The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Regular Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link:10/7/26-Regular Board of Education Meeting

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, October 7, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Jennifer Tagariello, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Thomas Hick, Kara Ledger, Robert Parenti (virtual), Barbara Tedesco, Kristen Giantonio, Jennifer Van Gorder; and Peter Kelley, Board Liaison (virtual)

Also Present: Superintendent Iris White, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent, Jodi Bond, Director of Finance, Dr. Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Services, Joseph Grabowski, Chief Talent Management Officer, Jeff Telke, Supervisor of IT and Carly Fortin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Chair Shelby Pons called the Regular Meeting of the Bristol Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. The Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Aidan Collins, Bristol Eastern High School Class of 2024, who passed away on September 19, 2026.

2. Staff and Student Recognition

2.1 School Staff Appreciation Days

Superintendent Iris White recognized and expressed appreciation for Bristol Public Schools staff in observance of several national recognition days and weeks throughout October, including National Principals Month, National Custodian Day (October 2), World Teachers' Day (October 5), National Coaches Day (October 6), and National School Bus Safety Week (October 19–23). She acknowledged the dedication and contributions of principals, custodians, teachers, coaches, and school bus personnel in supporting student success and ensuring safe, welcoming school environments.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 September 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

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3.2 September 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes..
Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

3.3 September 23, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the September 23, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes as written.
Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion carried 7-0-2 with (2) abstention from Commissioners Jennifer Van Gorder & Kristen Giantonio.

4. Committee Reports

Student Achievement Committee: Commissioner Kara Ledger reported the Committee reviewed the Student Voice Initiative, including conversational-style surveys; PSAT/SAT outcomes; attendance and discipline information; and three curriculum revisions: Latin Historical Prose, Algebra 2, and Grades 6–8 Science. The Committee also received information regarding a curriculum designed to support students who have difficulty earning credit through traditional pathways.

School Safety Committee: Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met earlier this evening and discussed all the following agenda items: ALICE Roll-Out Update, Camera Update, Stop the Bleed Training, Fire Alarm System Updates and Swatting Update.

Policy Committee: Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula reported the Committee met on September 23, 2026, and forwarded (8) eight policy revisions to the full Board for consideration this evening. Additional policy work is scheduled for the next Committee meeting.

School, Family, & Community Partnership Committee: Commissioner Tedescro reported the committee met on September 16, 2026 and received a presentation from Hubbell School and Erika Treanni regarding parent communication, family engagement, and attendance initiatives. The Committee plans to have a principal provide a school report at each meeting.

Finance & Operations Committee: Commissioner Jennifer Tagariello reported the Committee reviewed the district's financial position. Actual expenditures were reported at $8,504,664, with an available balance of $54,009,996. The cafeteria fund was reported to have a surplus of approximately $95,000. The Committee also reviewed the district's new financial dashboard, which is currently being piloted by the Finance and Operations Committee with plans for broader access.

5. Student Representatives

Superintendent White welcomed the 2026–2027 Board of Education Senior Student Representatives and recognized the eight students who participated in the selection process. Other students were invited to participate in the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

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Bristol Central High School Student Representative, Anne-Marie Beauchemin, reported on PSAT/SAT administration, senior college application workshops, parent-teacher conferences, senior parking space painting, efforts to restore senior quotes to the yearbook, club engagement, fundraising, and plans to gather input from student club and grade-level leaders. Full report can be found here: A.B (BCHS) BOE Rep October report

Bristol Eastern High School Student Representative, Erin Martin, reported on the school club fair, fall activities and athletics, parent-teacher conferences, school safety measures, pep rally inclusivity, student requests for additional PSAT/SAT preparation, and interest in expanded fresh food options in the cafeteria. Full report can be found here: Erin Martin Report-Oct 2026

6. Chair Report

Chair Pons welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Thomas Hicks to the Board and recognized former Commissioner Ozenkowski for her service and contributions to the Board, including her work with the School Safety Committee.

7. Superintendent Report

Superintendent White presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting the following matters:
School Bus Safety:
Installation of BusPatrol safety camera technology on Bristol school buses is scheduled to begin October 26, 2026. The technology will identify vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses. Additional communication will be provided to families and the community prior to the warning and enforcement phases.

Student Bus Pass Initiative:
The district's allocation of Connecticut Department of Transportation student bus passes was increased to 318 passes. Bristol Alternative High School, Bristol Eastern High School, and Bristol Central High School will each receive 35 passes per trimester. School administrators and counselors will identify students based on individual transportation needs.

FY 2027–2028 Budget Planning:
The district will begin school and department budget presentations later in October. Presentations will be conducted virtually and recorded. The district continues to explore shared services and cost-saving opportunities, including technology expenditures. An outside review of accounts payable data is underway, and the district continues its IT task force meetings with the Mayor's Office. Budget workshops with the City are anticipated to begin in January.

Legislative Advocacy:
Superintendent White reviewed the Connecticut Association of Urban School Superintendents' legislative priorities, including increasing the Education Cost Sharing foundation amount, indexing ECS funding to inflation, and fully funding the Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant while providing greater flexibility in the use of funds.

Superintendent White introduced Carly Fortin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who presented the spring 2026 PSAT and SAT assessment data. The report highlighted strong growth in mathematics and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing across the district. Notably, all juniors achieved expected growth in mathematics from the fall PSAT to the spring SAT. Bristol improved its overall performance among Alliance Districts, rising to second place. Furthermore, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals demonstrated significant academic gains, exceeding the state average on both subtests. The Class of 2027 also demonstrated higher performance overall compared to the Class of 2026.

Superintendent White then introduced Erika Treannie, Director of Climate, Culture, and Student Services, who presented the district's 2025–2026 chronic absenteeism report. Ms. Treannie noted that chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. The district concluded the academic year with a 20.3% chronic absenteeism rate, reflecting an approximate 2% increase from the prior year. However, several schools demonstrated improvements, particularly at the high school level, where Bristol Eastern High School reduced its rate by approximately 2% and Bristol Preparatory Academy achieved a reduction of approximately 4%.

The district was awarded a $225,000 LEAP attendance grant to support attendance and student engagement initiatives. Continued emphasis will be placed on targeted attendance interventions and proactive outreach.

Following the presentation, Board members engaged in discussion regarding student attendance strategies and the overall efficacy of home visits.

This concluded the Superintendent's Report.

8. <u>Consent Agenda</u>

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included items from 8.1.a to 7.2.h.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1 PERSONNEL

8.1.a Teacher Hires

Blumetti, Olivia – ID – Kindergarten Teacher effective September 10, 2026
Davis, Anitra – CHMS – Special Education Teacher effective September 24, 2026
Dubin, Timothy – CW – Instrumental Teacher effective September 3, 2026
Gianni, Nicole – CW – School Psychologist effective August 24, 2026
Good, Mary – CW/BOE – Special Education Teacher effective September 29, 2026
Jimenez, Rebeca – GH – Speech and Language Pathologist effective September 22, 2026
Newton, Sarah – STAF/EPH – Speech and Language Pathologist effective September 22, 2026
Rimkie, Olivia – EPH/ID – Special Education Teacher effective September 15, 2026

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8.1.b Teacher Leave of Absence Requests
Knopf, Brittany – CHMS – Special Education Teacher effective September 23, 2026 through the end of the 26-27 School Year
LaRocca, MacKensie – GH – Grade 3 Teacher effective November 20, 2026 through the end of the 26-27 school year

8.1.c Teacher Retirements
Archangelo, Stacia – CW – Physical Education Teacher effective October 9, 2026
Monaco-Walsh, Kristine – CW – Art Teacher effective June 30, 2027

8.1.d A1 Hires effective August 24, 2026
Behrendt, Sarah – CHMS – Co-Orange Team Leader

8.1.e A2 Hire effective September 1, 2026
Abucewicz, Danielle – BE/BC – Special Performing Groups, Strawberry Fields
Nelson, David – CHMS – Special Performing Groups, Choral
Wodatch, Sara – NEMS – Climate Coordinator

8.1.f A2 Resignations effective June 30, 2026
Abucewicz, Danielle – CHMS – Special MS Performing Groups, Choral
Coderre, Michael – BEHS – Special Performing Groups, Strawberry Fields

8.1.g Administrative Resignation effective October 30, 2026
Broderick, Ryan – BCHS – Assistant Principal

8.2 GRANTS
8.2.a Federal Adult Education - PEP Comprehensive 2
8.2.b Prudence Crandall Center - CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)
8.2.c United Way of Central and Northeastern CT - Family Resource Center Operating Funds
8.2.d Early Start (formerly School Readiness)
8.2.e Mainstreet Community Foundation - Jim & Eleanor Frawley Community Fund
8.2.f The Barnes Foundation - Storytelling Residency Program
8.2.g Connecticut High Dosage Tutoring Program
8.2.h CT Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)
8.2.i McKinney-Vento Homeless Children & Youth Program

Discussion ensued regarding the Connecticut High Dosage Tutoring Program and the district's authority to select program options.

9. <u>Public Comments</u>
The Board received a copy of written public comment regarding Policy 1120, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings from Matthew Biadun, 53 Buff Road, Bristol, CT 06010.

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Victoria Corliss, 31 Haviland St, Bristol, CT 06010, addressed the Board regarding concerns related to transportation safety and reliability.

Chair Pons noted that the Superintendent would follow up directly with Ms. Corliss regarding the matters raised.

10. Deliberated Items/District Leadership Team Reports

10.1 Pupil Personnel Services Report

Dr. Amy Martino provided a Pupil Personnel Services Report enrollment and services within the district. As of September 1, 2026, 1,754 of the 7,815 enrolled Bristol Public Schools students were identified as requiring Special Education programming, representing 22.4% of the total student population.

The Board was informed that 123 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs, while an additional 88 students received special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools.

Dr. Martino also reported that during the month of August 2026, 45 of the 214 newly registered students 40% were identified at the time of registration as requiring Special Education programming and services. Of those newly registered students, two required placement in an out-of-district special education school program.

In addition, the Board received an update regarding emergency response activity during the month of August. There was (1) call to 211 and (0) calls to 911.

Dr. Martino provided an update on the Pupil Personnel Services monthly budget, as of September 1, 2026, all represented budget lines for the four primary budget drivers are fully available, with the exception of Private Placement Tuition, where expenditures have begun. Encumbrances have not yet been fully processed for the 2026–2027 school year. Each account will continue to be monitored as encumbrances are entered.

Questions and discussion followed the report in regards to enrollment trends, number of students returning to district programming, and continued monitoring of special education expenditures.

11. Curriculum Revisions

11.1 New Course Proposal: Latin Historical Prose

Lesek Ward, Secondary Humanities Supervisor, presented the proposed Latin Historical Prose curriculum. He outlined the structure of the revised upper-level elective, designed to offer flexible and rigorous course options to support four years of Latin study.

Discussion followed regarding the sequential progression of Latin courses and the implementation of the elective within the current course offerings.

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Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Latin Historical Prose curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. The motion passed unanimously.

11.2 Curriculum Revision: Middle School (Grades 6–8) Science
Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented proposed revisions to the Middle School Science curriculum (Grades 6–8). The comprehensive updates aim to align instructional expectations across schools, strengthen inquiry-based and laboratory experiences, integrate virtual simulations, and ensure alignment with state standards and high school readiness expectations.

There were no questions or further discussion following the presentation.

Vice Chair Tagariello called for a motion to approve the revisions to the Middle School (Grades 6–8) Science curriculum as presented.

Motion made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion passed unanimously.

11.3 Curriculum Revision: Algebra 2 (Academic & Accelerated)
Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented the revised Algebra 2 Academic and Accelerated curricula. The revisions align with the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum framework, enhance vertical alignment with Algebra 1, establish differentiated expectations for Academic and Accelerated levels, and incorporate adjustments based on SAT performance data.

There were no questions or further discussion following the presentation.

Vice Chair Tagariello called for a motion to approve the Algebra 2 curriculum revisions as presented.

Motion made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion passed unanimously.

12. <u>Policy Revisions</u>
12.1 Revision: Policy 3231 – Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students
Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented proposed revisions to Policy 3231, which was last updated on October 6, 1999. The updates align Medicaid billing procedures, consent requirements, privacy protections, and legal references with current standards. Parental consent remains mandatory for Medicaid billing. In the draft policy, proposed deletions are indicated by red strikethrough text and proposed additions are shown in blue text.

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Discussion followed regarding parental consent procedures.

Vice Chair Tagariello called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 3231 – Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students as presented.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Kara Ledger. The motion passed.

12.2 Revision: Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented proposed revisions to Policy 5114 (Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) to reflect statutory updates regarding alternative educational opportunities for students aged 16 to 18 facing a first or second expulsion. Proposed deletions are indicated by red strikethrough text and proposed additions are shown in blue text.

The Board discussed the financial implications of the statutory revisions, noting that the mandate does not include additional funding.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Barbara Tedesco. The motion passed.

12.3 Revision: Policy 5131.913 – Cyberbullying
Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented proposed revisions to Policy 5131.913 (Cyberbullying) to update legal references and recommended language. The policy was last updated on September 15, 2010. Proposed deletions are indicated by red strikethrough text and proposed additions are shown in blue text.

The Board discussed the proposed changes reflecting CABE sample language.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 5131.913 – Cyberbullying as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Barbara Tedesco. The motion passed.

12.4 Revision: Policy 4111/4211 – Recruitment and Selection
Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented proposed revisions to Policy 4111/4211 (Recruitment and Selection) to comply with Public Act 26-12, including job posting disclosure requirements and updated Teachers' Retirement Board re-employment provisions. The policy was last updated on December 7, 2016. Proposed deletions are indicated by red strikethrough text and proposed additions are shown in blue text.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the proposed policy revisions are mandated.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 4111/4211 – Recruitment and Selection as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. The motion passed.

12.5 Revision:Policy 5117 - School Attendance Areas

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background on Policy 5117 - School Attendance Areas. The policy was last updated on January 3, 2007 and the proposed changes are presented with new additions in blue and deletions in red.

Questions and discussion followed in regards to capped classrooms

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 5131.8 Out of School Misconduct as presented.

A motion was made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion carried 7-0-2 with (2) abstention from Commissioners Jennifer Van Gorder & Kristen Giantonio.

12.6 Revision:Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula provided a detailed background on the current Policy 1120 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings), which is based on the CABE model and was last revised on March 1, 2017. Policy 1120 was brought back to the Subcommittee for further review after receiving feedback from CABE and Attorney Jessica Ritter and the proposed changes are presented with new additions in blue and deletions in red.

Questions and discussion followed regarding language to #4, #5, #8.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings as presented. ***Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger.***

Following discussion, Chair Pons called for a revised motion with the corrected language of #8 to Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings.

A motion was made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion carried 7-0-2 with (2) abstention from Commissioners Jennifer Van Gorder & Kristen Giantonio.

12.7 Revision:Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided a detailed background on Bylaw 9325, Meeting Conduct, which is based on the CABE model and was last revised on April 6, 2016. With the need for consistency among Policy 1120, Bylaw 9325, and Bylaw 9322. The Committee proposed revisions to Bylaw 9325, including incorporating items #1–#11 from Policy 1120 to align the bylaw with the established public speaker procedures.The proposed changes are presented with new additions in blue and deletions in red.

Questions or discussion followed regarding the inclusion of items #1-11.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct as presented.

A motion was made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion carried 7-0-2 with (2) abstention from Commissioners Jennifer Van Gorder & Kristen Giantonio.

12.8 Revision:Bylaw 9322 Public and Executive Sessions

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula presented Bylaw 9322, Public and Executive Sessions. She noted that, based on a CABE audit, the bylaw is recommended for revision to align with the current CABE model. The bylaw was last updated on April 6, 2016. The proposed changes are presented with new additions in blue and deletions in red.

Questions and discussion followed regarding smoking being included in the Bylaw.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the revisions to Bylaw 9322 Public and Executive Sessions as presented.

A motion was made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion was carried unanimously.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Donation from the BCHS Athletics Activities account to the BCHS Press Box Project

Jodi Bond, Director of Finance presented the Donation from the BCHS Athletics Activities account to the BCHS Press Box Project.

Questions or discussion followed the use of funds for this project.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Donation of $34,000 from the BCHS Athletics Activities account to the BCHS Press Box project.

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Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. The motion passed.

13.2 Graduation Date for Class of 2027

Joseph Grabowski, Chief Officer of Talent Management presented to the Board the Class of 2027 Graduation date as June 11, 2027. The date corresponds with the projected last day of school and is intended to provide families, students, administrators, and vendors with advance notice for planning purposes.

Questions and discussion regarding plans for finals for students. Carly Fortin addressed the Board and presented the feedback with the collaborative work with the High Schools Council Administrative Team in regards to final exam schedule

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve June 11, 2027 as the graduation date for the Class of 2027.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and seconded by Kara Ledger. The motion passed.

13.3 First Review of Proposed School Calendars for 2027/2028 SY & 2028/2029 SY

Joseph Grabowski, Chief Officer of Talent Management presented a first review of draft school calendars for the 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 school years.

For 2027–2028, the projected first day is August 26, 2027, and the projected last day is June 7, 2028. The Board discussed the placement of Good Friday in relation to April vacation, alignment with neighboring districts, religious holidays, community feedback, and the impact of the school calendar on June programming and extended school year services.

For 2028–2029, the projected first day is August 28, 2028, and the projected last day is June 9, 2029. The Board discussed potentially exchanging February 16 and February 20 to reduce the likelihood of a low-attendance day between a religious holiday and Presidents' Day weekend.

No action was taken, draft calendars will be presented for a second review at the next Board of Education meeting.

13.4 First Review of Proposed 2027 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Board conducted a first review of proposed 2027 Board of Education meeting dates. Two scheduling options were presented, one beginning meetings at 6:30 p.m. and another at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners will provide their preferences for further consideration. No action was taken.

14. <u>Information/Liaison Reports</u>

14.1 City Council Liaison Report

No report provided.

14.2 BOE Liaison Reports

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Commissioner Tedesco acknowledged a report from Principal Farrell regarding family engagement activities and Bully Prevention Month initiatives.

15. <u>Adjournment</u>

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board of Education Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sydney Molina
Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

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