

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bristol, Connecticut
April 3, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Board of Education Administration Building, located at 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Joseph Grabowski, Karen Hintz, Thomas O'Brien, and Karen Vibert; Dr. Susan Kalt Moreau Superintendent, Dr. Catherine Carbone, Dr. Sam Galloway, Director of Human Resources

EXCUSED: Commissioners: Jeff Caggiano, Tina Taylor and Chairman Christopher Wilson

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Karen Vibert called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Moreau recognized the following staff and students for their achievement:

Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra – 2019 Person of the Year honor – Michael Coderre
NAMM – 2019 Best Communities for Music Education – Bristol Public Schools recognition
YWCA Women in Leadership – Taylor Dominique – Senior – Bristol Eastern H.S.
Unified Sports and Possibility Theater Fundraiser – Ashlynn Rain Jefferson – Senior – Bristol Eastern H.S.
Wade's World Foundation Recognition – Dr. Michael Dietter and Erica Treannie

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 6, 2019 Regular Meeting

On motion by Commissioner Hintz and seconded by Commissioner Dube, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the March 6, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

March 11, 2019 Special Meeting

On motion by Commissioner Hintz and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the March 11, 2019 Special Meeting minutes as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Jill Browne delivered the Finance Report for the month March. At the close of February, fixed cost expenditures continue to remain steady. We are currently running a deficit of \$2.5M. Currently we are in receipt of \$222,860 from Rental, Tuition, Medicaid and Displaced Student Relief sources, and \$136,930 has been allocated to various lines in the General Fund. We are also in receipt of the first installment of the Special Education Excess Cost Grant in the amount of \$2,632,587. This will bring us to a positive operating budget of \$169,877. We continue to run a deficit in the areas of Transportation, Tuition for Magnet Schools and Special Education; the rest of the budget remains steady. The district had its three-year review. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), requires a unified accountability system designed to ensure that school food authorities (SFAs) comply with the requirements of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). While much of our administrative review was commendable, there are some areas that require corrective action. For example, we needed to file a

Finance Committee – con’t

justification form for items bought outside of the US; we needed to update our Civil Rights complaint procedure to address any complaints filed against the federal Child Nutrition Programs. Most notably, we needed to submit a plan addressing how the district menu planner will ensure that the menu is planned, offered, served, and documented and meets the daily and weekly Grades K-5 meal pattern. Due to significant errors found with the meal planner compliance, the Performance-based Certification funding (6 cents certification) will be terminated effective February 1 until the district can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the state agency that the corrective action has taken place.

At this time, all corrective action prescribed by the administrative reviewers has been completed. We are now awaiting the return visit to approve our meal plans and record keeping, thus reinstating the Performance-based Certification. Once this process is fully complete, we will submit a financial update to this committee.

Special Services Update

Dr. Dietter reported that we continue to see similar patterns of enrollment as we have had in previous months. We had a slight increase in our overall new enrollment, that are eligible for special education related services. We also had three additional students enroll that are currently in outplaced situations. We are still projecting a marginal cost for tuition and transportation of approximately 1.7 million dollars.

Operations Committee

Commissioner Hintz reported that the committee met on March 19th and granted a deferral of sidewalk construction at 359 Broad Street; that item will appear later in tonight’s agenda. There was also discussion of the ongoing progress at Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School; and tasked the administrators with presenting a workshop sometime in September to have a more comprehensive look at the curriculum and plans for the school.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Bristol Eastern Student Representative Lori Chen reported on SAT testing and senior activities taking place at Eastern at this time. Lori participated in the CAFE Day on the Hill, where the main topic of discussion was regionalization. Students also had the opportunity to tour the State Capitol and meet with Representative Chris Ziogas. Representative Ziogas has been working on a bill that would allow 16 and 17 years old the opportunity to vote in municipal elections. Lori brought the topic back to Bristol Eastern for discussion, following a survey on the school twitter page and surveying various students. 93% of the 80 students surveyed said “No” and 7% said “Yes”. If given the opportunity Lori would take advantage of her right to vote because she has strong opinions about the issues.

Bristol Central Student Representative Katherine Funk shared with the board several activities that have taken place at Bristol Central; spring sports are started up; students were offered the opportunity to visit the four state colleges. BC’s Footlights will present Legally Blonde on April 5th, 6th and 7th. Katherine also had the opportunity to attend “CAFE Day on the Hill.” on March 20th with Dr. Moreau, Mr. Wilson and the Bristol Eastern Representatives. Following the convention, Representative Ziogas shared his day to day schedule and some of topics he is working on such as toll booths and 16 and 17-year old’s voting in municipal elections. Katherine also brought this topic back to BC to survey students; she received a total of 445 responses. 183 students supported the opportunity to vote in municipal elections. Katherine shared the results of her survey and question responses with the board.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Moreau reported that on Monday she and members of the administrative team attended the City Budget Workshop, where the Board of Education request was discussed. It was decided that our budget should be reduced significantly, so the team will be creating a list of potential budget reductions for the finance committee to view after the budget is approved on Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – con't

MBIAMS Building Committee Update

Dr. Dietter reported that the committee has met twice since the last board meeting. At this time, they have viewed preliminary design plans, which included schematic design, floor plan layouts and preliminary program spaces. The committee is anticipating the results of an environmental study, which will inform the committee of previous building materials used as well as areas of concern that commonly exist in buildings of this vintage. Next week they have a meeting with The Office of School Construction, Grants and Review. This is a meeting to review the general progress of the building. The next building committee meeting is Thursday, April 11th in room 36. Resources for information about the building can be found on the Board of Education website and on the City website.

District Priorities Update

Dr. Moreau shared the following district priorities:

Inspire and Cultivate Talent

- Planning and Training for migration to Google
- Attendance at multiple learning events
- Attended and presented at the National Council for Teachers in Mathematics
- Attendance at multiple recruiting fairs

Organizational and Operational

- Continued work on program spaces for MBIAMS
- Budget work continues
- District Crisis Team visited a reunification site and heard the school's plan as a reunification site

Community Engagement

- Ongoing family engagement in our Family Resource Centers, PTA's/PTO's and booster clubs
- Special Education Day on the Hill with SEPTO and Unified Theater Program
- Police Department provided with coded badges for school building entry

Learner Focused

- Seven new course proposals were presented at Curriculum Council
- Working on scheduling at all three levels for next school year

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Dube; seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Personnel

Teacher Resignation

Settle, Lois - GH - Grade 7 Special Education Teacher - Effective June 30, 2019

New Teacher Hires

Kearney, Katie - WB - Grade 8 Science Teacher - Effective March 6, 2019

Lundquist, Jessica - CHMS - Grade 7 Language Arts Teacher - Effective March 27, 2019

A-1 Resignation

McCormick, Mary - CHMS - Green Team Leader - Effective March 12, 2019

A-2 Resignation

Elliott, Sheryl - BEHS - Sophomore Class Co-Advisor - Effective March 10, 2019

A-2 Appointment

Bagley, Kenneth - BEHS - Spring Musical Advisor (2nd semester only) - Effective February 20, 2019

A-3 Resignation

Zadrozny, Patricia - SSS - Co-K-5 Technology Leader - Effective March 7, 2019

Grants

Education of Homeless Children and Youth

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Special Services Recognition

Dr. Dietter shared the recent Special Services Department Recognitions. Bristol TRAMPS awarded \$1,000.00 to Bristol's Unified Sports programs; the check will be presented to Rosemary Rustic a paraeducator at Bristol Eastern; at a dinner at the Aqua Turf on April 26th. Bristol's Special Services along with their collaboration with SEPTO was recognized at the State Capitol today for their efforts on behalf of students and families in Bristol. Representative Betts presented a proclamation to the local SEPTO leaders. The highlight of the day was the performance by students from Bristol Eastern's Possibilities Theater, the unified program is supported by teachers Bill Kelly and Paul Philapon and para educators Tyrell Holmes and Rosemary Rustic, who were both recognized today. Representative Henri Martin also generously gave his time to the students with a tour and discussion about the capitol. Dr. Dietter thanked Whitt Betts, Henri Martin and Cara Pavalock-D'Amato for their support and participation; he also acknowledged Commissioner Giantonio for all her hard work and organization of today's event. Lastly, April is Autism Awareness Month.

High School Graduation Date and End of Year Closing Date

Traditionally the closing day of school has been set at the April meeting along with the high school graduation date. Promotional exercises at the middle schools take place in the morning of the last day of school, Friday, June 14, 2019. High school graduation will be scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 14, 2019.

The following district closures have directed the closing date for the 2018-2019 school year:

School Closed: 11/16, 2/12, 3/4

Late Openings: 1/22, 1/30, 1/31, 2/13, 2/21

Early Dismissals: 1/30

On motion by Commissioner Dube; seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the scheduling of high school graduation for the evening of Friday, June 14, 2019, following completion of the 181th day of school. The closing date for K-5, K-8, middle, and high schools be scheduled at the end of the school session on Friday, June 14, 2019. This date will be subject to change in the event additional emergency closing days are required in the interim to the end of the school year.

Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2019-2020 and SY 2020-2021

The School Year Calendars for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 for Bristol Public Schools were recently approved by the Board of Education. Once the school year calendars are established, school administrators and supervisors meet to set the parent conference and marking period dates for these two school years. There are no changes to the number of dates that will be available for parent conferences. Parent conferences in the fall at the high school level will all be held in the evening.

On motion by Commissioner Hintz; seconded by Commissioner Grabowski, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2019-2020 and SY 2020-2021.

Secondary Summer School Brochures

Commissioners were provided copies of the Secondary Summer School Brochures. Brochures will be distributed to over 20 schools in the area advertising the Secondary Summer School Program to be held at Bristol Eastern High School.

On motion by Commissioner Hintz; seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Secondary Summer School Brochures.

Elementary Summer Enrichment Program

The Elementary Summer Enrichment Summer Program is a self-funded program that is hosted at Ivy Drive School and will run for five weeks this summer, from June 24th through July 26th.

On motion by Commissioner Grabowski; seconded by Commissioner Dube, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Elementary Summer Enrichment Program.

Request the BOE approve the deferral of the sidewalk at 359 Broad Street

City Council voted to refer the request to defer sidewalks at 359 Broad Street owned by Skytop Motors, LLC to the BOE. On March 19, 2019, the Operations Committee voted unanimously to defer sidewalks at 359 Broad Street and to send to the full board for approval. Commissioner O'Brien raised questions regarding sidewalks already present on the east side of Broad Street.

On motion by Commissioner Hintz; seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the request for a sidewalk deferral at 359 Broad Street, owned by Skytop Motors, LLC and forward this recommendation to the City Council for further action.

Commissioner O'Brien opposed the deferral of the sidewalk at 359 Broad Street.

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

World History - Textbook Recommendation - Academic Level - First Reading

Carly Fortin and Lea McCabe presented the World History textbook recommendation. The current grade 9 academic World History textbook is over 10 years old. There are not currently enough copies in the district to allocate to all students as texts have been damaged or lost over the years. Additionally, teachers are in need of more online access for students with the ability for students to use eBooks. The curriculum for World History has been recently revised to meet the new CT Social Studies Frameworks (approved by the State in 2015, approved by the district in 2016). The revised curriculum requires that students learn content

World History - Textbook Recommendation - Academic Level - First Reading – con't

across four social studies disciplines (civics, economics, geography, and history) within each course and adopt an inquiry approach to learning social studies skills and content. The change in curriculum, coupled with the current status of our textbooks, required that we seek another resource for our students. Teachers were looking for more multimedia resources to engage students, inspire inquiry, and facilitate the development of historical thinking skills.

The textbook being recommended is: The Pearson World History: Modern Era. This book offers a variety in-text and online resources to engage students in the content area, encourage historical investigation, and provide access to content to all students. This textbook program is organized in a four-part framework that encourages students to connect, investigate, synthesize and demonstrate understanding. Embedded activities include interactive maps and charts, audio versions of the text, and proprietary access to NBC Learn videos for every topic. The Pearson online platform (Pearson Realize) supports both web-based and app-based access which allows students to download the ebook, take notes, highlight, engage in discussions with other classmates around teacher-posed questions, and complete teacher assignments on any device. The Pearson Realize also has a proprietary contract with Google Classroom. Teachers will be able to create and assess assignments for students digitally on either platform.

This textbook is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, the C3 Social Studies Framework, and Bristol Public Schools objectives. There are multiple opportunities within the text and through the additional provided research to provide practice to strengthen their 21st century skills. Mrs. Fortin thanked Lea McCabe, Gina Brower, Michelle Collins, Juan Quintero and John Stavens for their help in selecting the text.

This is the first reading of the textbook. It is available for review in the Office of Teaching and Learning. The text will come back to the board for a second reading next month. Please contact Carly Fortin with any questions during the intervening month. Questions followed regarding how modern world history is covered in the text and accessibility for all students.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the board.

INFORMATION

Commissioner Vibert shared that last month she was a judge at the State Odyssey of the Mind Competition at Southern University, and what a great program it is and a great way for parents to get involved and volunteer.

LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Giantonio shared that she attended an event at West Bristol where the students got to sing with the Bristol Choral Society and watch a choral performance, it was great experience for the students. She also thanked the Bristol Public School District for accepting the invitation to be highlighted at the Special Education Day on the Hill.

Commissioner Dube shared various activities from West Bristol School: No One Eats Alone Day, Citywide Play with the Pros, Bristol Sings and the Wounded Warrior bottle project continues.

Commissioner Hintz shared that several schools in the district are competing for playground equipment. You can vote several times a day with various email addresses up until June 30th.

Commissioner Vibert acknowledged Northeast Middle school for their production of Annie Jr. that was held at Bristol Eastern this past weekend; every aspect of the production was outstanding.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned. *(8:03 p.m.)*

Respectfully Submitted

Susan P. Everett

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Executive Secretary to Board of Education

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