



**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 36 of the Bristol Board of Education and via the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Dante Tagariello, Kristen Giantonio, Maria Simmons, and Russell Anderson; **ALSO PRESENT:** Lynn Boisvert, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Dr. Kimberly Culkin, Jennifer Dube, Jill Fitzsimons and Dr. Michael Dieter

Call to Order:

Commissioner Tagariello called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2022 – Regular Finance Committee Minutes

Motion Passed: with a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello. Commissioners Giantonio and Simmons abstained.

The November 9, 2022 meeting minutes will be placed on file in DRAFT form.

**Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2022 –Regular Finance Committee Minutes
Committee Minutes**

Motion Passed: with a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello. Commissioner Simmons abstained.

Public Comment

John Sklenka – 20 Perkins Lane – Addressed the committee regarding gate fees.

Russell Anderson – 93 Wolcott Road – Addressed the committee regarding gate fees.

Update of 22-23 Budget

Mrs. Boisvert provided the 22-23 Budget Update. Mrs. Boisvert reported that the December snapshot for FY23 shows an available balance of (\$2,096,664). This is mostly due to special education expenses. We will receive the first installment of the Excess Cost Grant in February, which will stabilize these costs. Special Education and Homeless transportation costs require continuous monitoring and reconciliation as expenses tend to be volatile and unpredictable. We instituted a budget freeze and will continue to monitor expenditures across all departments.

Update of 22-23 Budget – cont'd

Questions followed regarding the need to monitor Special Education and homeless student's transportation. Commissioner Giantonio requested the number of homeless students as there seems to be a significant increase,

Cafeteria Report

Mrs. Boisvert provided the Cafeteria Report. The Cafeteria program is successfully operating with a snapshot balance of 1,161,623 dollars as of the end of the month. We served 35,510 breakfasts and 84,358 lunches in December.

Appropriations & Transfers

Mrs. Boisvert provided the Appropriations & Transfers report. There was one transfer over 10K. There was a \$100,000 transfer from Athletic Transportation to Private Transportation. Mrs. Boisvert is in the process of cleaning up accounts and transferring funds to the proper lines.

Special Education

Dr. Kim Culkin presented the Special Education Report. Mrs. Culkin shared that as of January 1, 2023, 1,708 of 8,143 Bristol students are identified as students requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 20.98% of the total BPS student population. During the month of December 2022, 25% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration. No students newly enrolled in BPS during the month of December 2022 were receiving their programs and services at out-of-district special education school programs at the time of enrollment.

During the month of December 2022, 38 risk assessments were conducted by BPS staff. Additionally, during the month of December 2022, 4 calls were made to 911 for student-related emergencies and 12 calls to 211 were placed for student assessment.

As of January 1, 2023, we continue to have 118 of our identified students require out-of-district placements at private special education school programs and have a total of 73 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools including magnet schools.

Questions followed regarding the number of special education students moving in and out of the district.

Student Activity/Gate Fees

The committee discussed student activities and sporting event gate fees.

Student Activity/Gate Fees – cont'd

Questions followed regarding what are the gate fees and why do we charge for entry. Fees are used to pay for participation in tournaments, scholar athlete breakfast, cheerleader pom poms, flowers for senior athletes, scoring tables, and AED batteries and devices. Currently, Bristol Central has more money in their account because attendance was up at their basketball games. The average gate receipt tally is \$1,400, with more funds collected when it is BE/BC game; there is an approximate \$10,000 gate tally for the Thanksgiving Day game since the number of attendees and admittance fees are higher at the Battle of the Bell game.

Dr. Dietter reported that our current fees are comparable to other towns in the CIAC. Q&A and discussion continued, questions included if there was a line item that would cover those fees. Where are the controls? Can we delineate what the money is used for? Commissioner Tagariello asked if there need to be specific recommendations from the board about how the funds should be allocated. Dr. Carbone said the handling of the funds is a management matter and we will work on specifics. We will work on establishing guidelines for families that cannot afford to attend. A minimum set of relief options could be established. If the policy committee wants to take up the policy change regarding the fees, they can do that.

Adjournment

With no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned. (6:41 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Everett
Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education