

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
July 22, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes**

A special meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via the Cisco WebEx Meeting Platform, and in person at the Board of Education Auditorium, located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski and Christopher Wilson; Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Sam Galloway, Director of Talent Management, Jill Browne, Business Director, Carly Fortin, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Kimberly Culkin, Director of Special Services.

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Reynolds, BFT President

EXCUSED: Commissioner John Sklenka

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked the attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of DRAFT BPS Reopening School Plans

The presentation of the Bristol Public School Reopening Plan addressed and explained key requirements outlined in the Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together reopening guidance document from the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE). The SDE is requiring the submission of a reopening plan that includes 3 models for instruction: 1) full opening for all students; 2) a hybrid model for classroom and distance learning; and 3) full distance learning, by July 24, 2020. The BPS Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate Reopening Plan included detailed information pertaining to: operations, health practices, and protocols, health monitoring, containment, cancellation of classes, academics, professional development, social-emotional needs of family and student engagement, staffing and personnel and cleaning protocols. Dr. Carbone introduced the plan and thanked all those involved in the creation of the plan. Commissioners received a detailed presentation from each member of the Central Office Team as well as from Mike Reynolds, President of the Bristol Federation of Teachers who shared what the BFT interactions and communications with the Central Office team, administrators, and his members has been like during the closure and throughout the summer.

Dr. Carbone is proud of the BPS Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate Reopening Plan. She knows there will be a lot of questions. We will engage as many parents, teachers, and staff as needed. The next steps will be to send the plan to the State on July 24th, the Cooperative Virtual Learning survey and the Transportation survey will be sent out to parents with responses due back by August 14th.

MEETING PAUSE – Connection Lost – 8:18 p.m.

MEETING RESUMED – 8:24 p.m.

Commissioner Giantonio thanked the administration and staff for their work on the plan. Questions followed regarding hosting a 2-way webinar, the impact of the plan options on parents returning to work, and microphone amplification.

2020- 2021 School Year Calendar Revision

Dr. Carbone presented the 2020- 2021 School Year Calendar Revision. The Connecticut State Department of Education has waived the 180 school days rule for the 2020-2021 school year to 177 school days. With the CSDE waiver, BPS will adjust the 2020-21 calendar with the following:

2020- 2021 School Year Calendar Revision – con't

- Addition of four (4) Professional Development/Safety Training days to the beginning of the school year calendar. (8/31, 9/1, 9/2, 9/3).
- Friday, September 4, 2020, will now be a No School day.
- The first day of school for students within the Bristol Public Schools district will move to Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- The last day of school will now be Friday, June 11, 2021.

Questions followed regarding contractual obligations with the proposed revisions, the need for snow days now that we can attend school remotely and not accepting the waiver and three days to the end of the school year. Dr. Carbone shared that with the proposed changes there would not be contractual obligations, any change in inclement weather days will be discussed at a later meeting and the addition of the three days at the end of the year would affect contractual obligations.

MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the CT State Department of Education 180 school days waiver allowing the district to hold classes for 177 school days. The amended calendar will include four (4) additional Professional Development/Safety Training days at the start of the school year and Friday, September 4, 2020, will be a No School Day. The first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year for students will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and the last day of school for the Bristol Public Schools will be Friday, June 11, 2021.

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Shelby Pons a roll call vote was called.

2020- 2021 School Year Calendar Revisions PASSED following a Roll Call Vote of eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, and following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Christopher Wilson the meeting was adjourned. (8:38 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education