

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**August 5, 2021**  
**Special Board of Education Workshop Meeting Minutes**

A Special Board of Education Workshop was held on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in person at the Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Thomas O'Brien, John Sklenka (virtual) Shelby Pons, Allison Wadowski and Christopher Wilson; Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, Jill Browne, Business Director, Carly Fortin, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Kimberly Culkin, Director of Special Education and Peter Fusco, Facilities Director

**EXCUSED:** Commissioners Kristen Giantonio and Karen Vibert

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Jennifer Dube called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. MEETING NORMS** - Chair Dube read the meeting norms.

**3. PRESENTATION OF ESSER ARP STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMING, AND INNOVATIONS**

Dr. Carbone opened the workshop by explaining that Central Office Leaders will explain how the programs, staffing, and special projects aligned to the priorities outlined in the American Relief Plan and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds. A historical background to the district's application and use of ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER ARP funds were given and Dr. Carbone shared the purpose of the ARP ESSER funds and how it is to support sustained access to full in-person instruction and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of our scholars during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. ARP ESSER funds must be used to support: Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment; Family and Community Connections; Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of Students and School Staff; Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide; and Building Safe and Healthy Schools

Using the five ESSER ARP Priority Areas, Central Office leaders described in detail the suggested uses for utilizing the \$18,229,153 ESSER ARP allocation.

- **Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment;**
  - Project R.E.A.D. - *Reaching Every Student through Acceleration and Diversity*
  - STEM Step Up
  - After School Advantage
  - On the Right Track - Investment in Career Pathways
  - Creative Hearts – Engaging Students through Arts
  - Power Up through Health and Wellness
  - Cultivate Talent
  - Delay Reimagining BPS 2023
  
- **Family and Community Connections;**
  - Embedded In Other Priority Areas
  
- **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of Students and School Staff;**
  - Expanding and Sustaining Programs for SEL
  - District Resource Center for the School Community
  - SEL Summary

- **Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide; and**
  - Network Upgrades and Switches
  - Additional Wireless Access Points (WAPS)
  - Laptop Model Computer for Special Education Staff
  - Cellular Service Boosters
  - Headsets & Earbuds for Remote Instruction/Attendance
  - Enhancing Technology Skills for Staff
  - Enhancing Technology Skills for Parents
  
- **Building Safe and Healthy Schools**
  - Air Conditioned Schools
  - Server Room Air Conditioners
  - Custodial Equipment
  - Portable Air Purifiers
  - Individual School Sitework
  - Districtwide Furniture Needs
  - Additional Bus Routes to Reduce Capacity

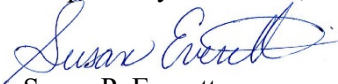
#### 4. DISCUSSION

Commissioners paired up and visited boards displayed in the auditorium, and then indicated their preferred usage of funds. Dr. Carbone shared the preferences of the Board for fund usage. Questions and comments followed regarding the amount of money allotted to family engagement; estimates including inflation; addition of teaching diversity, home visits, a bootcamp for non-English speaking parents together, and upgrade to our current robotics program.

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Chair Dube adjourned the meeting (8:00 p.m.)and

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan P. Everett  
Executive Secretary to the Board of Education