

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
September 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in-person at the Board of Education auditorium located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut and via the Cisco WebEx Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Thomas O'Brien, Shelby Pons, John Sklenka, Karen Vibert, Allison Wadowski (virtual) 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 Peter Kelley, Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/NATIONAL ANTHEM

Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked the attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A video recording of The National Anthem performed by Bristol Central Senior flutist Devora Trestmann was presented.

Chair Dube read the meeting norms.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Carbone took a moment to acknowledge the work of the Central Office Team, Custodial and Maintenance crews and the Technology Department for all they have done throughout the pandemic and in preparation of the school opening. She shared her appreciation for all those involved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 12, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Giantonio called for a correction to the minutes to reflect that she attended the meeting virtually.

Approval of the corrected **August 12, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes PASSED** nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Commissioner Vibert reported that the Finance committee met September 2nd. The update the committee received came from an August 28th snapshot in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The operational budget shows an available balance of \$104,561,991. In August, the Governor announced the commitment of \$130.8M in Coronavirus Relief Funds to assist school districts with the cost of safely opening schools. This is in addition to the Federal CARES Act funding which we have depleted. BPS was afforded \$1,233,527 as its share of Coronavirus Relief Funds. We will be expending these funds on Chromebook deployment, PPE, and other provisions required to safely open schools. The Cafeteria Report showed that the Summer Food Service Program has been operating successfully in several locations, offering summer options to students and young children attending camps across the community. The Summer Food Service Program has been self-sustaining, proving an additional revenue opportunity that will help to offset the regular school year cafeteria budget. The current snapshot shows a balance of approximately \$9,300 as we transition into the regular school year. During the month of August, we served over 5,700 meals to community youth across the City. Moving forward, the Seamless Summer Option has been extended through the end of the calendar year. This service platform offers greater flexibility in service locations and meal count documentation. Our cafeterias will provide both in school meals during the regular school days (M, T, Th and F), and will also send meals home with students for non-attendance days. Meals will be available for pick-up for our virtual

Finance – con’t

learners M-F at both BCHS and BEHS from 9-10am; students will receive both a breakfast and lunch for the day. Regarding the deficit in FY20 Cafeteria balance, the Office of the City Comptroller has requested that we officially request a transfer of monies from our FY20 g/f surplus to the Cafeteria to cover the deficit amount. This action will allow the City to proceed to auditing for the FY20 closeout. Should we receive any relief from FEMA or other funding sources, the City will make adjustments at the time of receipt. Our year-end surplus balance was higher than forecasted - we completed the year with a surplus amount of \$1,773,234, while the Cafeteria deficit was a lower than estimated due to PO closures post-June (\$379,532). A transfer would result in a surplus balance of \$1,393,702.

Operations

Commissioner Carlson reported that the committee met on August 26th. The Northeast tile Project is substantially complete with minor punch list items to be completed, the gym floor is installed, both projects were on schedule and under budget. The committee also approved a proposal allowing a small tree and flowers be planted in front of Hubbell School in memory of Deborah Krenicki. The committee reviewed a resident request for plowing on South Street, the committee voted to that this request would not be honored.

Policy

Commissioner Giantonio reported that the Policy Committee met on and reviewed policy and regulation Policy 6141.3291 – One-To-One Device Program they will both appear on tonight’s agenda for a vote.

Student Achievement

Commissioner Wilson reported that the committee has paused on the health curriculum, the committee reviewed the K-5 Science Curriculum it will appear later on tonight's agenda for a vote. They also said goodbye to Gina Rivera who has taken a new position within the district. The committee reviewed Meteorology and Oceanography they will appear on tonight’s agenda for a first reading and next month for approval.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dube shared a welcome back message for the district.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Commissioners were provided information on the following district priorities: Overview of Convocation and District Goals, Update on the 20-21 Re-opening and the 20-21 Alliance Grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

PERSONNEL

Teacher Retirements - Effective October 31, 2020

Christine M. Sipes – WB – Music Teacher

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Retirements PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Teacher Resignations

Adawiya, Tala – WB – Grade 8 Language Arts – effective August 24, 2020

Holway, Brooke – CHMS – Grade 7 Science Teacher – effective August 6, 2020

Kelleher, Caitlin – STAF – K-5 Library Media Specialist – effective August 17, 2020

Teacher Resignations – con’t

Latour, Rebecca – BCHS – Science Teacher – effective August 28, 2020
Smith, Samantha – ADULT ED – School Counselor – effective August 18, 2020

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Resignations PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

New Teacher Hires - Effective August 25, 2020

Carlson, Christine – CHMS – 6-8 Science Teacher effective TBD
Dudek, Caitlyn – WB – Grade 8 ELA Teacher – effective August 31, 2020
Ende, Alexandria – WB – Grade 4 Teacher – effective August 25, 2020
Ensero, Caitlin – ID – Kindergarten Teacher – effective TBD
Hanson, Alba – WB – Grade 3 Teacher - effective August 26, 2020
Hoag, Sarah – STAF – Grade 5 Teacher - effective August 26, 2020
Maloney, Riley – GH – Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher - effective August 27, 2020
McCarthy, Connor – STAF – Grade 4 Teacher - effective August 25, 2020
Minnocci, Gabriele – BCHS – Special Education Teacher - effective TBD
Molnar, Samantha – EPH – Special Education Teacher - effective August 25, 2020
Orcutt, Brittany – WB – Grade 7 Math Teacher – effective August 25, 2020
Pezza, Christopher – NEMS – .5 Math Intervention - effective August 25, 2020
Tabak, Nicole – EPH - .5 Music Teacher - effective August 31, 2020
Torres, Jessica – ID – Kindergarten Teacher - effective August 31, 2020

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **New Teacher Hires PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Baron, Leah – GH – Grade 3 Teacher – effective August 25, 2020 through November 30, 2020
Porter, Elizabeth – BCHS – Biology/Chemistry Teacher – effective August 25, 2020 for the 20-21 SY
Satalino, Kara – WB – Grade 1 Teacher – effective August 25, 2020 for the 2020-2021 SY

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Sixth Year Salary Credit - Effective September 1, 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Cantin, Michelle	CHMS - 6-12 Math Coach
Gugliotti, Michele	EDGE - Sp. Ed. Teacher
Webster, Amanda	SSS Grade Teacher

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Sixth Year Salary Credit PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O’Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Grants

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Alliance and Priority School District Grant PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ernie Pitti – 65 Palmorr Place – Emailed the board regarding Item 9.2 – Cafeteria Deficit.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

New Teacher Hiring Overview for 2020-2021 - Update

Dr. Galloway presented the New Teacher Hiring Overview for 2020-2021. Commissioners received the new hire information in their meeting packets which contained the following information Female/Male, Type of Certification, Residence, and Highest Degree Held.

Cafeteria Deficit

Mrs. Browne presented the Cafeteria Deficit. The BPS café has ended the FY20 fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$450,000. The comptroller's office is recommending that we address the deficit with surplus funds at this time. Should we receive any relief from various funding sources such as FEMA. The City will credit our account accordingly. Mrs. Browne read the motion for commissioners:

That the Board of Education make a formal request to the City Comptroller's Office to transfer three-hundred seventy-nine thousand, five hundred and thirty-two dollars (\$379,532) from the BOE General Fund Surplus to balance the Cafeteria Fund Deficit. This action will result in a FY20 surplus balance of one million three-hundred ninety-three thousand seven-hundred and two dollars (\$1,393,702).

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

Approval of the **Cafeteria Deficit PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

CURRICULUM REVISION

K-5 Science Curriculum - Revised - Second Reading

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the revised **K-5 Science Curriculum PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Language and Culture Curriculum - Second Reading

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

Approval of the **Language and Culture Curriculum PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

AP Principles of Computer Science - Second Reading

Following a motion by Christopher Wilson and a second by Eric Carlson a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **AP Principles of Computer Science PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Introduction to Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) - Second Reading

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Introduction to Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 50 - Second Reading

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 50 PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 100 - Second Reading

Following a motion by Karen Vibert and a second by Kristen Giantonio a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) 100 PASSED** with nine (9) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wadowski, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Meteorology - New - First Reading

The Connecticut adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, along with the requirement of administration of the Connecticut Next Generation Science Assessment, necessitated a revision to our high school science core and elective curriculum. Meteorology is an elective course (0.5 credit) that provides students access to additional NGSS standards while engaging in rich learning around meteorology. This course encapsulates three dimensional learning that will allow students to actively engage with scientific practices and apply crosscutting concepts in order to deepen their understanding of Core Ideas in order to explain phenomena and solve problems. Students in this course learn meteorology by developing an understanding of the multiple factors that lead to weather patterns, weather formation, and climate. The major topics of study include: Solar radiation, atmospheric moisture and stability, precipitation, air pressure and circulation, air masses and fronts, and changing climates. This course embeds multiple hands-on and virtual lab experiences to enhance their knowledge and class experience. Students will be expected to maintain a detailed and scientific weather journal, as well as research weather and climate events and share their findings through projects, models, written and/or oral reports and presentations.

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the October agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Oceanography - New - First Reading

The Connecticut adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, along with the requirement of administration of the Connecticut Next Generation Science Assessment, necessitated a revision to our high school science core and elective curriculum. Oceanography is an elective course (0.5 credit) that provides students access to additional NGSS standards while engaging in rich learning around oceanography. This course encapsulates three dimensional learning that will allow students to actively engage with scientific practices and apply crosscutting concepts in order to deepen their understanding of Core Ideas in order to explain phenomena and solve problems. This course views oceanography as a science from four different perspectives: Biological, Chemical, Physical, and Geological. Through each perspective students will build an understanding of ocean zones, coastlines, and marine life; biogeochemical cycles; physical factors including-salinity, temperature; ocean floor, plate tectonics, boundaries, earthquakes, volcanoes, and trenches; waves, tides, thermohaline circulation, and weather; climate change; and human impact. This course embeds multiple hands-on and virtual lab experiences to enhance their knowledge and class experience. Students will be expected to research and share their findings through projects, models, written and/or oral reports and presentations.

Oceanography - New - First Reading – con't

This is the first reading of the Curriculum, it will appear on the October agenda for a vote. In the intervening month, Commissioners may contact Dr. Jaime Rechenberg in the Office of Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Commissioner Wadowski left the meeting. (7:46 p.m.)

POLICY REVISION

Policy 6141.3291 – One-To-One Device Program – New

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by John Sklenka a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Policy 6141.3291 – One-To-One Device Program PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Regulation 6141.3291 – One-To-One Device Program - New

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by John Sklenka a roll call vote was called.

Approval of the **Policy 6141.3291 – One-To-One Device Program FAILED** with four (4) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, and Dube) voting YES and four (4) commissioners (Pons, Sklenka, Vibert and Wilson) voting No.

The regulation will be brought back to the policy committee to review and revise the regulation.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner O'Brien ask that discussion of committee meetings be added to the agenda.

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

Approval of **Adding a discussion of Committee Meetings to the agenda PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

Committee Meetings

Discussion followed regarding offering committee meetings in a hybrid model going forward.

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

Approval of **offering committee meetings in a hybrid model PASSED** with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, O'Brien, Pons, Sklenka, Vibert, Wilson, and Dube) voting YES.

BUILDING REPORTS

Commissioners received an update on the following Building Reports

MBIAMS Update – Dr. Dietter

- Next Meeting Date – September 24, 2020
- Completion Date – Fall 2021

Stafford School – Roof Project – Tim Callahan

- Finished all roofing and insulation

BUILDING REPORTS – con't

South Side – HVAC Project – Tim Callahan

- Finished just in time; most pumps have been install in the boiler room

Northeast Middle School – Tim Callahan

- The final punch list items will be addressed tomorrow (9/10/20)

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Pons shared information regarding Chippens Hill Middle School

Commissioner Giantonio shared information regarding West Bristol School.

Commissioner Vibert shared information regarding South Side School.

Councilman Kelley shared the retirement of Officer Peter Sassu as the Resource Office at Bristol Eastern.

Chair Dube shared information regarding BECC and Mountain View school.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting should be adjourned. (8:40 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

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Executive Secretary to the Board of Education