

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: [November 1, 2023 Regular Meeting](#).

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Shelby Pons, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello, and Chair Jennifer Dube;

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent and Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Dube called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Dube ask the audience to join her in a moment of silence for Gertrude Wedler a Teacher at Ellen P. Hubbell, Clara T. O'Connell, and Memorial Boulevard Middle School.

MEETING NORMS

Chair Dube read the meeting norms into the record.

STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board of Education recognized the following staff and students:

Bristol Central High School Teachers – Gina Gallo, Sarah Lindstrom, and Steve Troche for their upcoming presentation at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) National Conference 2023. Sarah Lindstrom and Steve Troche were in the audience and Gina Gallo was virtual. They shared the topic of the presentation at the conference.

First Lego League After-School Programs – Jillian Roman shared information regarding the First Lego League After-School Programs being offered to 8 teams of students in grades K-5.

Newly Appointed Student Representatives – Bristol Central Junior – Abigail Wasta and Bristol Eastern Junior – Peyton Troth. Dr. Carbone introduced the two junior representatives Abigail and Peyton were both in the audience and addressed the Board briefly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 4, 2023 – Regular Meeting

On a motion by Eric Carlson, seconded by Kristen Giantonio;

There was a brief discussion regarding a public comment topic listing.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes as written.

October 24, 2023 – Special BoE Meeting – Executive Session Minutes

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Eric Carlson;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the October 24, 2023, Special BoE Meeting – Executive Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Simmons abstained.

October 25, 2023 – Special Meeting – Meet & Greet Minutes

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons,

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the October 24, 2023, Special Meeting – Meet and Greet Minutes as written. Commissioner Carlson abstained.

October 25, 2023 – Special BoE Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons,

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the October 24, 2023 Special BoE Meeting Minutes as written. Commissioner Carlson abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication Meeting

Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met and reviewed family engagement, and school activities for October. The committee reviewed the extracurricular activities that are offered districtwide to get an idea of what students have an opportunity to participate in. The committee discussed FOI rules regarding board member communications by email and text. The committee was unable to finish all the agenda items, they will be discussed at the next meeting.

Policy Committee

Commissioner Pons reported that the committee met and discussed Policy 1230 on Recess. The committee looked at the current legislation, the BPS policy, and the core policy from CAFE and did a comparison. The committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting. The committee also looked at all of the policies that would need to be changed in order to allow alcohol sales to happen at the BAIMS theater. There was a discussion about the City Charter needing to be changed in order for the policies to be changed. The board asked for more advice on how to best move forward with this, and those conversations will continue at the next meeting. The committee had to table the remainder of the items which we will continue at the next meeting.

Student Achievement

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on Wednesday, October 18th, and discussed two curriculum revisions, which the board will hear more about this evening. The first curriculum was Algebra 2 and the second curriculum revision was Middle School English Language Arts. The committee voted to move both items to the full board for approval.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Central High School

BCHS Senior Student Representative, Isabel Paolino reported on Bristol Central High School for the month of October. Highlights of her report included the girls' soccer and volleyball teams both qualified for the State tournament. In addition, the girls' volleyball team competed in the first round of the CCC's. Women's Dive won their home meet last week, and both girls' and boys' cross country have concluded their seasons. BC had Spirit Week leading up to homecoming, and students dressed in fun outfits in preparation for the dance. All grades attended the dance, and it was a great experience for everyone. This past month Bristol Central had an Italian Exchange program be part of Ramly. For a week the exchange students got to visit Boston, New York City, and they received a tour around Bristol. They had the chance to sit through a typical school day to see what schooling in America is truly like. The Italian students were able to experience our school homecoming, where they all had a blast. In March, students at Bristol Central, participating in the exchange program will fly to Italy to visit them. The Interact club members participated in the walk to end Alzheimer's, where \$88,000 was raised for research and treatment. They also participated in the Mum-a-thon and a dinner at the senior center. The Interact Powder Puff football teams have already started practicing, with the money raised to be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation. Bristol Central had a ceremony and dedication of Mia Giantonio's Healing Garden. The Voice for

Change program funded Mia's garden for our school. It is a nice addition to the school. This week, seniors have started submitting their college applications for the November 1st deadline. Seniors have the opportunity to take advantage of the free application submission to all Connecticut State schools.

Bristol Eastern High School

BEHS Senior Student Representative, Rita Gao shared that October was a busy month at Bristol Eastern. Highlights from the report included, homecoming was a blast for almost 400 students. They are now getting ready for the annual pep rally with Student Council working hand in hand with cheerleaders for this exciting day. The PSATs were hosted during the month for grades 9, 10, and 11 and the SATs were hosted as well. A few weeks ago, an author came to talk about his book "I Have Anxiety, So What". He talked about strategies that help battle anxiety and depression, and how to make healthy choices and build healthy relationships. Students really enjoyed his presentation in the way he delivered his message with sports. There are major fall sports updates as many sports are starting to come to an end. For the first time in 20 years, boys' cross country won the city championship, while, it is the first time in 6 to 7 years that girls won their city's championship. However, we can't even remember the last time both girls and boys won in the same year. Football has been going great with a current record of 5-2, needing only to win 3 more games to advance to the States. Volleyball has also been doing amazing; Girls' soccer lost to Central during their senior night. Boys soccer battled BC boys to a tie in an exciting game. The fall sports banquet will be held on November 13th. Clubs are now in full action, with DECCA already planning for competitions. Model UN has been fundraising like crazy for the conferences in New York in the spring, and the Diversity Club is already meeting to discuss the annual culture day.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dube gave her final Chair Report, as this evening will be her final Board of Education meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Highlights of her report include budget workshops scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th, and Tuesday, January 24th with snow dates on Thursday, January 18th, and Thursday, January 26th. Reminder to our 5th-grade families who may be interested in attending our arts and Innovation magnet school. Principal McCabe will be visiting grade 5 classrooms in the month of November, with the lottery beginning the first week of December. The Battle of the Bell is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd at 10:30 a.m. at Muzzy Field. Lastly, hot off the press, as this information was embargoed as of about 4 o'clock today. We have three schools of distinction, Dr. Carbone described the various distinctions that each school received and congratulated Ivy Drive, Mountain View, and South Side Schools for their well-deserved accomplishments. Dr. Carbone also recognized the Office of Teaching and Learning for their work in ensuring that our students are achieving at high levels.

Dr. Carbone recognized Chair Dube for her 5-year tenure on the Board of Education. Chair Dube was presented with the traditional Blue BoE glass apple, a book donation in her name to her liaison schools (West Bristol, Mountain View, and BAIMS), and a framed print of BAIMS.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dube called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Items 8.1.a through 8.2.a.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

PERSONNEL

8.1.a. Teacher Resignations

DiLonardo, Rachel - CHMS - Special Education Teacher effective October 16, 2023

Leonard, Brittany - EDGE PreK - PreK Special Education Teacher effective October 23, 2023

Welsh-Stephenson - Vanessa - CHMS - Special Education Teacher effective October 20, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to accept the Teacher Resignations as written.

8.1.b. New Teacher Hires

Alston, Kaitlin - STAF - Kindergarten Teacher effective October 3, 2023

Dixon, Sharon - WB - Library Media Specialist effective November 13, 2023

Latko, Eliza - WB - Physical Education and Health Teacher effective October 23, 2023

Leonard, Brittany - EDGE PK - PreK Special Education Teacher effective October 16, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the New Teacher Hires as written.

8.1.c. A-1 Hire – Effective August 31, 2023

Costa, John - BAIMS - Grade 8 Team Leader

Germain, Eileen - CHMS - Purple Team Leader

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the A-1 Hires as written.

8.1.d. Tenure Attainment – Effective September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Tenure Attainment [listing](#) as written.

8.2.a. ARPA - Summer Mental Health Supports Grant

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Shelby Pons;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the ARPA Summer Mental Health Supports Grant as written.

9.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dube read the Public Comment Rules into the record.

Noreen Milbrandt – 197 King Street – Addressed the Board regarding Bus/School Transportation

Allison Wadowski – 111 Fleetwood Road – Addressed the Board regarding the Board Chair

10. DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

10.1. October 1 Enrollment Report

Dr. Culkin presented the October 1 Enrollment Report. It was noted that where available the report includes a comparison, of student enrollment from October 1, 2023 to October 1, 2022. At the time the report was prepared there were 8,091 students enrolled in Bristol Public Schools, compared to last year's overall student enrollment of 8,188. Dr. Culkin walked Commissioners through a breakdown of student enrollment numbers on the newly formatted report. There were no questions following the presentation.

10.2. Special Services Report

Amy Martino, Special Services Director presented the monthly Special Services Report. As of October 1st, 780 of the 8,069 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring special education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.1% of the total BPS student population. As of October 1st, 121 students with disabilities require out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There are 74 students requiring special

education, programming, and services at other public out-of-district schools, that would include magnet schools. During the month of September, 3% of the newly registered students were identified as students requiring special education programming. None of the newly enrolled students, during the month of September, received their services at out-of-district programs. During the month of September, there were nineteen (19) 211 calls and twelve (12) 911 calls.

11. CURRICULUM REVISION

11.1. Algebra 2 – Curriculum Revision (Second Reading)

Dr. Rechenberg presented the second reading of the Algebra 2 Curriculum Revision.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Kristen Giantonio.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Algebra 2 Curriculum Revision as presented.

11.2. Middle School ELA Curriculum (Second Reading)

Leszek Ward presented the second reading of the Middle School ELA Curriculum Revision.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello, seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula;

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Middle School ELA Curriculum Revision as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

BUILDING REPORTS

Peter Fusco, Facilities Director provided the monthly building reports.

Chippens Underground Storage Tank – We received state approval to go out to bid on this project. Bids are due back on November 17th.

BAIMS Building Update – No change since last month. Continuing to work through the last few items on the punch list.

NEMS Building Committee Report – The Programming Commission met last month and approved moving the project to P&Z. The design team met with all departments for initial FF&E meetings. The next meeting is November 14th.

ESSER/ARP Building Committee Update – The purchase orders for engineering services have been created. EDM, Loureiro, and VanZelm are the three firms that we are engaging with to create the scope of work for the projects. Kickoff meetings are being scheduled over the next week.

Edgewood Project Update – No Changes – Still waiting for state approval

Culinary Arts Project Updates – No Changes - Still waiting for state approval

Athletic Fields and Site Improvements –The windscreens on the dugouts have arrived and will be installed prior to next season. We are still working with the engineers on potential track repairs

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Osenkowski reported on Ivy Drive School events.

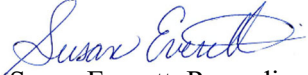
Commissioner Simmons reported on Bristol Eastern and South School events.

Chair Dube provided her final BAIMS liaison report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned. *(8:05 p.m.)*

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Everett, Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

DRAFT