

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Regular Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link -

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/yTsRM2u16WWG6K0oo7cA1--DoosJoFG8Cp56qrfccjQdCZVtEN6mKfdh8N2KnNk8.CDUbuO7gmKvKMbDm?startTime=1757544200000> Passcode: qH3n^b%6

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00pm in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons – Bula, Russel Anderson, Lorianne Osenkowski, Dante Tagariello, and Jennifer Van Gorder

ABSENT: Commissioner Eric Carlson, Commissioner Kristen Giantonio and Commissioner Maria Simmons

ALSO, PRESENT: Iris White, Superintendent, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 6, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the August 6, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Shelby Pons and seconded by Dante Tagariello. Passed Unanimously with five (5) votes with Commissioner Ozenkowski, Van Gorder, Simmons, Fitzsimons-Bula and Chair Pons

August 13, 2025 – Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the August 13, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes as written

Motion made by Shelby Pons and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Passed Unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance and Operations Committee – Commissioner Carlson was absent, report was moved to next month

Policy Committee – Commissioner Fitzsimmons- Bula reported that the committee met on August 27th. Three policies were moved forward to the full board for consideration and approval and will further discussed in the agenda

Student Achievement - Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula reported that the committee met on August 1st and discussed about eight items that are on the agenda. Office of Teaching and Learning shared that they will be called the Curriculum and Instructional Services

Safety Committee – Commissioner Osenkowski reported that the committee met on August 20th . Mr. Cabelus provided safety updated and discussed safety training, bus safety, visitor management within all BPS buildings, the hiring process of staff

School, Family and Community Partnership- Commissioner Simmons was absent, report was moved to next month

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Central

Bristol Central Senior Representative Amelia Browne presented the monthly Bristol Central Student Representative report. Highlights of her report included the importance of seniors helping freshmen acclimate to a new school and encouraging them to sign up for clubs early to get involved. Juniors are also starting their own clubs and taking on leadership roles in student council, dance team, debate team, and many more activities offered at Central. The Bristol Central Theater Department will be performing Little Shop of Horrors and Guys and Dolls. Bristol Central High School also extends congratulations to Mr. Troche, their new vice principal.

Bristol Eastern

Bristol Eastern Senior Representative Paige Ansah presented the monthly Bristol Eastern Student Representative report. Highlights of Paige's report included focusing on the transition back to school and upcoming activities. On August 9, Bristol Eastern had a very successful senior sunrise, which many seniors attended and was sponsored by Aroma Jones. Freshmen are slowly adjusting to high school life and learning to navigate the hallways. The homeroom schedule for the 2025–2026 school year has gone back to every day instead of having Blue Crew on Wednesday. They now have a quick homeroom on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, then Blue Crew on Wednesday, where a small activity is usually planned. This adjustment has received lots of positive feedback from students, especially Lancer Nation mentors, since they are able to see and get to know their freshmen homeroom better. Bristol Eastern's Club Fair is coming up this Friday, September 12, 2025. This event will be held in the courtyard, and students will have the opportunity to explore the various clubs. Bristol Eastern's football team has their first home game of the season this Friday, September 12, 2025, against Guilford High. Bristol Eastern's band will also be performing their show, Music from Sing, at halftime. Homecoming is Saturday, October 18, and this year the Student Council is already hard at work planning. Ticket sales begin the week of Monday, October 13. They will open to upperclassmen first, and then any leftover tickets will be made available to underclassmen. She ended her report with a bittersweet announcement: The Assistant Principal of Bristol Eastern will be leaving to join Simsbury High School.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Pons shared that her report was really about three things: perseverance, strength, and gratitude. She said that over the past few months, despite the budget challenges, the Bristol school community has shown how strong and committed it is. Teachers, staff, and leaders have stepped up in many ways, some moved into leadership roles, some returned to the classroom, and others took on extra responsibilities to make sure students are supported while the budget is balanced. She noted that the budget cuts have affected both classrooms and programs like physical education, but stressed that this does not mean there is a lack of commitment. Instead, it shows the reality of underfunding and how the staff continues to stay dedicated to giving students the best education possible. She thanked the leadership team for their resilience, patience, and compassionate guidance, which has helped everyone get through this difficult time.

She also said the first few weeks of school have been full of positive energy, with staff, students, and parents saying the year is off to a strong start because of the teamwork and passion of everyone involved. Pons took time to thank the district's coaches for all they do, not just coaching, but also mentoring, fundraising, and advocating for students. She said athletes themselves have shared how much being part of a team and having supportive coaches helps them with confidence, motivation, and a sense of belonging. Because of the financial challenges affecting the athletic budget, the board has been working on revising fundraising policies to make sure all students can access uniforms, equipment, and opportunities to compete, no matter the city's financial situation. She thanked Superintendent White and Athletic Director Cera for making sure these changes are done transparently and in full compliance with the law.

Finally, Pons expressed her heartfelt thanks to parents and families for volunteering, joining booster clubs, and often helping cover expenses to make sure all students are included. She said their generosity and partnership with staff truly make a difference in creating schools where students can feel supported and successful. She ended by reminding everyone that through perseverance, strength, and teamwork, the community is building schools that Bristol can be proud of.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent began her report by reflecting on the recent tragedy involving Mr. Kirk. She shared a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. about learning to disagree without being "violently disagreeable," and reminded everyone of the importance of being positive role models for students, even in difficult conversations. She clarified that Julian Roman had resigned rather than retired and noted that the elementary humanities supervisor position has been posted. She also thanked teachers, administrators, and staff for helping the school year get off to such a positive start, pointing out the welcoming atmosphere in the schools and the excitement of students performing at the State Department of Education's back-to-school event. Unfortunately, Superintendent Iris White was not able to attend but students were very inspiring at the Department of Education back to school event.

Superintendent Iris White then spoke about her priorities for the year, which focus on student voice, equity, and community engagement. She shared plans to launch a Student Advisory Council, begin "Coffee with the Superintendent" gatherings starting September 26, and partner with Prudence Crandall to support student wellness and healthy relationships. She also mentioned an upcoming visit from Chinese educators in October who will be observing classrooms and meeting with students. Finally, she addressed

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT-cont'd

questions about middle school band, explaining that while the band elective was cut, the district was able to fund a part-time teacher so students can still have lessons and meet monthly for band practice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent agenda, which include items from 7.1.a-7.1.g

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1 PERSONNEL

7.1.a Administrative Hire- Effective September 11, 2025

Bond, Jodi – BoE-Director of Finance

The Board of Education voted to accept the Administrative Hire – Effective September 11, 2025

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.b Administrative Resignations

DeLeo, Kristine - EPH - Principal - Effective September 10, 2025

Redman, Scott - BEHS - Assistant Principal - Effective September 13, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Administrative Resignations

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.c Teacher Resignations

Ahern, Cindy - MTV - Grade 2 Teacher - Effective August 22, 2025

Haseltine, Rachel - Edgewood PreK - PreK Special Education Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

McAllen, Rosalie - BEHS - Guidance - Effective August 13, 2025

Turner, Eric - WB - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 21, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Teacher Resignations

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.d New Teacher Hires

Abrams, Nicole - WB - Grade 8 Math Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

Atchison, Kaylee - WB - Grade 8 Science Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

Chavez, Christiano - CHMS - Grade 7 Science Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

Jordan, Laura - ID - Special Education Teacher - Effective September 3, 2025

7.1.d New Teacher Hires -cont'd

Lee, Cheyenne - WB - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 27, 2025
Leitao, Kayla - CHMS - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025
McGuire, Riley - CHMS - Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025
Morrissey, Emily - BEHS - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025
Steszewski, Craig - BAIMS - Grade 8 Math Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025
Tompkins, Richard - EPH - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025
Zaprzalka, Samantha - BCHS - CTE - Business Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the New Teacher Hires

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.e A2 Resignation – Effective August 29, 2025

Maust, Andrew - CHMS - .5 Head Drama

The Board of Education voted to accept the Resignation – Effective August 29, 2025

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.f. A2 Hire- Effective September 2, 2025

D'Agostino, Silvio - CHMS - Head Drama

The Board of Education voted to accept A-2 Hire – Effective September 2, 2025

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder timestamp 34.24) and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

7.1.g Teacher Leave of Absence Requests

Bazarewsky, Olivia - ID - TESOL Teacher - Effective September 1, 2025 through August 24, 2026
O'Dea, Marisa - ID/SS - Literacy IST - Effective September 16, 2025 through November 3, 2025
Sokolowski, Christine - MTV - Grade 1 Teacher - Effective November 17, 2025 through January 1, 2026
Tramontanis, Brittany - WB - Grade 3 Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025 through February 23, 2026

The Board of Education voted to accept Teacher Leave of Absence Requests

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski . Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Pons read the Public Comment rules to the audience.

Grace Regally spoke about concerns of no longer having a band class in her School.
Kristen Bevins addresses the issue of removing Band Class from Greene hills and West Bristol.

PUBLIC COMMENT – cont'd

Jocelyn Benoit supports the decrease of the gym requirements for high school graduation as well as questioning budgets for theater.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

New Teacher Hiring Overview for 2025-2026 School Year

Joe Grabowski, Chief Officer of Talent Management, presents the New Teacher Hiring Overview for 2025-2026. Joe states Bristol has about twelve new teachers as of September 10, 2025. This is an annual report shared every September. Eight individuals are currently being onboarded and expected to start within a week.

Edgewood PK Renovation vs Targeted Alteration

The Edgewood Building Committee met on August 25th. The Building Committee voted to move forward with the renovation as a new project. The building committee is requesting the BoE to accept the renovation status vote to approve the Edgewood Project as a Renovation Project and to seek the additional funding approval of \$12M from the Board of Finance and the City's Joint Board. Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Dante Tagariello. Motion Failed. A special meeting will be held later this month of September 2025 to revisit the vote with the full board present.

Carlson: Absent

Giantonio: Absent

Simmons: Absent

Anderson: Nay

Fitzsimons-Bula: Yea

Osenkowski: Nay

Pons: Yea

Tagariello: Yea

Van Gorder: Nay

Appoint BoE Commissioner to the BCHS Roof Replacement Project Committee

In order to form a building committee, the BOE, City Council, and BOF need to appoint a member. These three members make up the nominating committee which nominates the remainder committee members. The Board of Education appointed a BOE commissioner to the BCHS Roof Replacement Project committee.

Pupil Personnel Services Report

Amy Martino presented the monthly Pupil Services Report. Mrs. Martino reported that as of August 1st 2025, 1,739 of the 7,898 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education Programming. As of September 1, 2025, shifting to 1,760 enrolled Bristol students. This enrollment reflects 22.30% of the total BPS student population. As of September 1st, 119 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 99 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of August 2025, 30.2% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration; 1 student received them

Pupil Personnel Services Report - cont'd

programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of August, 8 students required an in-district program, and 4 students required 1:1 adult support. We are currently in the process of creating another program classroom. During the month of July, there were 5 211 calls and 0 911 calls. Mrs. Martino also shared a report about the Special Education Budget Update. As of August, and September 1, has spent more than planned on the Extended School Year program. The extended school year is over budget. What's accounting for that: \$98,864 of the dollars are coming from professional services, and those are all of our out-of-district related services. As well \$52,000 was over budget for our teacher line and then \$10,726 in our paraeducator line. Some of that was due to some of the contract changes.

CURRICULUM REVISION

Accounting 1 - Curriculum Revision

Laura Lanza presented that Accounting 1 is articulated dual enrollment with Tunxis Community College. Students first exposed to what an accounting workbook is the purpose and functions of a general ledger, and overview of the full accounting cycle. Students began the course with the general ledger and accounting worksheet without having a true understanding of debits, credits, checking accounts, reconciliation, bank statements and petty cash. Therefore, this revision builds on those foundational pieces in Units 1 and 3. Some flex time was also built in, so that there could be some interdisciplinary connections to math and ensure a deep understanding of this foundational course. There're some teacher actions related to designing collaborative activities, incorporating real world contexts, some visuals and examples for students and some student choice as well. Appreciation was expressed for Lori Roberge and Sharon Jakes for collaborating on this curriculum. They were intentional in their planning for this course to ensure alignment with Intro to Business and Accounting 2.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Accounting 1- Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously

Grade 6 Math Curriculum Revision

Laura Lanza presented illustrative math has revised their K-8 curricula, called version 360. This revision focuses on Units 1 through 7. Unit 8 is visited at the end of the year, and then finished in high school in our Geometry and Statistics course. Teachers feedback about pacing and ensuring that there's flex time to respond to students and provide extra practice. In each unit, the relevant information from the illustrative math teacher materials has been pulled out to align to our curriculum document. Makes it easier for teachers to find suggested ways to support all students, rather than digging through teacher materials online or hard copy. Appreciation was expressed to the 2024-25 Grade 6 Math Teachers and former instructional math coaches for taking such a deep and reflective dive into the new curriculum.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Grade 6 Math - Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Seconded by Lorianne Osenkowski. Motion passed unanimously

Marketing 1 – Curriculum Revision

Laura Lanza presented Marketing 1 as part of the marketing pathway falling between Intro to Business and Marketing 2, with entrepreneurship as the suggested final course of the pathway. Marketing 2 has been previously revised and now Marketing 1 is following that up. The Marketing One pathway equips students with the skills to operate school-based enterprises, such as a school store or a “spirit box” vending machine. Students lead marketing campaigns, conduct market research, and gain experience in business operations. The curriculum emphasizes transferable skills aligned with the district’s vision of the graduate, focusing on decision-making, market analysis, profit and branding, communication, and relationship-building across five units. Lessons include support for multilingual learners and differentiated engagement strategies. Appreciation was expressed to former teacher Heather Sweeney for developing the Marketing sequence and to Brittany Macari for creating the Marketing One curriculum and researching the spirit box initiative to provide students with hands-on, real-world learning opportunities.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Grade 6 Math - Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Lorianne Osenkowski and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passes unanimously

Civics Curriculum Revision

Leszek Ward presented a revised Civics curriculum. This is a required course and a semester-long course for graduation. It’s a semester-long course open to 10th through 12th graders. It was last revised in 2014. The goal of the revisions was to align the course to the revised social studies standards, which have been driving a lot of the revisions in social studies curricula. Leszek Ward considered potential resources, textbooks or other open educational resources that we could use for the class. To increase opportunities for the study of current events and civic participation, and build meaningful, engaging culinary agendas. The Student Achievement Committee reviewed some changes including the changes to the unit structure as the following. Unit 1 explores the foundations of democracy. Unit 2 explores the structures of the federal government, looking at the structure’s powers, and some challenges or issues related to each branch of the government. Unit 3 looks at public participation. Unit 4 focuses on a couple different policy case studies. The Student Achievement Committee also took a look at becoming a project, which is a policy paper that students write in stages over the course of the semester. Students can choose a topic/issue that they want to research and learn about. Appreciation was expressed to Sarah Hertzler, Buntz Ray, and Jeff Fleischman for their hard work to revise the course.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Civics Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passes unanimously

Intro to Criminology SCSU Curriculum

Leszek Ward presented a new course for students. This course serves as the capstone in a new criminal justice pathway. Students have the opportunity to pursue that interest through both a foundational elective and then a college credit bearing class; a dual enrollment course offered through Southern Connecticut State University. Introduces students to the study of crime from a sociological perspective. Focuses

Intro to Criminology SCSU Curriculum -cont'd

heavily on various theories that have developed over to explain criminal behavior and how those theories can inform client issues and informs. The second unit of Theories of Criminology, the intellectual core of this class that carries all the way through after they're introduced to nearly two. This course is open to grades 11 and 12. It's a half credit in Bristol Public Schools because it's a semester long elective, but students can earn 3 credits at Southern Connecticut State University for successfully completing the course. Appreciation was expressed to Nate Jandreau, Alyssa Nugent, and faculty liaison at Southern Connecticut State University.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Intro to Criminology SCSU Curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passes unanimously

Latin 1 Curriculum Revision

Leszek Ward presents Latin 1 Curriculum revision. The Latin 1 curriculum was last updated in 2006 . The goal of this revision is to update the curriculum using the current template, specifying learning targets and success criteria. As well review and align to anticipated updates to core resources. Appreciation was expressed to Katy Reddick and Kelly Monahan- Dinoia for their experience and collaboration.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Latin 1 - Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by X and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula . Motion passes unanimously

Model United Nations Curriculum

Leszek Ward presents a new course. This course was not previously offered at Bristol Public School. Model United Nations is a semester – long elective, students examine the structure, history and function of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Unit 1 is the introduction of the United Nations. Unit 2 Preparing Position Papers and lastly Unit 3 Simulated Committee. The goal of the course is to expand opportunities to the Model United Nation experience and generate interest in club participation. Appreciation expressed for John Stavens for his guidance and expertise in Model UN.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Model United Nations – Curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. 5-1, with Commissioner Anderson voting no. Motion passes unanimously

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Criminology Textbook Approval

Leszek Ward presented a new textbook adoption for Intro to Criminology Southern Connecticut State University. Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction, 10th Edition, 2021 textbook is used and recommended by Southern Connecticut State University Sociology Department. This textbook is identified as a core resource in the curriculum. Leszek states that they have dual enrollment grant funding for the purchase of the textbook.

Criminology Textbook Approval-cont'd

The Board of Education voted to approve the Criminology Textbook as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Lorianne Osenkowski. Motion passes unanimously

POLICY REVISION

Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements – Revision

The physical education requirement for Bristol Public Schools is being reduced from 2.0 credits to 1.0 credits for high school students. Connecticut law requires only one credit of physical education and one credit of health for graduation from high school.

The Board of Education voted to approve the revision to Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Revision - Policy 6145.2 - Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

Based on the adjustment to the graduation requirement for PE and Wellness for juniors and seniors, the athletic academic eligibility policy would also need to be revised. Previously, the policy required juniors and seniors to be enrolled in 5.5 academic credits plus 0.5 credits of PE. Now, juniors and seniors would be required to be enrolled in 5 credits total. This was approved by the Policy Committee on 8/27/25.

The Board of Education voted to approve the revisions to Policy 6145.2 - Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously

Discussion/Revision - Policy 6141.51 - Advanced Courses or Programs Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment

This policy is one of ten mandated updates from the 2022–2023 school year, and it's now being brought to the board as item number eight. The committee reviewed the policy and made two small changes: they revised wording in a paragraph about minority student representation in advanced courses without changing its intent, and they added parents and guardians to the list of people who can recommend students for honors classes.

That the Board of Education vote to approve Policy 6141.51 - Advanced Courses or Programs Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment with the suggested revisions

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder, Seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the board

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Council Liaison Erick Rosengren gives an update on the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative. Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative partnered with Bristol Fire Department to bring two students to their first day of kindergarten.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. (8.40 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shina Shoubah".

Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education