

*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: [August 6, 2025 - Regular Meeting Recording](#).*

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello and Jennifer Van Gorder

**ABSENT:** Commissioners: Russell Anderson and Chair Shelby Pons

**ALSO PRESENT:** Iris White, Superintendent, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent, and Erick Rosengren, Council Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Vice Chair Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Barbara Brackett a teacher at Patterson, Northeast and Hubbell from 1964 to 1994 and Karen Vibert a Board of Education Member from 2007 to 2023, serving as the Secretary from 2007 to 2011 and as Vice Chair from 2011 to 2013 and 2015 to 2019.

**STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION** - The Board recognized the following staff and students:

- State Championship Little League Softball Teams – Bristol Junior Allstars and Bristol 11U Allstars.

Team members and coaches were present. Coach Vanesse spoke briefly about community support, and commissioners posed for a photo with the team.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**June 4, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 4, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**June 11, 2025 - Budget Workshop Minutes**

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 11, 2025, Budget Workshop Minutes as written.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**June 11, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 11, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes as written.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**June 16, 2025 - Budget Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 16, 2025, Budget Meeting Minutes as written.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**July 21, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Education voted to approve the July 21, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as written.

## **July 21, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes – cont'd**

***Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Lori Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously.***

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

With no meetings during the month of July, there were no committee reports this month.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Pons was not in attendance, and Vice Chair Simmons did not have a report to share.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Ms. White provided the monthly Superintendent Report. Ms. White provided an update on the following topics. The Back-to-School Bash and Convocation. Ms. White presented the Superintendent's Priorities and Vision for the 2025-2026 School Year with a slide presentation.

Discussion followed regarding the goals and attention to data.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Simmons called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes Items 7.1.a – 7.2.b.

Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **7.1.a. Administrative Resignations**

Redzic, Azra - BoE - Instruction Supervisor - Effective July 7, 2025

Romann, Jillian - BoE - Instructional Supervisor - Effective August 16, 2025

The Board of Education voted to accept the Administrative Resignations as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

#### **7.1.b. Teacher Resignations**

Anderson, Christina - MTV - Literacy Coach - Effective June 19, 2025

Autencio, Danielle - EPH - Special Education Teacher - Effective August 22, 2025

McKeown, Alison - BCHS - Family and Consumer Science Teacher - Effective July 23, 2025

Mercier, Matthew - WB - Grade 8 Special Education Teacher - Effective July 31, 2025

Sweeney, Heather - BCHS - Business Teacher - Effective June 19, 2025

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

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

#### **7.1.c. New Teacher Hire**

Kaufman, Eric - BEHS - Chemistry Teacher - Effective August 25, 2025

The Board of Education voted to approve the New Teacher Hire as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

#### **7.1.d. A-2 Resignation – Effective June 19, 2025**

Lavoie, Thomas - BEHS - Yearbook Advisor

The Board of Education voted to accept the A-2 Resignation as presented.

**7.1.d. A-2 Resignation – Effective June 19, 2025 – cont’d**

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**7.1.e. A-3 Resignation – Effective June 19, 2025**

Johnson, Lynn - CHMS - MS Curriculum Coordinator

Tedesco, Barbara - EPH - Elementary Science Co-Leader

The Board of Education voted to accept the A-3 Resignation as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**7.1.f. A-3 Hires - Effective August 25, 2025**

Croce, Megan - BEHS - Grade 9 Class Co-Advisor

Masse, Allison - BEHS - Yearbook Advisor

Policarpio, Kayla - BEHS - Grade 9 Class Co-Advisor

The Board of Education voted to approve the A-2 Hires as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously.***

**7.2. GRANTS**

**7.2.a. Alliance Grant District Application**

The Board of Education voted to approve the Alliance Grant District Application as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously***

**7.2.b. Storytelling Grant**

The Board of Education voted to approve the Storytelling Grant as presented.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

**DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**Bristol Central H.S. – France Trip - February 2026**

Leszek Ward and Anya Rochester presented the Bristol Central H.S. – France Trip - February 2026. Due to unforeseen logistical complications, Bristol Central’s traditional exchange program with our partner high school in France is unable to proceed this year. In order to preserve the cultural and linguistic immersion opportunity for our French students, Ms. Anya Rochester has arranged a last-minute educational tour with Jumpstreet Tours from February 11th to 21st to make use of the February vacation. This alternative itinerary includes Paris, Normandy, and Mont-Saint-Michel—locations rich in historical, cultural, and linguistic significance. In addition to gaining greater cultural sensitivity, global citizenship, and an international perspective on their studies, students return home feeling more confident and independent—qualities that stay with them throughout their academic, professional and personal lives.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Bristol Central H.S. trip to France in February 2026 as presented.

***Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously***

**Early Dismissal Time Consolidation**

Mary Hawk presented Early Dismissal Time Consolidation. Currently, our district operates with two separate early dismissal times—one for weather-related closures and another for parent-teacher conferences. While this practice was originally intended to meet the specific needs of each situation, it has led to ongoing confusion for families, staff, and transportation providers. The use of two different early dismissal times creates logistical challenges and communication inconsistencies. Many families struggle to keep track of which time applies on a given day, leading to missed pick-ups, childcare issues, and overall frustration. In particular, the earlier dismissal time used for conferences significantly compresses the bus schedule, causing many runs to be delayed by 30 to 45 minutes. This not only disrupts the transportation system, but also causes unnecessary stress for students, staff, and parents.

By consolidating to a single early dismissal time for both weather-related and conference days, we will create a more streamlined, predictable system for all stakeholders. A uniform schedule will enhance communication, improve transportation efficiency, and reduce family confusion. Most importantly, it will ensure that student safety and well-being remain our top priority while maintaining our commitment to operational excellence.

Following discussion, the Board of Education voted to approve the Early Dismissal Time Consolidation as presented.

***Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously***

**Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Education Specifications**

Tara Landon presented the Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Education Specifications. In order to apply to the state for project/grant funding, the BOE must approve the education specifications. This project was approved on the 25-26 CIP on May 19, 2025. This project will be applied for as a non-priority grant with the State of CT.

The Board of Education voted to approve the Education Specifications for the Roof Replacement project at Bristol Central High School, located at 480 Wolcott Street in Bristol, CT.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously***

**Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Authorization of Schematic Drawings**

Tara Landon presented the Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Authorization of Schematic Drawings. In order to apply to the state for project/grant funding, the city must authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications. This project was approved on the 25-26 CIP on May 19, 2025. This project will be applied for as a non-priority grant with the State of CT.

The Board of Education voted to request that the Bristol City Council authorize for preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications with regard to the roof replacement at Bristol Central High School, located at 480 Wolcott Street in Bristol, CT.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously***

**Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Establish Building Committee**

Tara Landon presented the Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Establish Building Committee. In order to apply to the state for project/grant funding, the city must establish a building committee for this project. This project was approved on the 25-26 CIP on May 19, 2025. This project will be applied for as a non-priority grant with the State of CT.

The Board of Education voted to request that the Bristol City Council establish the Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project Committee as the building committee with regard to the roof replacement at Bristol Central High School, located at 480 Wolcott Street in Bristol, CT.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously***

**Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Apply for Grant**

Tara Landon presented the Bristol Central High School Roof Replacement Project – Apply for Grant. In order to apply to the state for project/grant funding, the city must authorize the Board of Education to apply for the school construction grant. This project was approved on the 25-26 CIP on May 19, 2025. This project will be applied for as a non-priority grant with the State of CT.

The Board of Education voted to request that the Bristol City Council authorize the Bristol Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Roof Replacement at Bristol Central High School, located at 480 Wolcott Street in Bristol, CT.

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously*

**Pupil Personnel Services Report**

Amy Martino presented the monthly Pupil Services Report. Mrs. Martino shared that this will be the last time the report style will be used for the report. Mrs. Martino reported that as of July 1, 2025, 1,856 of the 8,085 enrolled students were identified as requiring special education programs. This enrollment reflects 22.96% of the total BPS student population. As of July 1st, 131 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 94 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools. During the month of June 2025, 26.5% of newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration. None of the newly enrolled students were receiving their programming in an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of June, there were 17 - 211 calls and 1-911 call.

**TEXTBOOK ADOPTION****AP Psychology Textbook Adoption**

Leszek Ward presented the AP Psychology Textbook Adoption. Current AP Psychology textbooks were published in 2010. The College Board revised the AP Psychology course in 2024, and Bristol approved curricular updates in the Spring of 2025. The College Board requires that teachers and students have access to college-level resources, including a recently published (within the last 10 years) college-level textbook in print or electronic format. The age of the existing textbooks and the updated curriculum necessitate the purchase of updated textbooks.

The Board of Education voted to approve the AP Psychology Textbook as presented and to waive the second reading to allow time for ordering the textbooks.

*Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Kristen Giantonio. Passed Unanimously*

**Textbook Recommendation for History of American Popular Music – Second Presentation**

Ken Bagley presented the Textbook Recommendation for History of American Popular Music. The textbook for our new UCONN ECE course, History of American Popular Music needs to be approved for implementation. Because it is an ECE aligned course, we must use the recommended textbook for the course: American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3.

The Board of Education voted to approve the History of American Popular Music Textbook as American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3.

*Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Jennifer Van Gorder. Passed Unanimously*

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Carlson reported that an architect had been selected for the Edgewood project. QA&M was selected.

### **INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Liaison, Erick Rosengren, shared information regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Pencil Hunt being held on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Pre-registration is required.

### **VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Education voted to Convene Into Executive Session *for the purpose of:*

a. Discussion Concerning the Superintendent's Evaluation. They would invite Superintendent White to join the Executive Session.

***Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Eric Carlson. Passed Unanimously. (7:57 p.m.)***

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Lorianne Osenkowski, Maria Simmons, Dante Tagariello (via telephone) and Jennifer Van Gorder

**ABSENT:** Commissioners: Russell Anderson and Chair Shelby Pons

**ALSO PRESENT:** Iris White, Superintendent

Executive Session was called to order at 8:03 p.m.

Commissioners discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation, Year-End Report, and Goal Setting.

### **RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board of Education voted to Reconvene into Public Session to take any votes on matters discussed in Executive Session.

***Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Lori Osenkowski. Passed Unanimously. (9:41 p.m.)***

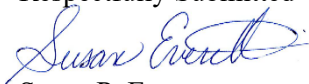
No votes were taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting should be adjourned.

***Motion made by Eric Carlson and seconded by Dante Tagariello. Passed Unanimously. (9:42 p.m.)***

Respectfully Submitted



Susan P. Everett

Executive Secretary to the Board of Education