

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**January 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Eric Carlson (virtual) arrived 7:16 p.m.), Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Shelby Pons (virtual), John Sklenka, Todd Sturgeon, Dante Tagariello, Karen Vibert (virtual), and Christopher Wilson (virtual); Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent, and Jolene Lusitani, Council Liaison

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

Chair Dube called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Michael Georgen a Special Education Supervisor from 1987 to 2006 and Frieda Terwilleger a Secretary at Ivy Drive School from 1969 to 1994.

**STAFF & STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Dr. Carbone recognized Kristine DeLeo for being named to the CCSU Teacher Education Network Advisory Board. After hosting Central Connecticut State University Interns last year with much success at Hubbell Elementary School, Mrs. DeLeo was asked by the Coordinator of School-Community Partnerships/School of Education and Professional Studies at Central Connecticut State University to take on a cohort of second-year elementary education students from CCSU to complete field experience hours at Hubbell. Twenty Eight CCSU students joined classrooms alongside Hubbell teachers this past semester. After the CCSU coordinator and professors visited Hubbell and saw their students learning from Hubbell teachers and working in such a positive way with Hubbell students, they were very excited to extend the partnership. Mrs. DeLeo was asked to continue this partnership into the Spring semester with future CCSU School of Education projects and on-site, lab work with professors and CCSU students to take place at Hubbell in the Spring. Mrs. DeLeo was asked to join the CCSU Teacher Education Network Advisory Board, based on the great work that is happening at Hubbell and the wonderful ways that they are incorporating the CCSU students. On this Board, she can join deep discussions that guide the way new teachers are learning, allowing them to gain meaningful field experience in the classroom, and possibly gain future employment within Bristol Public Schools. Mrs. DeLeo was online and shared the positive interaction with the interns and Hubbell's excitement at continuing this valuable partnership.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**December 1, 2021 - Regular Meeting**

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education approved the December 1, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes as written with eight (8) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, Pons, Sklenka, Sturgeon, Tagariello, Vibert, and Wilson) **IN FAVOR** of the motion. Commissioner Dube **ABSTAINED**.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Dube, officially read into the record the members of the Communications and Community Relations Committee. The committee will be Chaired by Commissioner Giantonio, with Commissioners Shelby Pons, Dante Tagariello, and Eric Carlson as the alternate.

**Finance** – Commissioner Tagariello reported that the committee reviewed the budget and there were no significant items to report. Commissioner Tagariello reminded the public that the budget workshops for the Board of Education will be held on the 18th of January and the 25th of January in the BoE

**Finance Committee Report – cont'd**

Auditorium from 6 to 8 p.m. He has shared this information with the City and he hopes that they can join workshops.

**Policy** – Commissioner Giantonio reported that the Policy Committee met on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee discussed a change to Policy 5132 - Student Dress and Grooming, commissioners will hear more details under Deliberated Items. There was also a discussion on Policy 3520.13 - Database information management system. A request for members from the IT department to attend next month's policy meeting to discuss the use of encryption in emails when contacting parents.

**Student Achievement** – Commissioner Sturgeon reported that the committee met on December 15th the committee voted to move to the full board the revised curriculum for SAT Math and the revised curriculum for Statistics and Geometry. They will appear later on the agenda for a vote. The committee also had the first reading of several new curricula for BAIMS: Instrumental Ensemble, Intermediate Acting, Musical Theater, and Physical Theater and Movement.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Bristol Central** – Fatima Aamir, Junior Representative from Bristol Central reported on recent activities from BC, highlights from her report included fall sports banquet held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>; the start of winter sports; basketball win over East Catholic High School at Mohegan Sun; National Honor Society Food Drive for Zion Church; winter concert held before the holiday break; Spirit week; the return of Festivus; in the gym; Mid-Terms approaching and extra help for students to prepare for mid-terms.

**Bristol Eastern** – Pushpita Hossain, Junior Student Representative from Bristol Eastern reported on recent activities from BE, highlights from her report included the start of winter sports and Pole Vault athletes qualifying for the Class L's; Reindeer Games took place before the holiday break; Holiday concert cancellation due to reported COVID cases; door decorating contest to build school spirit; Amnesty Club was established in early December; it is deeply related and connected to the international organization; the Diversity Club has been approved to host a cultural diversity day sometime in March it is still in the planning stages; there is a desire to create an inclusive and educational day. The eighth-grade open house will be held virtually due to COVID on January 11th at 6 p.m. Midterms are approaching and students and teachers are preparing for these upcoming exams.

Commissioner Carlson had joined the meeting and was prepared to give the Operations Committee Report.

**Operations** – The committee met on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. 10 Year Capital Improvement projects were discussed. The Operations committee also held two meetings concerning the roof replacement at Edgewood School and underground diesel and fuel oil storage tank replacement. The architects for both projects were selected. These projects are on schedule to be done sometime this year however due to supply concerns, they may need to be pushed off to next year.

**CHAIR REPORT** – Chair Dube shared her wishes for a return to normalcy for the students and staff of the district. She is looking forward to working with the new board and central office to make great strides for the district. Chair Dube also invited the public to join the budget workshops on January 18th and January 25th to see what it takes to create the budget and to set it forth.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** - Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Dr. Carbone discussed today's school delay turned cancellation. Dr. Carbone explained the normal delay or cancellation process that is utilized and acknowledged that today's weather pattern made it difficult to follow the normal process. Dr. Carbone apologized to those staff members who were en route to work, and for the added angst this morning's commute caused. Dr. Carbone shared that there have been many

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – cont'd**

updates and changes in our protocols a link to updated BBHD and DPH Guidance were shared on the screen. The district is in receipt of KN95 masks from the state. The masks have been delivered to the city as well as an allotment that has been provided to the Bristol Board of Education for our staff. Staff members are currently using them as we see an uptick in COVID19 cases across the district. We have also received at-home test kits some allocated for staff and some allocated for students. A staff member may receive an at-home test kit if they are exhibiting symptoms between 9:00 and 11:00 or 1:00 to 2:30 here at the board. 40 kits have been picked up since our return, we are seeing an increase of staff that is currently out due to COVID. Any family that feels that their child is exhibiting symptoms and needs an at-home test kit can call their school nurse and a kit will be made available through the Bristol Burlington Health District; Dr. Carbone discussed the BPS Indicators of Success and the 2021-22 Goals and made note of the January newsletter which will be a Year in Review and a look ahead. A BAIMS update was given, Round 1 of the lottery has been completed and 141 students have accepted their seats. BAIMS staff hiring is ongoing and this month's high school parent and student information sessions were shared with commissioners. Dr. Carbone reminded the public about the budget workshops on January 18 and January 25, the workshops will be offered in a dual-platform at the BoE and via Zoom.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dube called for approval of the Consent Agenda which included Items VIII.A.1. through VIII.A.3.

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **VIII.A.1. Teacher Resignation - Effective December 24, 2021**

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously accepted the following Teacher Resignation – Effective December 24, 2021:

Bilodeau, Kayla – WB – Grade 2 Teacher

### **VIII.A.2. New Teacher Hires**

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the following New Teacher Hires:

Jones, Gabrielle – EPH – Special Education Teacher – effective December 2, 2021

Ferguson-Taylor, Leisa – WB – Grade 8 Math Teacher – effective January 27, 2022

Stevens, Julie – EDGE – Instructional Support Teacher – effective January 4, 2022

Wollman, Jessica – GH – Special Education Teacher – effective December 9, 2021

### **VIII.A.3. A-1 Resignation**

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously accepted the following A-1 Resignation:

Pratt, Stacey – CHMS – Green Team Leader – effective January 3, 2022

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jen Van Gorder – 272 Candlewood Drive – addressed the Board regarding the virtual open house.

Lauren Vernagli – 79 Beechwood Lane – addressed the Board regarding masks mandates.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – cont'd**

Kristen Giantonio – Allentown Road – addressed the board regarding an article from the NY Times  
Paul Cambell – 183 Sims Road – emailed the board regarding parent choice. The email was read into the record by Commissioner Todd Sturgeon.

**DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**Approval of the BPS 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Plan**

Peter Fusco, Facilities Director presented the BPS 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Fusco provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan requests.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by John Sklenka

The Board of Education unanimously approved the BPS 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Plan.

**Approval of Board of Education 2022 Meeting Dates**

Commissioners were provided a copy of the Board of Education 2022 Meeting calendar. The Board will meet the first Wednesday each month at 7:00 p.m. except for July, August, and September which will meet on the second or third Wednesday of the month.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Board of Education 2022 Meeting Dates as written.

**Approval of Communication and Community Relations 2022 Meeting Dates**

Commissioners were provided a copy of the Communications and Community Relations 2022 Meeting calendar. The committee will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 starting in February with no meeting in July and December.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Communication and Community Relations 2022 Meeting Dates as written.

**Special Services Leadership Team Report**

Dr. Culkin presented the monthly Special Services Leadership Report. As of December 1, 2021, 1,671 of 8,104 Bristol students are identified as students requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 20.62% of the total BPS student population. During the month of November, 19 of the 58 newly registered students were identified as students with special needs at the time of registration. Also, during the month of November, two students newly enrolled in Bristol Public Schools were receiving their programs and services through an out-of-district special education school program at the time of enrollment. As of December 1, 2021, 111 of our 1,671 identified students require out-of-district placements at special education school programs and 71 students require special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools such as magnet schools. These numbers reflect three additional private out-of-district program placements and five additional public school placements as compared to overall out-of-district placements the previous month.

Questions followed regarding the ESY summer program. The details for the program are being worked on, there may be information to share at the February board meeting.

## **CURRICULUM REVISIONS**

### **Curriculum Revision: SAT Math (Second Reading)**

Dr. Jaime Rechenburg presented the second reading of the SAT Math Curriculum.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the SAT Math Curriculum Revision.

### **Curriculum Revision: Statistics and Geometry (Second Reading)**

Dr. Jaime Rechenburg presented the second reading of the Statistics and Geometry Curriculum Revision.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello

The Board of Education unanimously approved the Statistics and Geometry Curriculum Revision.

Dr. Sarli was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Carly Fortin presented the four BAIMS curricula. In the intervening month, commissioners may contact Dr. Sarli with any questions they may have regarding any of the curriculum.

### **New Curriculum: Instrumental Ensemble (First Reading)**

Instrumental ensemble is a full year or 1 credit course with no prerequisite, designed specifically for BAIMS HS. Instrumental ensemble is similar to band in that students perform music of varied styles in concert halls and different venues. This can range in size from being a small band to a large concert band. Students will be required to participate in performances throughout the school year. What you will notice is that the 8 units are based on the fundamentals of playing an instrument without a specific focus on ensemble skills since the size of the ensemble will affect the ensemble skills needed to be taught.

### **New Curriculum: Intermediate Acting (First Reading)**

Intermediate acting is a .5 credit course designed for BAIMS HS. There are no prerequisites for students to take this course. Students will learn the fundamentals of acting through improvisation, scene work, monologues, and large group performances. This is encompassed within the 7 units which are scaffolded and built upon one another. Unique to this theater course is that there is not a culminating performance; rather, students will have small-scale performances throughout the various units aligned to the technique being learned.

### **New Curriculum: Musical Theater (First Reading)**

Musical theater is a .5 credit course with no required prerequisite designed for BAIMS HS; however, this course will only be offered in the spring semester. Students will learn the basics of musical theater while creating and performing a showcase featuring production numbers from musicals focused on a common theme. Because this course culminates with a final performance, the units are scaffolded to support the creative musical theater process. For example, unit 4 focuses on students' individual growth in performance which leads to the collaborative showcase development of unit 5.

### **New Curriculum: Physical Theater and Movement (First Reading)**

Physical Theater and Movement is a .5 credit course with no prerequisite designed for BAIMS HS. Through movement, students will learn how their bodies can be used to express meaning, emotion, and character. Students will learn fundamentals of stage combat, and about stock characters through the study of commedia dell'arte. This course is similar to Intermediate Acting where there is no culminating performance, rather students will perform throughout each unit to show proficiency.

## **POLICY REVISIONS**

### **Policy 5132 - Student Dress and Grooming (Revision)**

Dr. Dietter presented the revision to Policy 5132 Student Dress and Grooming. The committee met on December 22nd. Dr. Dietter shared the background to the policy and regulation revisions. The administrative regulation had been reviewed at the previous Board of Education meeting subsequent to that meeting, concerns were raised regarding the ability to identify students especially those that were wearing hats and hoodies as well as wearing masks. As a result of those concerns, the section of that regulation had been suspended by the Office of the Superintendent on 12/20. At the 12/22 Policy meeting, administrators from the high schools and middle schools presented their experiences as well as data to the subcommittee members. At that time, members of the subcommittee made a motion to remove this section from the administrative regulation and insert it into policy. At this time, the subcommittee is seeking the motion and consideration of the following: *That in the administrative regulation 5132 to strike Section E under Minimum Safe Attire which reads: At the high school level hats and other headwear and hoodies are permitted as follows: hats and other headwear must allow the face and ears to be visible to staff and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff. Hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible to school staff;* that would be stricken from the regulation. The following would be codified in the policy: *That hats or hoodies with the hood up are not to be worn inside Bristol Public School buildings or programs and that hoodies are permitted to be worn with the hood down.*

Following a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by John Sklenka, discussion followed.

Commissioners were each given the opportunity to speak to the revision following the discussion;

The Board of Education approved revisions to Policy Policy 5132 - Student Dress and Grooming with six (6) Commissioners (Carlson, Giantonio, Sklenka, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) **IN FAVOR** of the motion; and three (3) Commissioners (Pons, Vibert, and Wilson) **OPPOSED**.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

## **BUILDING REPORTS**

### **MBIAMS Update**

Dr. Dietter provided the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Update. Photos of the building's progress were shown during Dr. Dietter's presentation. The project continues to progress as we have been effectively managing issues related to the supply chain and COVID workforce. We continue to track on budget and on time. The lottery pull is underway and notifications have been happening as Dr. Carbone reported earlier this evening. Prior to the holiday break, the project did receive a generous gift from QAM, specifically, Rusty Malik and Angela Cahill presented to the city and building committee a gift totaling \$25,000 to be applied toward restoration efforts within the theater space. This represents the second such gift to the project and matches a previous donation of \$25,000 from D'Amato Downes Construction. We are grateful for these generous gifts. Dr. Dietter wanted to call the board's attention to a local company Melnick Metals. The artisans there have worked to restore the theater light that is original to the building. We will be raising it back into the structure sometime next week.

### **South Side School HVAC Project**

Tim Callahan provided an update on the South Side HVAC Project. South Side is moving along quite well. We have substantially completed all of the construction. We are now working through the testing and balancing and we are also working through the punch list. We will be doing close out very shortly. This pretty much concludes our construction work and will be closing out the project with the current building committee.

**INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Pons shared information regarding Hubbell School.  
Commissioner Vibert shared information from South Side School.  
Commissioner Giantonio applauded the staff for bringing back some normalcy to our students during December.  
Commissioner Sturgeon shared information regarding his visit to Ivy Drive School.

Commissioner Vibert believes that we need the services of a parliamentarian at Board of education meetings to ensure that the meetings are being run properly. Commissioner Sklenka emailed a year in review video to commissioners from Stafford School.

**VOTE TO CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Giantonio made a motion tabling convening into Executive Session until next month's Board of Education meeting. Commissioner Tagariello seconded the motion.

A point of order was called that the correct motion would be to postpone not table.

Commissioner Giantonio amended the motion to substitute “postpone” for “tabling” in her previous motion.

Commissioner Vibert called for discussion as she did not know what the motion was on the table.

The motion passed with six commissioners (Carlson, Dube, Giantonio, Sturgeon, Sklenka, and Tagariello) in favor of the motion. Commissioner Wilson OPPOSED. Commissioner Pons ABSTAINED. Commissioner Vibert did not cast a vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the board, following a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by John Sklenka, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned. (8:38 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Everett, Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education