

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: [March 1, 2023 Meeting Recording](#) **Passcode: C8g*U%2R**

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

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

PRESENT: Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Kristen Giantonio, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Shelby Pons, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello, and Jennifer Dube; **ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent and Jolene Lusitani, Council Liaison (virtual)

EXCUSED: Commissioners Russell Anderson and Todd Sturgeon

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MEETING NORMS

Chair Dube called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for The Pledge of Allegiance. Chair asked to observe a moment of silence for Edith (Hummel) Frechette a Teacher at John J. Jennings from September 1963 to June 1969 and a Substitute Teacher from May 1978 to August 2004.

Chair Dube read the meeting norms into the record.

CABE - Bonnie B. Carney Communications Award Presentation

CABE established the Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications in 1975 recognizing that effective communication with parents and taxpayers in a school district is critical to daily operations and increasing community involvement and support of schools. In 2016 the award was renamed in honor of longtime CABE staff member Bonnie B. Carney. CABE Board of Directors Member Lydia Tedone was in attendance to present the Bristol BoE with the Newsletter Award given to districts with over 5000 families.

Board Member Appreciation Month

March is Board Member Appreciation Month. Dr. Carbone thanked the board on behalf of the staff, families and students of Bristol Public Schools. Dr. Carbone recognized the crucial role board members play in our community. Dr. Carbone thanked board members for their commitment to the youth of Bristol and advocacy to ensure our schools remain a pathway to a promising future. The success of our community is inextricably linked to its investments in education and its youth. Thank you for giving of yourself to serving on a board of education, a hallmark of American society!

STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION – The Board recognized the following staff members:

Emily Gomes - Ivy Drive - 2023 Neag School Alumni Award Winner - 2023 Outstanding School Administrator

The Neag School of Education at UCONN and its Alumni Board announced annual awards for Alumni within the field of education and educational leadership. Of the eight honorees for this year's awards, Emily Gomes has been recognized as the 2023 Outstanding School Administrator. The formal ceremony will take place at the Neag School's 25th Annual Alumni Awards Celebration on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Dr. Sam Galloway - Recognition of Service

This evening was Dr. Galloway's last official Board of Education meeting as the Director of Talent management. In a few short weeks, Dr. Galloway will begin serving as the Superintendent of Somers Public Schools. Dr. Carbone recognized Dr. Galloway, for his service to Bristol Public Schools and wished him the greatest success with the Somers School District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 1, 2023 - Special Meeting - Meet & Greet

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second, by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve February 1, 2023, Special Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Giantonio Abstained.

February 1, 2023 - Regular BoE Meeting

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second, by Eric Carlson, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve February 1, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Commissioner Tagariello reported that the Board of Education Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 year will appear later on the agenda for a vote. He has not received any additional questions about the agenda in the intervening month.

Policy Committee

Commissioner Giantonio reported that Committee met on February 22nd and discussed and approved a revision to Policy 5123 – Promotion, Acceleration, and Retention. The second item discussed was a minor revision to Policy 6174 - Summer school which will be up for your consideration later on the agenda, the committee also continued discussion about gate fees and received an update from the administration regarding operational changes that have been made. They will continue to update the committee.

Student Achievement

Commissioner Giantonio reported that the committee met on Wednesday, February 15th. The committee discussed the consideration of a swimming Co-Op team, you will hear more about the co-op later in the agenda. The committee did approve for the district to enter into a swimming Co-op. The committee also received information in regard to high school chemistry from the Office of Teaching and Learning. The committee had requested to hear out on a regular basis regarding the efforts to improve in that area. There was also a decision item that will be up for your consideration, Rising Educators II Pilot Program.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Central High School

BCHS Junior Representative, Isabel Paolino provided the monthly report. The report consisted of information for the month of February. Highlights from the report included a winter sports update, Interact members attended the Valentine senior dinner and made Valentine cards for the Pines, the seniors were very grateful for the company, the club also met with a child from Make-a-Wish and got to hear about her wish that was granted and received information about what the Make-a-Wish Foundation does; Students dressed up for Spirit Week leading up to the Winter Wonderland dance, the dance helps raise money for the junior class; Latin students celebrated the ancient Roman Holiday of Lupercalia they made cards for their classmates and gifted goodies to their Delicia; Students are starting off semester 2 strong and many seniors are hearing decisions back from colleges.

Bristol Eastern High School

Senior Representative Pushpita Hossain provided the monthly report. Highlights from the report included a winter sports wrap-up; Amnesty International plans to create its second annual walkout similar to the one hosted last year for gun violence; the African-American Read-In was held, where students were able to read poems, musical lyrics, and other literature on African-American individuals in our history, this included a video in the Auditorium which consisted of inspiring speeches, musical videos and performances from black artists that deserve to be recognized, the Diversity Club plans to hold their Culture Day April 28th members are starting to prepare for cultural foods performances and more; the Diversity Club will be assisting on a Citywide Cultural Night festival hosted by Pushpita Hossain and Bristol Youth Services, we plan to host vendors from black and brown businesses lots of dancing, music and Food Services, the process and schedule for both of these events are still in the works, the art Club has decided to

Bristol Eastern High School - cont'd

host several fundraisers for the end of the year trip, we will be selling different items for a tag sale and will be opening a small online shop for the school to purchase item created by the art club and they will be hosting an art contest; musical performers hosted their annual Coffee House in the cafeteria, students showcased their talents on their instruments and their vocal performances that range from individual to group presentations; the Student council completed the First Responders Blood Drive on March 1st with the help of its members, officers, school and the public; continues to follow it's strictly submit their nominations; SAT's are coming up in March, juniors continue to prepare for these exams, parent teacher conferences will be held next week, prom season is approaching soon and tickets will be sold in the upcoming months, seniors have been submitting scholarships as the guidance department does its best to encourage and support the class with the scholarship workshops; seniors have been receiving decisions from institutions and slowly sharing their commitments with their communities. Pushpita will give her final report at the June Board of Education meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

No Chair Report was given this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Dr. Carbone shared that March is school visitation month in Bristol Public School. All students that have been redistricted to a new school for the 2023-24 school year will be visited by the principal and select staff from their newly assigned school on March 7, 8, or 9. On March 14, 15, and 16, students who will attend a new school due to redistricting will participate in a school visit and a field trip to their new school.

On March 21 and 28, we invite all parents of students that are being redistricted for the 2023-24 school year to an open house. Each school community will facilitate its own open house activity - the elementary date is March 21 and the K-8 Middle school date is March 28. On both evenings, the open house will begin at 6 pm. The lottery for Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet Schools is coming to a close, students and families are responding to the lottery acceptance process and at this time, there are 3 seats remaining in grade 6, and 6 seats each in grades 7 and 8 for the 23-24 school year. Also, for parents of children born before January 1, 2018, kindergarten registration is now open. Parents can access the registration forms through our district website. Currently, 226 families are in process of registering for kindergarten, a family night for new kindergarten students will take place in May.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dube called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included Items 8.A.1. through 8.A.7.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve the Consent Agenda as written.

PERSONNEL

A.1. New Administrative Hire

Orner, Cera - CW - Director of Athletics - effective TBD

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve New Administrative Hire as written.

A.2. Teacher Retirement

Bossi, Joan - WB - 6-8 Instructional Support - effective June 9, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously accept the Teacher Retirement as written.

A.3. Teacher Resignations

Bantea, Emil - BEHS - World Language Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Brown, Amber - WB - Grade 3 Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Diaz, Elaine - BEHS - Family Consumer Science Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Dixon, Sharon - WB - Grade 6 Mathematics Teacher - effective February 24, 2023
Duffy, Clayton - WB - Grade 7 Math Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Ellison, Lisa - WB - Social Worker - effective March 23, 2023
Haynes, Ralph - BAIMS - Special Education Teacher - effective February 20, 2023
Infante, Lucia - CW - World Language Teacher - effective February 13, 2023
Livingston, Michael - STAF - Grade 1 Teacher - effective February 27, 2023
MacDonald, Scott - BAIMS - Grade 7 ELA Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Mandile, Francesco - WB - Wellness Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Nazarenius, Brittany - WB - Kindergarten Teacher - effective June 9, 2023
Saucier, Anne Marie - EPH - Special Education Teacher - effective March 6, 2023
Wayton, Matthew - BCHS - Special Education Teacher - effective June 9, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously accept the Teacher Resignations as written.

A.4. New Teacher Hire

Beauchamp, Nicole - CW - Secondary Math Coach - effective March 13, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve the New Teacher Hire as written.

A.5. A-1 Resignation - effective February 24, 2023

Dixon, Sharon - WB - Grade 6 Team Leader

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve the A-1 Resignation as written.

A.6. A-2 Hire - effective August 23, 2022

Maust, Andrew - CHMS - Musical Advisor

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve the A-2 Hire as written.

A.7. Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Jones, Jenny - MTV - Special Education Teacher - effective February 21, 2023, through March 27, 2023

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to unanimously approve the Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence as written.

Dr. Carbone recognized the newly appointed Athletic Director, Cera Orner. Ms. Orner was in the audience and stood to be recognized and briefly addressed the Board. Ms. Orner will begin in the district on March 27, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Approval of Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Mrs. Boisvert and Dr. Carbone presented the Approval of the Superintendent's Recommended Budget. The Superintendent's recommended budget was presented at the budget workshops held on January 17, 2023, and January 24, 2023, for the Bristol Public Schools 2023-2024 School Year in the amount of \$127,989,000. The budget was approved by the Finance Committee at a meeting held on February 8, 2023. Once approved, the Board of Education Budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) accepts and approves the Superintendent's Recommended Budget for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$127,989,000, which represents a 2.94% increase to the current operating budget. Approval of this motion will result in the budget as presented becoming the Board of Education's Recommended Budget for FY24.

2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Calendars - Second Reading

Dr. Galloway presented the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Calendars for a Second Reading. The calendar has been vetted by BAPS, BFT, AFSCME 818, AFSCME 2267, AFSCME 2551, and the PTA/PTO Presidents for input. The Parent Conference dates are being reviewed and will appear on the April agenda for a vote.

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Eric Carlson, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year Calendars as written.

Dr. Galloway addressed the board regarding his time in the district and thanked the Board for allowing him to be here for eight years.

Co-Op Swim Team for Fall 2023

Dr. Dietter presented the Co-Op Swim Team for Fall 2023. Due to a decrease in participation at BEHS and BCHS, the swimming teams would be combined to form a Co-Op. At this time, participation numbers support CIAC guidelines for application to Co-Op status.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) approves the recommendation of the BPS administration and the Student Achievement Committee for submission of a Co-Op application to the CIAC.

Update on Public Use of Fields

Dr. Dietter provided an Update on the Public Use of Fields. In collaboration with BPRYCS, scheduling and routine maintenance of community-use athletic fields at the Pk-5, K-8, and MS buildings will be done through BPRYCS. Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern high school fields will continue rental and maintenance agreements via Bristol Public Schools. Scholar-athlete programs will have preference over community organizations. BPS will maintain ownership and control over all aforementioned fields. Questions followed regarding rental fees and savings.

Special Services Report

Dr. Kim Culkin presented the monthly Special Services Report. During the month of January 2023, 18.75% of students newly enrolled in Bristol Public Schools were receiving special education services; 1 student attended an ODP at the time of their enrollment. As of February 1, 2023, 1748 of 8187 Bristol students are identified as students requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 21.35% of the total BPS student population. During the month of January 2023, 38 risk assessments were conducted by BPS staff. Additionally, during the month of January, 9 calls were made to 911 for staff and student-related emergencies, and 24 calls to 211 were placed for student assessment. As of February 1, 2023, 119 of our students with disabilities require out-of-district placements at private special education school programs, and a total of 77 students require special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools.

POLICY REVISIONS

Dr. Dietter presented the policy revisions before the board this evening.

Policy 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention – Revision

Discussion and Revision occurred of Policy 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention, a change of credits to be promoted from Gr. 9 to Gr. 10 - from 5.25 to 6.5 credits. Also, the removal of language regarding summer school no longer applies.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) approves Policy 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention with the recommended revisions.

Policy 6174 - Summer School - Revision

Discussion and Revision occurred of Policy 6174 Summer School the committee removed language that is no longer accurate.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Shelby Pons, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) approves Policy 6174 - Summer School with the recommended changes.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

BUILDING REPORTS

Dr. Dietter provided the building reports on behalf of Tim Callahan.

High School Culinary Art Project – the architect and engineer are looking at other layout options that are closer to where the utilities access the building, that relocation will reduce the renovation cost as well as any disruptions to the physical site so we're to come on that we will be applying for renovation and reimbursement at the end of June.

CHMS Underground Storage Tanks – The Board of Education applied to the State for reimbursement on this project, once that gets approved, the next step will be for us to go out to bid and secure a contractor.

CHMS and Hubbell HVAC – that work is being managed under ESSER/ARP recognizing that the majority of the work will likely occur at Chippens Hill Middle School. The survey work has been ongoing including schematic design drawings a narrative and estimates are currently being reviewed.

Edgewood School – Edgewood is closing as an elementary school at the end of the school year and will be reopened as a preschool for the 23-24 school year. We are preparing to submit the grant for reimbursement at the end of June. Renovations there will be limited to upgrades to the electrical system for air conditioning units as well as to modifying bathrooms and other spaces so that we are compliant with rules and regulations governing preschools

Northeast Middle School – the Board of Education has applied to the state for reimbursement of 130,000 square foot new building the new school will house approximately 748 students grades 6 through 8. We are awaiting approval from the state, and we have been notified that we are on a shortlist.

MBIAMS – This project is approaching the finish line. There are a few minimal punch list items that we are addressing on a daily basis and it is likely that the building committee will be meeting for its final meeting in the next few months.

Southside School – Commissioning of the new equipment is almost complete. These are the HVAC units, the rooftop units that were replaced two summers ago. The project is nearing its end and the committee will be meeting

BUILDING REPORTS – cont'd

Southside School – cont'd

for a final time to accept the project as complete. On a side note, we did apply for reimbursement for a new grant, and if we receive that grant the recommendation would be to use it for the cost of renovations at Edgewood School.

Greene-Hills HVAC Repair – Sav Mor is the successful bidder here and we are in the planning stages for construction long lead items submittals have been started and the contract has been signed.

INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS

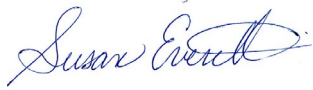
A liaison report was given by Commissioner Giantonio for West Bristol school and she also shared information regarding the Connecticut Judicial Branch Civic Academy. Chair Dube also provided a liaison report for BAIMS.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, and,

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Eric Carlson the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to adjourn the meeting (7:50 p.m.).

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Everett, Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

DRAFT