

## **Student Achievement Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 7:00 PM

BOE Auditorium and via Zoom Meeting Platform, 129 Church Street, Bristol, CT 06010

1. **Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Decision: Approval of Minutes from Student Achievement Meeting on 9/16/2026**

3. **Public Comment**

4. **Information: High Dosage Tutoring Grant**

**Presenter:** Cary Fortin, Laura Lanza, and Leszek Ward

5. **Information: SBA Achievement and Growth**

**Presenter:** Carly Fortin

6. **Information: Freshmen On-Track Rate**

**Presenter:** Carly Fortin

7. **Information: K-5 Fine Arts**

**Presenter:** Kenneth Bagley

8. **Adjournment**



**Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee  
September 16, 2026  
MINUTES**

*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [September 16, 2026 SAC Meeting Recording](#).*

**PRESENT:** Committee members: Kara Ledger, Barbara Tedesco, Jill Fitzsimmons-Bula (virtual)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ken Bagley, Carly Fortin, Laura Lanza, Zach Maher, Debra Vitale, Melanie Vetrano, Leszek Ward, Joseph Grabowski, Mary Hawk, Iris White, Sara Hale, Erika Treannie, Erika Coleman (virtual), Orlando Valle (virtual), Aaron Lyles (virtual), Geoff Sinatra (virtual), Katy Reddick (virtual), Michelle LeVasseur (virtual), Michael Higgins (virtual), Shelby Pons (virtual),

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Ledger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Decision: Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2026**

*On a motion made by Commissioner Kara Ledger and seconded by Commissioner Barbara Tedesco, it was unanimously:*

**VOTED: to approve the August 19, 2026 Student Achievement minutes.**

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Information: Nesolagus Collaboration with Bristol Public Schools**

Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, provided an overview of the district's professional learning work within Bristol's model of high-quality instruction, including the recent focus on student discourse and the transition toward writing. Aaron Lyles, founder of Nesolagus, presented the district's new Student Voice Initiative, which will use conversational-style surveys to gather qualitative feedback from students about their experiences with writing and communication. Students in grades 3-5 will participate with facilitated support and may provide audio responses, while students in grades 6-12 will primarily provide written responses. Surveys will be available in English and Spanish, participation will be optional, and families will receive information and an opportunity to opt out. The district anticipates launching the survey around September 28 and closing it in mid-October.

Questions and comments followed.

**Discussion: School Calendar 2027-28 and 2028-29**

Presented by Joseph Grabowski, Chief of Talent Management, the committee continued its discussion regarding the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school calendars and reviewed historical student and staff attendance data associated with religious holidays. Following discussion, the committee agreed to continue to consider calendar changes in future years as circumstances warrant.

Questions and comments followed.

**Decision: Graduation Date - Class of 2027**

Joseph Grabowski and administration discussed determining the high school graduation date at the start of the school year. Mr. Grabowski shared that there was positive feedback from the previous year from faculty and families. The proposed practice would schedule graduation on the projected last day of school identified at the beginning of the school year.

Questions and comments followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Ledger and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula, it was unanimously:*

**VOTED: to move the proposed graduation date for the Class of 2027 to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Information: PSAT/SAT Outcomes**

Carly Fortin presented district PSAT and SAT outcome data, highlighting student growth from PSAT to SAT, including significant gains in mathematics. Strategies to support continued improvement include incorporating SAT-aligned questions into midterms, finals, and unit assessments; utilizing progress-monitoring tools; and analyzing student performance data to identify strengths and areas for growth. Focus continues on ensuring that college remains an option for all students and the role SAT performance can play in college admission, scholarships, and financial assistance.

Questions and comments followed.

**Information: Attendance and Discipline Outcomes -**

Erika Treannie presented the district's 2025-26 attendance outcomes. The district's chronic absenteeism rate increased approximately two percentage points, with much of the increase occurring in June. Several schools nevertheless demonstrated year-over-year improvement, including Bristol Eastern, Bristol Prep, and West Bristol.

Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk presented discipline outcomes, highlighting reductions in in-school suspensions and expulsions. In-school suspensions decreased from 840 in 2022-23 to 569 in 2025-26, while expulsions decreased from 31 to nine during the same period. District next steps include conflict de-escalation and restorative mediation, increased adult presence during transitions, proactive staff training, tiered behavioral interventions, multidisciplinary reviews, counseling and prevention supports, and continued attendance monitoring.

Questions and comments followed.

**Information: Pilot of Curriculum Sprints (Curriculum Credit Connection) -**

Carly Fortin presented an innovative high school pilot designed to support students who

have struggled to earn credits through traditional course structures. The pilot incorporates small classes, student choice, high-interest and real-world learning experiences, and shorter instructional cycles. Students may earn .125 credit at the end of each progress reporting period, allowing them to see more immediate progress toward credit attainment. The pilot will continue throughout the school year, with administration returning to the committee in June to report on credit attainment, attendance, disciplinary outcomes, student engagement, and changes in students' perceptions of themselves as learners. Questions and discussion followed.

**Decision: Latin Historical Prose New Course -**

Leszek Ward, Supervisor of Secondary Humanities, presented the proposed Latin Historical Prose course, developed in partnership with Latin teacher Katie Riddick as part of an effort to redesign the district's advanced Latin sequence. The curriculum incorporates tiered Latin texts to allow students with varying levels of language experience to study common historical content while working at an appropriate level of complexity.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula, it was unanimously:*

**VOTED: to move the Latin Historical Prose New Course to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Algebra II Curriculum Revision**

Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented revisions to the Algebra II curriculum to align with updated Illustrative Mathematics resources and Common Core State Standards. The revised curriculum includes sequences and functions, quadratic equations, polynomial functions, rational functions and equations, and extensions of the number system. The curriculum also differentiates expectations for academic and accelerated courses and incorporates formative and summative assessments, Multilingual Learner supports, anticipated misconceptions, and instructional strategies.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Fitzsimmons-Bula, it was unanimously:*

**VOTED: to move the Algebra II Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Grades 6-8 Science Curriculum Revision**

Laura Lanza presented the Grades 6-8 Science curriculum revisions, developed collaboratively to strengthen vertical alignment and consistency across schools. The curriculum includes updated instructional guides, common learning targets and success criteria, hands-on investigations, simulations, engineering design experiences, Universal Design for Learning supports, and accommodations for Multilingual Learners.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner*

*Fitzsimmons-Bula, it was unanimously:*

**VOTED: to move the Grade 6-8 Science Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Ledger adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Maryann Motta***

Maryann Motta

DRAFT



## PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Bristol Board of Education welcomes public participation in accordance with Policy 1120, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings. Board meetings are meetings held in public and are not public hearings. Public participation is subject to recognition by the Chairperson and the requirements of Board policy.

### A. Public Participation During Meetings

1. **Recognition:** Individuals wishing to speak must address the Chairperson for recognition and state their name, address, and topic.
2. **Speaking Time:** Each speaker is limited to four (4) minutes and may speak only once. Speakers may not transfer their allotted time to another individual or speak on behalf of another person or organized group.
3. **Subject Matter:** Comments should concern matters within the Board's jurisdiction or the topic for which the speaker signed up. The Chairperson may remind speakers of this requirement but shall not restrict or terminate speaking time solely because of the viewpoint expressed or specific subject addressed. Speakers whose comments fall outside the Board's jurisdiction will be advised accordingly, and their comments will be noted for the record.
4. **Public Input:** The Board welcomes and values a variety of perspectives and encourages community members to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns respectfully.
5. **Student Confidentiality and Personnel Matters:** Comments involving confidential student information protected by FERPA are prohibited. Individuals with complaints concerning district personnel are strongly encouraged to use the appropriate administrative chain of command.
6. **Meeting Conduct:** All participants are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and help maintain an orderly meeting. Disruptive behavior, harassment, obscene language, and threats are prohibited. Individuals who disrupt the meeting may be warned and, if the behavior continues, asked to leave.
7. **Board Responses:** Board members do not respond directly to public comments during meetings. The Chairperson or Superintendent may provide brief factual clarification or refer questions and concerns to appropriate district personnel for follow-up.

### B. Written Public Comments

Members of the public may submit written comments for distribution to Board members.

1. Email written comments to [maryannmotta@bristolk12.org](mailto:maryannmotta@bristolk12.org) with the subject line **PUBLIC COMMENT- Student Achievement Committee**
2. Include your full name, address, and topic.
3. Comments should concern matters within the Board's jurisdiction.
4. Do not include confidential student information protected by FERPA. Complaints involving individual district personnel should be directed through appropriate administrative channels.

5. Comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to Board members before the meeting. Comments received after that time may be distributed following the meeting.
6. Written comments and supporting materials may be made available to Board members but are not automatically read aloud or included on the meeting agenda.

### **C. Administration of Procedures**

The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order and administering public participation in accordance with Policy 1120. Public participation during consideration of regular agenda items is permitted at the Chairperson's discretion, consistent with Board policy. These procedures are intended to provide clear, consistent guidance and do not supersede Policy 1120 or applicable law.