



Student Achievement Committee
September 20, 2023
MINUTES - DRAFT

*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 go to: [SAC Meeting September 20, 2023](#) Passcode: M034gKT**

Present: Catherine Carbone, Eric Carlson, Michael Dietter, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Carly Fortin, Sara Hale, Maria Simmons, Erika Treannie, Jaime Rechenberg, Azra Redzic, Kristy Ricciardone, Jillian Romann, Melanie Vetrano, Leszek Ward

Call to Order

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

Decision: Approval of Minutes from August 30, 2023 meeting:

On a motion made by Commissioner Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to approve the minutes from August 30, 2023.

Report on Summer School Participation:

Mrs. Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, presented information on 2023 Summer School. Elementary had a 35 percent increase in attendees and a drastic increase in the number of days attended compared to 2022.

Middle School also had a great turn out, with most middle school attendees being in grade 8. A new program, Algebra Plus, was offered for students who were recommended to take Algebra in 8th grade. This group was used as part of Bristol's High Quality Instruction- Live professional development this summer.

High school students were also able to take classes this summer for their required credits, including some electives and physical education. Another opportunity Bristol had this summer was a CNA program, where we partnered with Tunxis Community College. Ten students participated in this program this summer and all ten received their certification.

Report on Attendance 22-23:

Mrs. Erika Treannie, Director of Climate, Culture, and Family Engagement, presented information on our attendance throughout the district. Bristol Public Schools had the 6th highest reduction rate of chronic absenteeism out of all public schools in CT. Because of this, Bristol was asked to present at Tuesday Talks and CAPSS to help other school districts reduce their chronic absenteeism as well. Attendance Works will also be publishing an article highlighting Bristol Public Schools.

Questions and discussion followed.

Report on SAT performance 22-23:

Mrs. Carly Fortin presented that Bristol students are meeting the expected growth between administrations of PSAT and SAT. She did, however, report that in both Bristol and at the state level, mean SAT scores of students who were in high school during the pandemic are lower than the average scores pre-pandemic.

Actions we are taking to increase our scores include: strengthening our core curriculum by focusing on curriculum revision and implementation and increasing student engagement with the college planning process and the SAT by possibly offering credit opportunities for SAT preparation activities.

Question and discussion followed.

Report on LAS performance:

Mrs. Azra Redzic, Elementary Humanities Supervisor and Supervisor of TESOL teachers and ML students, presented that the LAS Links is a comprehensive assessment designed to measure English language proficiency in students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. This assessment helps us identify students who require English language support. Mrs. Fortin presented the number of multilingual learners enrolled in Bristol has increased by 15 percent in the last year. Student achievement is partially reflective of a student's English language proficiency this school year.

Mrs. Fortin also presented that Bristol multilingual students have been outgrowing the state of CT's average growth for the past five years on both the oral and the literacy subtests. This past year, we outperformed the state's growth on the oral subtest.

Report on College Career Readiness Enrollment and Achievement 22-23:

Mrs. Carly Fortin presented students who scored a 3 or higher on the AP exams have been at its highest in the past five years for both Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern. One-third of our AP courses have a pass rate that is greater than 75 percent. The achievement percentage at Bristol Eastern is greater than the state average. Overall, due to College Career Pathways and Dual-Enrollment, enrollment in AP classes is decreasing, while achievement in AP classes is increasing.

Grant-Funded Family Engagement:

Mrs. Carly Fortin presented that this upcoming school year, all elementary, K-8, and middle schools in Bristol will be considered Title I schools. Previously, these funds have been used to support the Family Resource Center and many family events throughout the year. Other federal grants we have received also fund family engagement in Bristol. These are: McKinney-Vento- Homeless Assistance (funds 3 homeless family liaisons), Title IV (funds 4 family liaisons), ESSER II (2 bilingual family liaisons), ESSER ARP (funded Family Partnership Activities) and Adult Education PEP Grant for Family Literacy (funds parent education classes enrolled in Adult Education).

A lengthy discussion on a state statute was originated by a question from a Commissioner. Dr. Michael Dietter called a point of order due to the fact that the item was not on the Student Achievement Committee Agenda.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fitzsimons- Bula adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katlyne Laprise
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