

## Regular Board template

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 7:00 PM

Board of Education Auditorium, 129 Church Street, Bristol, CT 06010

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence**

2. **ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 4, 2009 - Regular Meeting**

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

5.1. Personnel

5.1.a. Administrative Hire

5.1.b. Teacher Retirements Eligible for the Retirement Incentive Effective June 30, 2010

5.2. Grants

5.2.a. Consolidated Federal Grant - Part II

5.2.b. FRC Reading is Fundamental Grant

5.2.c. Sky Bight Foundation

5.2.d. Supplemental Choice Grant - July 1, 2009 to June 20, 2010

5.3. Schedule of Board of Education Meetings for the 2010 Calendar Year

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

7. **DELIBERATED ITEMS**

7.1. 2010-2011 Program of Studies

7.2. Section 125 Plan - 2009 First Plan Amendment

7.3. Curriculum Revision

7.3.a. Information Processing II

7.4. Policy Revision

7.4.a. Reacting To Political Action/Issues - Second Reading

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

10. **BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11. **INFORMATION**

**Presenter:** Barbara Doyle

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 12. VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of discussing: | <b>Presenter:</b> Barbara Doyle |
| 13. RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION   | <b>Presenter:</b> Barbara Doyle |
| 14. ADJOURNMENT   | <b>Presenter:</b> Barbara Doyle |

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Bristol, Connecticut  
**Regular Meeting – November 4, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administration Building, 129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners, Jane E. Anastasio, Margaret L. Bonola, Amy D. Coan (arrived at 7:43), Barbara Y. Doyle, Julie M. Luczkow, Thomas P. O'Brien, Sherry A. Turcotte, Karen L. Vibert, Christopher C. Wilson; Philip A. Streifer, Superintendent of Schools, Dennis Bieu, Human Resources Director, and Clifford Block, Council Liaison to the Board.

**Excused:** Susan Moreau, Deputy Superintendent

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

Chairman Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and invited the audience to join her in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for John Tracy a Social Studies Teacher at Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern from September 1973 to February 2005 and Barbara Waterman a Special Education Teacher at Sarah Reynolds School and the BOE from September 1970 to February 1998.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Anastasio seconded by Commissioner Vibert, it was unanimously

**VOTED: That the minutes of the October 7, 2009 Regular Meeting be approved as written.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Operations Committee:**

Commissioner Bonola reported that the Operations Committee met on October 14<sup>th</sup> and reviewed architectural firm design bids for South Side School roof. The committee voted to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to award Contract 2P10-029 Architectural/Engineering Services for Replacement of Roof at South Side Elementary School to the Lawrence Associates, Architects/Planners, P.C. in the amount of \$19,500 for architectural fees and a structural analysis fee of \$7,000, for a total cost of \$26,500.00, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all necessary documents necessary to effect said contract. There were a total of four design bids.

**Communications and Community Relations Committee:**

Commissioner Vibert reported that the committee met and on October 14, 2009. Jeannie Audette reviewed what would appear in the fall community newsletter. The newsletter has been distributed through the Observer newspaper and is also available Board of Education Building, the Senior Center and Bristol public libraries. Jeanine also reported that the Business Education Foundation will be providing \$10,000 in mini-grants to staff to fund innovative programs that are not funded through the General Fund. We are always looking for more mentors. More than 20 mentors from last year have relocated and we need to fill that gap. There was discussion regarding having school newsletters available online, Jeannie Audette was going to speak with Rich Gagliardi about that possibility. Annemarie Sundgren, NCLB Parent Coordinator, shared the first edition of "The Parent Toolkit". The newsletter is very helpful with a lot useful information. They are being distributed to all students' families who register in our schools and will be made available at the Board of Education, Bristol Community Organization, public libraries and on our website. The newsletter is in the process of being translated into Spanish. Dr. Moreau gave a report on the DSAC Survey results. Bristol participated in a computer based school improvement survey as part of the Supported Schools Program through the Department of Education. Results from the Community Section of this survey, showed that Fostering Parent Involvement was an area of relative weakness for our schools. The committee will use the survey questions as a springboard to understanding

**Communications and Community Relations Committee: (con't)**

specific areas where improvement may be made. At the October Board of Education meeting Commissioner Wilson asked how we use our volunteers in our schools and committee discussed that topic. The committee asked that Jeanine Audette and Annemarie Sundgren craft a brief survey of principals and secretaries to gather information on who volunteers in our schools, numbers of individuals and the tasks in which they are asked to engage.

**Personnel Committee**

Commissioner O'Brien reported that the committee met, and the topic of Teacher Retirement Incentive will appear later on the agenda.

**Student Achievement Committee**

The Student Achievement Committee will meet on Friday, November 6, 2009.

**Consent Agenda**

**New Teacher Hire - Effective November 2, 2009**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following New Teacher Hire:  
Alissa Freking - CHMS - Language Arts, Grade 6/7***

**A-2 Teacher Resignation - Effective September 10, 2009**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education accept the following A-2 Teacher Resignation  
Gina D'Amato - BEHS - Sophomore Co-Advisor***

**A-2 Teacher Appointment - Effective September 29, 2009**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following A-2 Teacher Appointments:  
Michelle Collins - BCHS - Freshman Co-Advisor  
David Greenleaf - BCHS - Freshman Co-Advisor***

**A-3 Teacher Appointment - Effective September 2, 2009**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following A-3 Teacher Appointment:  
Debra Cawley - MBMS - Social Studies Coordinator***

**Certified Personnel Who Have Attained Tenure**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

**Certified Personnel Who Have Attained Tenure (con't)**

***VOTED:*** That the Board of Education approve the following Certified Personnel Who Have Attained Tenure:

<b><u>Bristol Central High School</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Abreu, Debbie - TESOL	6/30/09
Boissonnault, Matthew - English	3/31/09
Hertzler, Sarah - Social Studies	6/30/09
Jacques, Sharon - Business	6/30/09
McCabe, Kelly - Math	6/30/09
Nelson, David - Music	6/30/09
Plourde, Gerard - Social Studies	6/30/09
Quinto, Julie - English	6/30/09
Stifel, Jessica - Art	1/31/09
<b><u>Bristol Eastern High School</u></b>	
Burdelski, Elizabeth - English	6/30/09
Burns, Michelle – Math	12/31/08
Jacobs, Boniface – Latin	4/30/09
Kaminski, Barbara - Social Studies	1/31/09
Kuhr, Carolyn - Science	6/30/09
McElwee, Rebecca – English	9/30/08
<b><u>Chippens Hill Middle School</u></b>	
Kosciukiewicz, Peter - Art	6/30/09
LaDone, Lisa - Music	6/30/09
Rustico, Janice - Language Arts	6/30/09
Walker, Reinhard – Math	6/30/09
<b><u>Bingham School</u></b>	
Schaffrick, Terri - Grade 1	6/30/09
<b><u>Edgewood School</u></b>	
Behrendt, Sarah - Grade 4	6/30/09
Vita, Diane - Grade 2	6/30/09
<b><u>Greene-Hills School</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Greulik, Monica - TESOL	6/30/09
<b><u>Ivy Drive School</u></b>	
Scialdone, Jenny - Grade 5	6/30/09
<b><u>Mountain View School</u></b>	
DeSena, Clint - Grade 4	6/30/09

**Mountain View School – con't**

LaRosa, Kathryn - Grade 3	6/30/09
Schaefer, Maureen - Grade 4	6/30/09

**Clara T. O'Connell School**

Stafford, Jason - Grade 4	6/30/09
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**South Side School**

Bierut, Kelly - Grade 2	6/30/09
Klimas, Mary - Grade 3	6/30/09
LeVasseur, Michelle - Grade 3	6/30/09
Lucid, Stacy - Grade 1	6/30/09
Sexton, Erin - Kindergarten	6/30/09

**Stafford School**

Ciralli, Vicki - Grade 2	6/30/09
Szmalc, Amanda - Grade 4	6/30/09

**Special Education**

Allen, Jennifer - STAF - Pre-K	6/30/09
Campolo, Sharon - SSS/JJJ	6/30/09
McLean, Barbara - JJJ/EPH	6/30/09
Mensel, Michelle - CHMS	12/31/08

**Administrators**

Benham, Ellen - BOE - Phys Ed/Athletics/Health	6/30/09
Hawk, Mary - CHMS - Assistant Principal	6/30/09
Merriman, Ronda - BOE - Special Services	6/30/09

**Coaching Appointments**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following Coaching Appointments:***

***Lance Chase - Assistant Wrestling Coach - BEHS - Effective 11/20/09***

***Joseph Russo - Assistant Girls Swim & Dive Coach - BEHS - Effective 10/2/09***

**Volunteer Coaching Appointments**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following Volunteer Coaching Appointment:***

***Michael Bourassa - Football Program - BCHS - Effective 10/2/09***

**GRANTS**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Luczkow, it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the following Grants:***

***ARRA Stabilization Funds***

***Family Math Nights for Cubs Corner at O'Connell School***

***"Get SMART"***

***Investing & Personal Finance Education Grant***

***School Readiness Grant***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Beauchamp, 93 Indian Trail, Bristol addressed the Board regarding the Gymnastics Team of One. Mr. Beauchamp stated that the Gymnastics Team of One was approved at the October 7, 2009 Board Meeting. Bristol Central received permission to participate with Southington High School and Bristol Eastern received permission to participate with Farmington High School. They received an email on October 8, 2009 stating that a signup sheet would be posted at the main office of BCHS for interested students, with a deadline date of October 14th, and that a parent meeting was to follow the sign up process. As of today, they have not been notified of a meeting. On October 14, 2009, the deadline set by administration, only three students from Bristol Central had signed up. On October 21, 2009 they received a letter with a decision not to have a team of one at either high school, based on the number of sign ups. We know from last year's experience that an interested student does not have parental permission, have medical authorization, meet academic standards or want to participate with a program set up at another school. We are aware that a fourth student signed up at Bristol Central High School beyond the signup date imposed by the administration, the fourth name was accepted without knowledge of the students' status or ability to compete within the team of one guideline set by the CIAC.

Mr. Beauchamp has several concerns: Why wasn't a parent meeting scheduled as indicated by Mrs. Benham in her October 8th email? Why was the deadline date set not followed by Mrs. Benham? Why was the list left in the office with no one available to answer any potential questions a student might have regarding their eligibility? He is truly disappointed in the procedures that were put in place and not followed accordingly. His desire from the beginning was to advocate for his daughter and the daughters of the other families who have followed the procedures appropriately.

Dr. Streifer acknowledged that the plans for the program had changed at the last minute, and a plan was put in place once the district was notified that one of the schools involved was no longer willing to participate. This limited the number of high schools that were willing to have a team of one to only one school; they were setting a limit of five students. Dr. Streifer and Mrs. Benham met and decided that it was not feasible to run the program based on the numbers at both high schools and the limit set by the other school district. Dr. Streifer authorized Mrs. Benham to send the letter stating that given the Board direction, it wasn't possible to run the program.

There was discussion regarding follow through of the initial plan, how parents had received follow-up information and why they had not been notified why the program was not going to be offered. Mr. Beauchamp stated that he hopes that they can come to a resolution as to how to proceed in providing gymnastics as a sport to Bristol High School Students.

#### **June 30, 2009 General Fund Financials**

The Board of Education ended the 2009 school year with a balance of \$641,473.67. The surplus was attributable largely to turnover within our salary accounts and supplies. These surpluses were used to offset deficits in Special Education tuition, transportation, fuel oil, severance payments, and deficits within the food service fund. The amount returned to the City after paying the food service deficit was \$641,473.67.

On motion of Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Vibert, it was unanimously

#### **June 30, 2009 General Fund Financials (con't)**

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the June 30, 2009 General Fund Financials.***

### **October 1 Report**

Dennis Bieu Human Resource Director, presented the October 1 Enrollment Count for the 2009-2010 School Year. Mr. Bieu noted that this year is a little unusual because Mountain View Grade 5 and one South Side kindergarten class is capped. The projects are a little below this year, NESDEC off by twenty-six and PROWDA off by forty-five. Elementary class size averages and ranges are very good. Middle School enrollment is up by fifty. NESDEC and PROWDA are closer in terms of their projections. Both high schools combined are down by sixty-three. NESDEC and PROWDA were fairly accurate in predicting our high school enrollment.

Discussion followed regarding: Grade school enrollment, the increase in class loads at Bristol Eastern High School, trends at any of schools, surveys from other towns regarding class sizes and Open Choice Programs and legislative mandates.

### **CMT-CAPT 2008 Results and Cohort Analysis**

Dr. Streifer reported that in the latest Edition of CT Magazine, where they rate all cities and town. In the section of cities over 50,000 in the Education category, Bristol fared very well. We are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> on the list behind Greenwich, Fairfield, West Hartford and Milford. This is an indication of the results that we are getting are being recognized not only locally, but statewide. We did well based on our comparison group.

Kris Irvine presented a detailed report of the 2008 CMT and CAPT results. Bristol once again had several increases, and did well. Some items highlighted were: Same-Grade Analysis comparing Bristol 2009 scores with Bristol 2008 scores and Bristol 2009 scores with State 2009 scores. Cohort Analysis – Grade-to-Grade/Same-Student, the Bristol Growth Model Report, the State Achievement Level Report, and the State Vertical Scale Scores Report; Cohort Analysis reports are given for total students as well as Hispanic, African American, Economically Disadvantaged, and Special Education subgroups.

Mrs. Irvine noted that all current school and district accountability plans and the current strategic school profiles will be available on the Bristol Public Schools website this month.

### **AYP**

Mrs. Irvine gave an Adequate Yearly Progress report. For 2011 the AYP targets will increase again 9 to 10 percentage points. We are concerned that we will be unable to the AYP targets by 2014. If we cannot find ways to make that goal, we could potentially have all of our schools will be “In Need of Progress”. We continue to have a challenge with migration and our economically disadvantaged population. There has been an increase of 56% since 2003; we have gone from 25% to 39%. Some of our long range goals are to increase the percentage of students who are at or above goal on CMT and CAPT and increase the number of students scoring 600 on the SAT’s.

Discussion followed regarding how we score moderate to large gains and the 20% differential.

Dr. Streifer thanked Mrs. Irvine for all of her hard work in preparing the report.

### **Bristol Central HS Performing Arts Trip to Toronto – April 22-25, 2010**

Dr. Marty Semmel and John Abucewicz were on hand to answer any questions regarding the Bristol Central HS Performing Arts Trip to Toronto. Mr. Abucewicz explained that an important part of any music program is providing performance opportunities for students outside of the school and community. It is important for them to hear musical groups from other high schools, states, and even other regions. Music is an activity that can be compared from school to school without feeling threatened as in competitive sports, but rather viewed as a benchmark to strive for. Without using a tour company and by booking the busses himself, he was able to keep the prices very close to what they were the last time they traveled to Canada in 2005. Bristol Central performed at a

### **Bristol Central HS Performing Arts Trip ( con’t)**

Heritage Festival on our last trip (2007) and enjoyed the experience very much. The adjudicators were very good, providing valuable comments that would help the musicians improve when they returned to the rehearsal room.

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Vibert, it was

**VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Bristol Central HS Performing Arts Trip to Toronto from April 22-25, 2010.**

Chairman Doyle declared the motion **PASSED** with eight (8) commissioners in favor of the motion, and one (1), Commissioner Doyle abstaining.

### **Teacher Retirement Incentive Program**

Commissioner O'Brien reported that the Personnel Committee met on Monday and reviewed the Retirement Incentive Program. Approximately 52 teachers have submitted their agreement to participate in the plan. Approximately half will retire at the end of this school year and the other half at the end of next school year. In looking at the numbers, our original assumptions indicated that it would not provide the savings that were needed. However by limiting replacements to M1 in the elementary schools and M3 in the secondary schools, we would achieve the desired savings; bringing next years to \$375,000 with an increase the second and third year, and by year four, the savings will be close to a million and half dollars.

On motion of Commissioner Vibert, seconded by Commissioner Turcotte, it was unanimously

**VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Teacher Retirement Incentive Program.**

There are several advantages to the program; we are able to recruit now for next year and the following year. We have the option on certain positions which may be more difficult to fill, to ask that the teacher remain for one additional year. The program was crafted with the BFT. It is important to mention, that these are not early retirements; rather teachers eligible for retirement following completion of 35+ years but who had chosen to continue teaching.

### **Policy 6144.1 - Reacting to Political Action/Issues – First Reading**

Dr. Streifer presented the background for the development of Policy 6144.1- Reacting to Political Action/Issues. The policy was established after a recent political event. Dr. Streifer read an excerpt from the policy:

*The role of public schools is to teach about issues and to present varying points of view. It is not the role of public schools to become part of the political process or to be drawn into it by opposing ideological sides. Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines to ensure that the proper role of the public schools be maintained in what is becoming an increasingly charged, over politicized, fast moving news cycle, designed to force the views of one group or the other on the whole of the school population. Therefore, schools need to remain apolitical. Moreover, there is a difference between dealing with and teaching about current political issues and becoming embroiled in a political issue and taking sides. Many of the troubles faced by schools today, including many of our failed reforms, have been exacerbated by the over politicization of American public education. Above all, curriculum needs to be depoliticized. Schools should not take a stand on current political issues; they should be reflective and teach about the various views. No matter what one's views are on the efficacy or inappropriate nature of President Obama's speech to school children, which was the event that precipitated this the over-politicization and timing of the criticism caused an untenable situation for all public schools across the country including ours.*

Dr. Streifer explained the guidelines of the policy. "It is the policy of the Bristol Public Schools that the Superintendent shall ensure to the greatest extent possible that school curricula and school activities remain

### **Policy 6144.1 - Reacting to Political Action/Issues – First Reading (con't)**

clear of overt political action and politicization from any group or party seeking to force one point of view or the other on the school system. Instead, it shall be the policy of the Bristol Public Schools to ensure that a fair and balanced discussion be held in conjunction with politically-charged issues. *When timing does not permit the organization and implementation of fair and balanced discussion, individual schools, acting through their principals in consultation with the Superintendent, may:*

1. *Provide parental choice for their child to opt out of participation of an event related to a politically-charged issue, if time and logistics permit, and to proceed with the event, or*
2. *Choose to pass up on the event and the related discussion altogether.”*

This is the first reading of this policy, any questions or concerns may be directed to Dr. Streifer in the intervening month.

### **Old Business**

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

### **New Business**

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

### **Building Committee Reports**

#### **Forestville Committee**

Commissioner O'Brien reported that there has been progress. The committee has reviewed various models and schematics of potential buildings and site locations. They have reached a decision as to where the school will be located as well as the general shape of the school. They are on target; they have met with the State, received approval, signed the contract with the architects and he believes that they are close to signing with the construction manager and have our on-site representative who is an employee of the board. It is encouraging to see such progress.

#### **West Bristol Committee**

Commissioner Wilson reported that there has been equally as much progress on the West Bristol committee. They have been given three (3) sites to review: one at the corner of Clark and Matthews, one in the middle of the parcel and another deep in the parcel, there has been extensive discussion, but they have not arrived at location yet. They spent time looking at traffic and bus flow and parking issues, to insure that those issues are well vetted. They have asked the architect to re-configure one of the site plans, for later review. They are at the same stage as the Forestville Committee with the construction manager - waiting the contract signing. It is exciting to see the committee making progress.

### **INFORMATION**

Commissioner Wilson commented that this may or may not be Cliff Block's last meeting as the Council Liaison to the Board, due to last night's election and pending Council member re-assignments. Commissioner Wilson congratulated him on his win, and expressed his please with having had the opportunity to work with him and hopes that he will be able to do so for a few more years. The Board thanked Mr. Block for his time spent as the Board Liaison.

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

On motion of Commissioner Vibert, seconded by Commissioner Bonola, it was unanimously

### **VOTE TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (con't)**

***VOTED: That the Board of Education convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing, Student Expulsion and a discussion of a possible action on the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract of Employment. (8:30 p.m.).***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners, Jane E. Anastasio, Margaret L. Bonola, Amy D. Coan, Barbara Y. Doyle, Julie M. Luczkow (Excused at 9:35), Thomas P. O'Brien, Sherry A. Turcotte, Karen L. Vibert, Christopher C. Wilson; Philip A. Streifer, Superintendent of Schools, Dennis Bieu, Human Resources Director, and Clifford Block, Council Liaison to the Board.

**Excused:** Susan Moreau, Deputy Superintendent

Executive session was called to order at 8:45 p.m.

Dennis Bieu gave updates on three student expulsions.

Several people were excused for the discussion of the Superintendent's Contract.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners, Jane E. Anastasio, Margaret L. Bonola, Amy D. Coan, Barbara Y. Doyle, Thomas P. O'Brien, Sherry A. Turcotte, Karen L. Vibert, Christopher C. Wilson; Philip A. Streifer, Superintendent of Schools.

There was discussion of the Superintendent's Contract.

**RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

On motion of Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Bonola it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education reconvene into Public Session to vote on any items discussed in Executive Session. (10:11 p.m.)***

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT**

On motion of Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien it was

***VOTED: That the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Contract.***

Chairman Doyle declared the motion **PASSED**, after a roll call vote of seven (7) commissioners in favor of the motion, and one (1), Commissioner Anastasio, opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Commissioner Turcotte, seconded by Commissioner Coan it was unanimously

***VOTED: That the Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (10:15 p.m.)***

Respectfully Submitted:

***Susan P. Everett***

Susan P. Everett  
Board of Education Secretary



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Bristol, Connecticut**

**2010 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Day and Time:** First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.  
(*Except July and August*)

**Place of Meeting:** Auditorium, Board of Education Administration Building,  
129 Church Street, Bristol, Connecticut 06010

January 6, 2010

February 3, 2010

March 3, 2010

April 7, 2010

May 5, 2010

June 2, 2010

July 7, 2010

August 18, 2010 \*

September 15, 2010 \*

October 6, 2010

November 3, 2010

December 1, 2010

January 5, 2011

## **Instruction**

### **Reacting to Political Action/Issues**

The role of public schools is to teach about issues and to present varying points of view. It is not the role of public schools to become part of the political process or to be drawn into it by opposing ideological sides. Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines to ensure that the proper role of the public schools be maintained in what is becoming an increasingly charged, over politicized, fast moving news cycle, designed to force the views of one group or the other on the whole of the school population.

Therefore, schools need to remain apolitical. Moreover, there is a difference between dealing with and teaching about current political issues and becoming embroiled in a political issue and taking sides. Above all, curriculum needs to be depoliticized. Schools should not take a stand on current political issues; they should be reflective and teach about the various views.

It is the policy of the Bristol Public Schools that the Superintendent shall ensure to the greatest extent possible that school curricula and school activities remain clear of overt political action and politicization from any group or party seeking to force one point of view or the other on the school system. Instead, it shall be the policy of the Bristol Public Schools to ensure that a fair and balanced discussion be held in conjunction with politically-charged issues. When timing does not permit the organization and implementation of fair and balanced discussion, individual schools, *acting through their principals in consultation with the Superintendent*, may:

1. Provide parental choice for their child to opt out of participation *of an event related to a politically-charged issue*, if time and logistics permit, and to proceed with the event, or
2. Choose to pass up on the *event and the related* discussion altogether.

Legal Reference:      c.f. 1312 – Public Complaints  
                                 c.f. 6161 – Equipment, Books, Material: Provision/Selection  
                                 c.f. 6144 – Instruction: Controversial Issues

Policy Adopted:

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Bristol, Connecticut