

*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: [November 6, 2024 Regular Meeting Recording](#).*

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Russell Anderson:	Absent
Eric Carlson:	Present
Jill Fitzsimons-Bula:	Present
Kristen Giantonio:	Absent
Lorianne Osenkowski:	Absent
Shelby Pons:	Absent
Maria Simmons:	Present
Dante Tagariello:	Present
Jennifer Van Gorder:	Absent

**ALSO PRESENT:** Iris White, Acting Superintendent (arrived 7:41 p.m.), and Erick Rosengren, Council Liaison

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Vice Chair Simmons called the November 6, 2024, Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for The Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair Simmons reminded commissioners to use their microphones when speaking and voting so those on Zoom are able to hear the discussion.

Vice Chair Simmons asked the audience to join her in a moment of silence for Joan (McCarthy) Przygocki an English, French & Spanish Teacher from 1965 -1971 and 1978-2003 at Memorial Boulevard Middle School, Bristol Central High School and Bristol Eastern High School and Judith Stolz an Elementary Teacher from 1963-1965 and 1967 to 1969 at Northeast and Greene-Hills Schools.

Commissioner Tagariello asked for a roll call to establish a quorum for the meeting. Following the roll call, a quorum was not established, there were four (4) commissioners Present (Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Simmons, and Tagariello) and five (5) commissioners Absent (Anderson, Giantonio, Osenkowski, Pons, and Van Gorder). In the absence of a quorum, no votes would be taken, only informational report will be given and any items requiring a vote will be moved to a later meeting date.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2.1. October 2, 2024 - Regular BoE Meeting Minutes
- 2.2. October 9, 2024 - Special BoE Meeting Minutes

With no quorum, the meeting minutes will be voted on at next month's meeting.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy Committee**

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on October 23, 2024. The committee reviewed Policy 2141 - Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent, this will be a running agenda item, and there will be further discussion at the next meeting; Bylaw 9325.1 – Quorum, Bylaw 9340 –

**Policy Committee – cont’d**

Memberships in the School Board Associations and School Safety Policy, this will be a running agenda item as the committee reviews the safety policy.

**Finance and Operations Committee**

Commissioner Carlson reported on the misfire of the newly installed boilers at Hubbell School. They have been tuned up and are working properly. We are moving forward with all the building repairs and the ESSER/ARP funds are being put to good use.

**Personnel Committee**

Commissioner Carlson reported that they will be going into arbitration for a few items with the BFT and the other contracts are later on the agenda.

**School Family and Community Partnerships Committee**

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on October 23, 2024. The committee activated well-being and continued the work of establishing the School Family and Community Partnerships committee goal and strategic plan. Both of these items will appear later on the agenda.

**4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Bristol Central**

Senior Abigail Wasta presented the BC monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report included football, cheer, volleyball, and Girl's Swimming and Diving are continuing their seasons; girls' swim and dive and girls' volleyball both competed in the division conference championship and the football team has continued their season with only one loss. Clubs have been busy, the Interact Club participated in the annual walk to end Alzheimer's, the Imagination Birthday Bash and has started practicing for the annual Powderpuff football tournament where all proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Student Council held their first Spirit Week which led up to the homecoming dance. Italian World Language students joined over 300 students in a virtual exchange program starting in October and running through December this collaboration offers our students real-life language experience with peers from Italy and Canada each session is geared towards understanding each other's cultures and using language. The writing initiative sponsored a writer's workshop with UCONN Professor Ken Cormier. Many of our seniors have been busy working on their college applications, and despite it being a busy time for BC seniors have continued to work hard.

**Bristol Eastern**

Senior Peyton Troth, presented the BE monthly Student Representative report. Highlights from her report include: The sports season is in full swing the athletes have kicked off the year on a great note and a lot of students are showing up to support the teams, families, and friends. Lancers are looking forward to the annual Bell game and pep rally. As a senior Peyton is looking forward to celebrating BE along with my peers watching both Central and Eastern compete for the Bell is so exciting and it's a great way to see the strength and enthusiasm of the community. October 19<sup>th</sup> was the annual homecoming dance where students enjoyed this year's enchanted forest theme. College visits have begun for seniors and seniors are also able to apply for scholarships now. Lancers are doing a good job adjusting to the schedules, blue Crew every Wednesday for 30 minutes allows for Home Room to do activities where students can connect with one another and connect with our teachers. Peyton thanked Mr. Higgins, Mrs. Vetrano, and Mr. Redman for their handling of the threats that occurred earlier this year, they made the students and teachers feel safe walking into the building following the day off.

**5. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Pons was unable to attend this evening's meeting, Vice Chair Simmons and Commissioner Tagariello provided the monthly Chair Report regarding serving on the Board.

Vice Chair Simmons had forgotten to mention during the School, Family, and Community Partnership committee report that Erika Treannie and Kristi Trelli had provided an outstanding presentation about the great things happening in our district.

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. White was attending the Teacher of the Chair event at The Bushnell with Anne Tacinelli, Bristol's 2025 Teacher of the Year. She was in transit and would give her report later in the agenda.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

With no quorum, the Consent Agenda could not be voted on. Items were reviewed and there were no time-sensitive items of note. The consent agenda items will be moved to next month's agenda for a vote.

### 7.1. PERSONNEL

#### 7.1.a. Administrative Resignation - Effective December 31, 2024

Gomes, Emily - ID - Principal

#### 7.1.b. Teacher Retirements

Cannata, Josephine - STAF - Music Teacher effective June 30, 2025

Chora, Maria - WB - Grade 4 Teacher effective August 1, 2025

Elliot, Lauri - BEHS - Chemistry Teacher effective June 30, 2025

Kecskes, Melinda - SS - Grade 4 Teacher effective June 30, 2025

Palmieri, Maureen - GH - Literacy Instructional Support Teacher effective June 30, 2025

Scanlon, Katherine - GH - Literacy Instructional Support Teacher effective June 30, 2025

#### 7.1.c. Teacher Resignations

Browne, Celia - WB - Grade 8 Science Teacher effective October 31, 2024

Lord, Chandler - WB - Special Education Teacher effective October 28, 2024

Ricci, Melanie - WB - Health Teacher effective October 4, 2024

7.1.d. A-1 Resignation - Effective October 31, 2024

Browne, Celia - WB - Grade 8 Team Leader

#### 7.1.e. A-2 Hires - Effective August 29, 2024

Abucewicz, Danielle - BCHS - Bell City Choir and Madrigals

Cirillo, Jason - BEHS - National Honor Society

MacDonald, Theresa - BAIMS - Musical

Machol, Kerilyn - BCHS - Freshman Class Co-Advisor

McElwee, Rebecca - BEHS - National Honor Society Co-Advisor

Reichler, Elizabeth - BCHS - Freshman Class Co-Advisor

#### 7.1.f. A-3 Hires - Effective August 29, 2024

LaChance, Derrick - WB - AVID Coordinator

Wininger, Erin - BAIMS - Recruiting Coordinator

#### 7.1.g. Teacher Leave of Absence Request

Mamuya, LaShay - BAIMS - Gr. 6-8 Math Teacher effective December 23, 2024 through March 25, 2025

#### 7.1.h. Certified Personnel Who Have Attained Tenure – [See Attached Listing](#)

**7.1.i. TEAM Mentors**

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jennie Brady	BEHS, English
Jeremy Sloate	NEMS, Physical Education
Michelle Bartucca	MTV, Grade 2
Rebecca Kohan	WB, Grade 5

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Simmons asked that we wait to hear any Public Comment until Ms. White arrives so that she could hear the feedback.

**9. DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**9.1. Bristol Eastern H.S. Trip to France - April 2026**

Nadia Roy, a French Teacher at Bristol Eastern High School presented the Bristol Eastern High School Trip to France in April 2026. She shared the trip details and the history of student travel at Bristol Eastern. Commissioners had received a trip itinerary prior to the meeting.

With no quorum, the Bristol Eastern H.S. Trip to France in April 2026 will be voted on at next month's meeting.

**9.2. October 1 Enrollment Count for 2024-2025 School Year**

Dr. Kimberly Culkin presented the October 1 Enrollment Count for 2024-2025 School Year. Dr. Culkin noted that over the next several weeks, the data will be cleaned and reconciled for a final state report due in before the end of the calendar year. The report provides a comparison (where available) of Oct. 1, 2024, to Oct. 1, 2023 student enrollment counts. At the time this report was prepared, 7,998 students were enrolled in Bristol; 285 attend magnet or other public schools but for whom BPS is responsible and 116 students attend schools at private out-of-district programs and 15 Bristol students attend Bristol Tech. Compared to the overall student enrollment for the District in 2023 which was 8121, there are 126 fewer BPS students. Dr. Culkin provided a breakdown of the student enrollment for the commissioners.

The total enrollment for preschool students at Edgewood PreK Academy is 285.

K-5 Schools: 362 Hubbell, 407 Ivy Drive, 367 Mountain View, 516 South Side, and 382 Stafford. Overall, 3,252 students are enrolled in Grades K-5.

K-8 Schools: 628 Greene Hills in Grades K-5 and 290 in Grades 6-8; 590 West Bristol in Grades K-5 and 244 in Grades 6-8.

Middle Schools: BAIMS has 268 enrolled in Grades 6-8, CHMS has 577 enrolled, NEMS has 338 enrolled. Across the five (5) middle schools there are 1,717 students. The prior year we had a middle school enrollment of 1,745 students.

High Schools: BCHS has 1,170 students, BEHS has 1,032 students, and BPA has 50 students. The total high school student enrollment across the three schools of 2,252 compared to 2,310 in October of 2023.

Across our district-wide programs of Destinations, Access, and Community Vocational we have 67 students enrolled.

**9.3. West Bristol School Custom-built Gaga Pit Donation**

Ryan Bogli, a Boy Scout from Troop 425, Bristol CT was present to seek approval to build a gaga ball pit at West Bristol School as his Eagle Scout Project. Ryan presented the project details and shared that this would

be the first gaga pit open to the public in Bristol. Ryan also explained to commissioners how to play gaga ball.

With no quorum, the West Bristol School Custom-built Gaga Pit Donation will be voted on at next month's meeting.

*Ms. White arrived at 7:41 p.m.*

#### **9.4. Mountain View School PTO Playground Equipment Donation**

Lynn Boisvert presented the Mountain View School PTO Playground Equipment Donation. Mrs. Boisvert shared photos and a description of the equipment donation from the Mountain View School PTO. This donation was approved at last month's Finance and Operations Committee meeting and forwarded to the full board for a vote.

With no quorum, the acceptance of the Mountain View School PTO Playground Equipment Donation will be voted on at next month's meeting.

#### **9.5. Pupil Personnel Services Leadership Team Report**

Dr. Kim Culkin provided the Pupil Personnel Services Report in Mrs. Martino's absence.

As of October 1, 2024, 1,773 of the 8,001 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.16% of the total BPS student population. As of October 1st, 114 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There are 83 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of September, 2024, 25% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration, one (1) of which received their programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of August, there were (42) 211 calls and (11) 911 calls.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

With Ms. White now present at the meeting, the Board heard public comment.

1. Robyne Joslyn – 69 Kenney Street – Addressed the Board regarding Hockey
2. Mike Duval – 200 Pennwood Place – Addressed the Board regarding Hockey
3. Liz and Sal Colaianni – 120 Rita Drive – Addressed the Board regarding Hockey

#### **10. POLICY REVISION**

- 10.1. Bylaw 9325.1 - Quorum
- 10.2. Bylaw 9340 - Memberships in School Board Associations
- 10.3. School, Family and Community Partnership Goal
- 10.4. School, Family, and Community Partnership Strategic Action Plan

With no quorum, all policies were tabled until next month's meeting.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Ms. White presented the monthly Superintendent Report. The following topics were presented:

1. Deputy Superintendent Position Update
2. School Safety Update
3. Guiding Coalition

The first round of interviews will take place tomorrow, November 7<sup>th</sup>. We had a total of 26 applicants. Five candidates have been invited to interview. The interview committee consists of Board of Education

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – cont’d**

Commissioners, school and district administration, teachers, and parents. On Tuesday, October 29th, Mr. Cabelus emailed the All Hazard Plans for all 14 schools to the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. We received confirmation of the plans receipt, last Friday, November 1st. Tomorrow, the District Crisis Team will review and provide feedback on the recommended policy update regarding School Safety: Preparation Response, and After Action. This recommended policy was developed by Mr. Jody Goeler from CABE and combines three previous CABE model policies: Student Safety (5142), Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (6114), and Crisis Management Plan (5141.6). Bristol Public Schools is collaborating with the Partnership for Educational Leadership to implement the Real Impact Initiative to explore what we can do to positively impact our high school students. To lead this work, Bristol has formed a guiding coalition to explore our current systems, structures, and practices that either positively impact or adversely affect high school students’ opportunities, abilities, and desires to think deeply, engage, actively, communicate effectively and advocate. This coalition will act as a collective guide for improvement efforts, gathering and analyzing data to identify educational inequities, conducting root cause analyses to understand systemic issues, and setting clear, measurable goals focused on values-based, equity-centered, and student-centered objectives. The coalition, which consists of central office and district administrators, teachers, parents, and students held its first meeting last week and will meet throughout this school year.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

**12. INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Simmons provided a liaison report for South Side School and Bristol Eastern High School.

Council Liaison Erick Rosengren shared information regarding the School Readiness Clothing Drive and Pre-School enrollment opportunities.

**13. VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION *for the purpose of:***


1. Discussion concerning records of collective bargaining strategy with respect to negotiations with AFSCME 818 Supervisory Contract (proposed for executive session).
2. Discussion concerning records of collective bargaining strategy with respect to negotiations with Local 2267 Contract (proposed for executive session)

With no quorum, discussion items for Executive Session will be moved to next month’s agenda.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Simmons adjourned the meeting. (8:10 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education