



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes July 26, 2023

A meeting of the Bristol Board of Education Special Policy Committee was held on July 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Bristol Board of Education and via the Zoom Meeting Platform for Commissioners and Dr. Carbone only.

PRESENT: Committee members: Kristen Giantonio, Shelby Pons, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Michael Dietter, Dr. Catherine Carbone via Zoom, & Lynn Boisvert. Commissioners also present: Jennifer Dube, Dante Tagareillo, Russell Anderson, Maria Simmons via Zoom.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Commissioner Giantonio, seconded by Commissioner Pons, the minutes were approved from May 24, 2023.

3. Activity Fees - Review Policy 3453 School Activity Funds:

Dr. Dietter read the policy and draft language that was added to Policy 3453 concerning gate fees. The following Option 2 was approved on a motion by Commissioner Pons and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula to move forward to the full board for approval. For the purpose of this policy, student activity funds shall fall within the meaning under CGS Chapter 170, Section 10-237, with the exception that no student activity fund shall be set up to include "gate fees" for sporting events **during the regularly scheduled season of play (Fall, Winter, Spring)** or ~~"attendance fees" for other school-sponsored events~~ whereby Bristol residents and Bristol students shall be charged a fee for entrance to the same event. **Pre or post season games or exhibits and the annual Battle for the Bell may include a gate fee for all spectators regardless of residency in Bristol.** Notwithstanding the preceding exception, or requirements otherwise mandated under state or federal statute, Student Activity Funds may be set up for "gate fees" for sporting events or "attendance fees" for other school-sponsored events wherein those same fees shall be

charged to non-Bristol resident adults and children who attend the same event. In addition, schools are prohibited from charging a student activity fee if the student does not choose to participate in an optional athletic or other extracurricular school activity funded by the fee.

4. Student Discipline and Recess - Discussion Item:

On approval by Commissioner Pons, Commissioner Simmons was allowed to speak via Public Comment concerning this policy. Commissioner Simmons brought forward an anonymous parent concern. Is recess being used as a discipline measure? Are there violations of this policy? Dr. Dietter spoke to this BPS Policy 5144.4 and stated that he would need more detailed information in order to move forward with something like this. It is very difficult to discuss a parent concern when it is anonymous and there are missing details about the situation in question. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula asked as to what would be an example of why an administrator would take away recess. Dr. Dietter spoke to this saying that it would be at the discretion of the administrator and it would be due to a safety issue where there would need to be an intervention due to de-escalation of a student. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula also asked if information concerning the frequency of withholding recess could be made available to the committee.

5. HB 6822 - Discussion Item:

Dr. Dietter reviewed this item and stated that we are in compliance with having any associated documents that may be reviewed by members of the board at such meetings and post such agenda and documents on the Internet website of such board. Our documentation such as agendas and attachments are posted on our BPS website, BoardBook and sent in emails to the board members prior to the meetings.

6. Adjournment:

The Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Commissioner Pons.

Submitted by:

Michelle L. Crowley

Recording Secretary

Bristol Board of Education