

The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Special Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/99856780662?pwd=Anr1Ft9aiwnnYr5mMQ8diW8cY4UmxS.1>

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
Thursday, September 18, 2025 -7:00pm
Special Meeting Minutes

A Special Bristol Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 36 of the Board of Education Building, located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut, and via the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT:

Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula (Virtual), Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello (Virtual) , Jennifer Van Gorder, Kristen Giantonio, Erick Rosengren, and Chair Shelby Pons

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Tara Landon, Operations and Facilities Manager, Iris White, Superintendent, and Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent; Pete Fusco Director of Facilities

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiances

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Edgewood PK – Renovation Vs Targeted Alteration

Chair Pons shared a slideshow about the Edgewood Preschool renovation

Reopening Edgewood as a preschool program, no longer a comprehensive elementary school, but a dedicated preschool academy

Tara Landon has advised best case scenarios and uses her conservative estimate for the Renovation and Targeted Alteration.

Tara Landon also clarified a few details about renovation and state reimbursement whether we pursue a roof- only replacement or a full renovation to new, begin with \$5.8 million already in hand. Additionally, approved for state reimbursement around \$11.7 million

Edgewood Building committee has recommended the full renovation-to-new plan. It is fiscally responsible, maximizes reimbursement and aligns with Phase 1 SLAM feasibility (through 2032), the district's five-year capital improvement plan, and the broader "Reimagining Bristol" plan.

Tara Landon also corrected that the renovate-as-new option remains a \$28.8 million project, with the city's share estimated at approximately \$4.42 million, reflecting the additional 15% reimbursement

Target alteration (roof and mechanicals only, as well including mechanicals and required code compliance upgrades) was originally projected at \$16.8 million, which required a \$5.1 million city share.

Updated estimates now put this option closer to \$20.8 million dollars

Tara Landon pointed out, code compliance remains somewhat certain until demolition begins, meaning costs could escalate further

Chair Pons evaluated the two options: Roof-only or Renovate to New.

Roof-only: \$20.8 million, with just 69.64% reimbursement → higher city share, more local cost.

Renovate-to-new: \$28.8 million, with at least 84.64% reimbursement (and potentially up to 99%) → lower city share, less local cost.

Chair then called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the Edgewood project as a renovate-as-new project.

Following a Roll Call Vote of nine (9) commissioners (Andreson, Osenkowski, Van Gorder, Tagariello, Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Simmons and Pons) IN FAVOR of the motion. The motion PASSED. -unanimous

2.Superintendent Discussion on The Role of Student Representatives

Chair Pons opens the discussion on the Role of Student Representatives

Student Representatives are required to attend monthly meetings.

Eligibility requirements are unchanged from prior years and were shared verbatim from last year's application

Administration invited board members to provide feedback on eligibility criteria before applications are distributed

Students have historically attended virtually, which satisfied the requirement. In-person is not required may attend in person if they choose

Commissioner Simmons has been working with Kate and high school principals to explore potential changes to the process.

Board members emphasized the importance of hearing directly from students on substantive issues, not just school events

Board reiterated that while student representatives would not hold policymaking authority within their schools, their input at the board table would provide authentic feedback and keep board closer to the student experience

Convened to Executive Session 9:30

3.VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION *for the purpose of:* discussion concerning the Superintendent's Evaluation and Goals

Eric Carlson made the motion and it was seconded by Russell Anderson. Motion passed unanimously

4.Adjournment

With no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shina Shoubah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shina" and last name "Shoubah" clearly distinguishable.

Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education