

Commissioner Osenkowski reported that the committee met on January 29th. Mr. Steve Cabelus, Director of School Safety provided safety updates and information for the committee. Some of the information shared included a safety audit at Bristol Eastern and Bristol Central; upgrading the emergency alert system; upgrading existing older analog cameras with newer technology as well as adding cameras in other areas of the schools; school security staffing update; and information on a new notification system. High School administration from Bristol Eastern and Bristol Central were present to join the discussion regarding handheld security wands. This item was also discussed earlier this evening at a Special Policy Committee meeting. The next School Safety meeting will be held May 14th.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Eastern

Bristol Eastern, Junior Representative Paige Anash, presented the Bristol Eastern monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report included: during midterms student council, provided therapy dogs and snacks during the period in between exams, second semester is off to good start, course selections have begun; a new fire alarm system is now completely installed; winter sports are coming to an end; spring sports will kick off in March; wrestler Luke Vienz recently got his 100th win; Music in our schools starts in March; a coffee house will be held on March 7th, students, teachers, and family members will be able to sign up and perform; a concert with the elementary and middle schoolers will be held March 12th; mental health awareness month is coming up, on March 18th a guest speaker will be at BE to explain the importance of mental health and the implications of ignoring your mental health; an upcoming community college open house event; Student Council has set up committees for several activities such as Teacher Appreciation and Earth Day; prom seasons is underway, the Junior Prom will be held on May 10th at Hawks Landing, in Southington, while Senior Prom will be held on May 24th at the Aqua Turf and the United Way has is planning their annual prom for the senior citizens at the Bristol Senior Center, the year's theme is rock and roll.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Iris White presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Ms. White shared that Schools and offices would be closed tomorrow, February 6 due to inclement weather; she introduced two staff members Mrs. Michaela Pascucci Wallace, as the new Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services and Erica Coleman as the new Principal of Ivy Drive. Mrs. Pascucci Wallace and Mrs. Coleman both addressed the board briefly about their appointments.

Bristol Central, Junior Representative Amelia Brown joined the meeting and provided her monthly student representative report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS cont'd

Bristol Central

Bristol Central, Junior Representative Amelia Brown, presented the Bristol Central monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report included: settling back down after our stressful midterms; BC is starting a school news report called Ramley Report, and we have many students signed up for various factors of factions, from video recording to editing and being an actual reporter in front of the camera; 30 Bristol Central sophomores, participated in focus groups conducted by Partners for Educational Leadership, sharing their voices and experiences in contributing to future school improvement plans; Culture Club has secured some restaurants to donate food to culture night, and various students are also volunteering to have their parents cook food. Culture Night will be held on May 17th. The band is getting ready to start rehearsing for their May concert; BCHS Stage will be performing Momma Mia; the basketball team is currently 7 and 9; Head Coach Barrett got his 200th win; Kamaria Bowen was nominated for player of the week for basketball, and Nicole Reimer scored a career-high 42 points in a win over Farmington; the cheer team placed 5th at the CT Center Classic competition two weeks ago and they will compete this week in Shelton at the Heart of a Champ competition.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. White continued the Superintendent's Report. Ms. White shared that she notified the Board earlier today and sent a message to Edgewood Pre-K Academy families regarding roof leaks, and issues with the roof. Out of an abundance of caution and based on recommendations from the facilities department. We decided to close the school for a few days, beginning at the end of the day today until further notice. This will allow them time to review everything and take care of any issues there. We will have additional information as it becomes available and of course, she will keep the commissioners updated on any progress. Ms. White also shared information regarding redistricting, communications with the community, and, ParentSquare participation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Items 7.1.a through 7.2.a.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio Passed Unanimously.

7.1. PERSONNEL

7.1.a. New Administrative Hire

Coleman, Erica – Principal – ID – Effective February 6, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Resignations as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously

7.1.b. New Teacher Hire

McCane, Meagan - CW @ WB - Special Education Teacher - effective February 6, 2025

The Board of Education voted to approve the New Teacher Hire as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

7.1.c. A-2 Hires

Pagan, Yahiry - BCHS - Band and Auxiliary Unit Instructor (Flags and Majorettes - Fall and Spring) - effective August 29, 2024

MacDonald, Theresa - BAIMS - Musical - effective January 29, 2025

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-2 Hires as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

7.1.d. A-3 Resignation

Currao, Merriah - EPH - Science Co-Leader - effective November 29, 2024

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-3 Resignation as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously

7.1.e. A-3 Hire

Bouchard, Kelly - EPH - Science Co-Leader - effective December 2, 2024

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-3 Hire as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously

7.1.f. Teacher Leave of Absence Requests

Morfis, John - BEHS - Art Teacher - effective March 20, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Tramontanis, Brittany - WB - Gr. 3 Teacher - effective June 4, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Teacher Leave of Absence Requests as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously

7.2. GRANTS

7.2.a. BAIMS - Every Child Art Experience Grant

The Board of Education voted to approve the BAIMS - Every Child Art Experience Grant as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment received before the meeting were available at the Commissioner's seats. Chair Pons read the Public Comment rules to the audience.

In-Person Public Comment

1. Jane Murdock – 400 Shrub Road – Addressed the Board regarding the budget and Veteran’s Day.
2. Scott Fields – 7 South Down Road – Addressed the Board regarding the Superintendent Search, Board conduct, and leadership.
3. Nyasia Delgado – 32 Haviland Street – Addressed the Board regarding the waiver process.

Online Public Comment

1. Jerry Rafaniello – 103 Windham Road – Addressed the Board regarding the budget.

Submitted Public Comment

1. Emily Bailey – 21 Tiffany Lane – Addressed the Board regarding Veteran’s Day.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

January Enrollment Count for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dr. Kimberly Culkin presented the January Enrollment Count for the 2024-2025 School Year. Commissioners were provided a copy of the report prior to the meeting. The report is a comparison to the January 5, 2024 report. At the time that the January 1, 2025 report was prepared, we had 7,789 students enrolled in Bristol public schools, 15 of whom attended Bristol Tech, and another 278 students attending magnet schools or public school programs in districts other than BPS, but for whom BPS is responsible. Additionally, 123 Bristol

January Enrollment Count for the 2024-2025 School Year – Cont'd

students attended schools and private out-of-district programs. Dr. Culkin shared the January 1 student enrollment breakdown for the commissioners.

Preliminary Calendars for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years (First Presentation)

Iris White presented the First Presentation of the Preliminary Calendars for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. A corrected 26-27 school year calendar was added to Boardbook for commissioner review. A correction was made to December and the last day of school.

Ms. White shared feedback from staff regarding the multiple holidays the district celebrates which can cause some interruption to student learning as well as extend us further into June, especially when you add in snow days. Some staff also thought Veteran's Day might be an opportunity if we brought the students back in. This would allow for additional conversations about the sacrifices of our veterans and what it means. Ms. White had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Bristol Veterans Council about Veteran's Day being a school day and wanting to work closely with the district and the schools about ideas and different activities that could be done if it was during the school day. They are very willing to come in and volunteer and assist.

A lengthy discussion followed. In the intervening month, a ParentSquare survey would be sent to staff and families regarding Veteran's Day. This is the first presentation of the calendars they will be on the March meeting agenda for a vote.

Fall Fine Arts Report

Ken Bagley presented the Fall Fine Arts Report. He will present the Spring Fine Arts Report in June.

CURRICULUM REVISION

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Art Curriculum

Ken Bagley presented the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Art Curriculum Revision.

The Board of Education voted to approve the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Art Curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously

Digital Art and Design Curriculum

Ken Bagley presented the Digital Art and Design Curriculum.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Digital Art and Design Curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Action regarding Policy and Regulation 5145.123 – Search and Seizure - Use of Metal Detectors

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented the Discussion and Possible Action regarding Policy and Regulation 5145.123 – Search and Seizure - Use of Metal Detectors. She provided background information as to how we got here this evening. We have discussed and moved it out of policy tonight to the full board for discussion and possible action with some corrections and additions that all commissioners have received.

The Board of Education voted to approve Policy and Regulation 5145.123 – Search and Seizure - Use of Metal Detectors as presented.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously

Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to send Policy 5145 back to the committee.

Motion made by Dante Tagariello, and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously.

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Marie Simmons – Provided a liaison report for South Side School and Bristol Eastern High School.

Jennifer Van Gorder – Provided a report for Hubbell School.

Kristen Giantonio – Provided an information report regarding the State of the Student Conference recently held at Wesleyan University.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. (9:21 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education

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