



Student Achievement Committee  
January 17, 2024  
MINUTES - DRAFT

*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [January 17, 2024 SAC Meeting Recording](#)*

PRESENT: Committee members: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Maria Simmons (zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine Carbone, Michael Dietter, Carly Fortin, Sara Hale (zoom), Michael Higgins, Jaime Rechenberg, Azra Redzic, Jillian Romann (zoom), Dante Tagariello (zoom), Melanie Vetrano (zoom), Leszek Ward

Call to Order

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Decision: Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2023 meeting:

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to approve the September 20, 2023 minutes.**

Decision: Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2023 meeting:

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to approve the October 18, 2023 minutes.**

Decision: Student Achievement Calendar of Meeting Dates

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to approve the 2024 Student Achievement Calendar of Meeting Dates.**

Decision: Program of Studies

Mr. Michael Higgins, principal of Bristol Eastern High School, presented the new Program of Studies platform. The platform, which has undergone significant improvements, now provides a user-friendly interface for planning a successful high school experience. Key features include planning tools for various courses, Spanish versions of documents, and detailed course descriptions categorized by department.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Program of Studies to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Theater Behind the Scenes:

Mr. Kenneth Bagley, Supervisor of Fine Arts, presented the new BAIMS course, Theater Behind the Scenes. This course will be a high school course and include 7 units: Introduction to Theater Production, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Sound Design, Production Team Design, and Technical Theater Practicum.

Discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Theater Behind the Scenes curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Advanced Acting:

Mr. Bagley presented the new BAIMS course, Advanced Acting. This course will be a high school course and include 3 units: Acting Fundamentals, The Masters of Acting Methods, and Applications in Performance.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Advanced Acting curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Murals:

Mr. Bagley presented the new BAIMS course, Murals. This course will be a high school course and include 7 units: Design and Composition, Scaling and Perspective, Murals Art History, Creative Lettering, Influential Street Art, Proposal Writing, Public Mural Making.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Murals curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Soundtrack Production:

Mr. Bagley presented the new BAIMS course, Soundtrack Production. This course will be a high school course and include 4 units: Soundtrack Analysis, Sound Effects, Vocal Recording, and Film Scoring.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Soundtrack Production curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Entrepreneurship:

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor, highlighted recent efforts in revamping pathways and ensuring coherence among courses, leading to the removal of the Small Business Ownership course and replacing it with Entrepreneurship. Dr. Rechenberg detailed the robust learning targets and success criteria in the curriculum, offering students a college-level experience. She mentioned the course's focus on developing a comprehensive business plan and the culminating task of a business plan presentation.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Entrepreneurship curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Decision: Architectural Concepts:

Dr. Rechenberg discussed the decision to revise the Architectural Concepts course, combining two older courses (Architectural Design and Architectural Concepts) for efficiency. She highlighted the benefits of the revision in opening up more sections in Project Lead the Way Architecture. Dr. Rechenberg detailed the course structure, emphasizing the culminating task of developing an architectural model.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Giantonio and seconded by Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Fitzsimons called for a Roll Call Vote.*

*Following the Roll Call Vote, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Architectural Concepts curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.**

Information: Update on K-3 Reading Waiver:

Mrs. Azra Redzic, Elementary Humanities Supervisor, provided an update on the Right to Read legislation and Bristol Public School's submission of a waiver request. The Bristol Public School curriculum received a positive disposition, meeting expectations in fluency, phonics, and vocabulary. Feedback received from the State Department of Education praised the purposeful transfer of skills, user-friendly design, and incorporation of diverse texts in the curriculum. The waiver response is a transitional rating. Mrs. Redzic discussed the next steps, including the need to provide a scope and sequence for vocabulary and comprehension.

Questions and discussion followed.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fitzsimons- Bula adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katlyne Laprise*  
Katlyne Laprise

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