

*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [April 5, 2023 Meeting Recording](#) **Passcode: R47TXp&\$***

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Bristol, Connecticut**  
**Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Bristol Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bristol Board of Education auditorium and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Russell Anderson, Eric Carlson, Jennifer Dube, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kristen Giantonio, Shelby Pons, Maria Simmons, Todd Sturgeon and Dante Tagariello, **ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Catherine Carbone, Superintendent and Dr. Michael Dietter, Deputy Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MEETING NORMS**

Chair Dube called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for The Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Dube asked the audience to observe a moment of silence for Sharon DeFillipi a Grade 2 Teacher at O'Connell, Mountain View, and South Side from 1987 to 2018.

Chair Dube read the meeting norms into the record.

**STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION** – The Board recognized the following staff members:

**University of Rhode Island - Alfred J Verrecchia Scholar Award**

Bristol Central High School Senior – Ryan Ring is a recipient of the University of Rhode Island Alfred J Verrecchia Scholar Award. Ryan and his father were present online to be recognized. Ryan spoke about the application process and Commissioners were shown an excerpt from Ryan's winning video submission regarding the dangers of social media.

**State DECA Competition Winners**

Dr. Jamie Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor and Bristol Eastern High Teacher, Brittany Micari presented the State DECA Competition Winners. Senior Jessica Lopez and Freshman Emily Zurowski were both recognized for winning at the State DECA Competition for creating effective small business plans. Both students will now travel to Florida to compete in the National DECA Competition. Jessica was unable to attend this evening, but Emily Zurowski was present in the audience and stood with Ms. Micari to be recognized.

**Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winner**

Ken Bagley, Fine Arts Supervisor introduced Greene-Hills Grade 4 student, Carlos Aldama as the Bristol and Hartford County Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winner. Only four posters were chosen from Hartford County and Carlos's poster will hang in the State Capitol. Carlos and his parents were present in the audience to be recognized and Carlos shared with commissioners how he came up with his winning poster idea.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**March 1, 2023 Special Meeting - Meet & Greet**

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second, by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve March 1, 2023, Special Meet & Greet Meeting minutes as written. Commissioners Anderson, Pons, and Sturgeon Abstained.*

**March 1, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second, by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve March 1, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as written. Commissioners Anderson and Sturgeon Abstained.*

### **March 13, 2023 Special Meeting - BoE Retreat**

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second, by Todd Sturgeon, the Board of Education (Commissioners Fitzsimons-Bula, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve March 13, 2023, Special Meeting - BoE Retreat meeting minutes as written. Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, and Giantonio Abstained.*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance Committee**

Commissioner Tagariello reported that the committee met on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed our current financial position and was able to ask questions regarding our budget deficit. Commissioners received updates on our anticipated general fund reimbursement and hopefully, we will be balanced or in a small surplus by year-end. The only action item was a vote to approve the State Healthy Certification National School Lunch Program which the full board will take up this evening. As a reminder the Board of Education budget was presented to the Board of Finance on March 15<sup>th</sup>, several Commissioners were present in person or online to watch the presentation and hear the questions posed to us by the city. Recently the Board of Finance met and recommended a slight decrease to our budget request, modifications of which we will take up in the near future.

#### **Policy Committee**

Commissioner Sturgeon reported that Committee met on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, there were three items on the agenda for discussion and approval. The following were approved and sent to the full board tonight to be voted on later in the agenda. Policy # 1331 Smoke-Free Environment, a few additions were made in this policy regarding e-cigarettes vaping and THC. Policy #1412 Community Relations with the Fire Department, there were minor revisions and Policy # 1415 Community Relations with Bristol Parks and Recreation and Child Services, again just minor revisions.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

#### **Bristol Central High School**

BCHS Senior Student Representative, Fatima Aamir provided the monthly Student Representative report. The report consisted of information for the month of March. Highlights from the report included a spring sports update, the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and CAS Art Awards. Juniors worked hard prepping for SATs and some students took the Apple test; Seniors are still busy applying to scholarships, Culture Day, and the Junior and Senior Prom are coming up soon.

#### **Bristol Eastern High School**

Senior Student Representative Max Stavens provided the monthly report. Some highlights from the report included the Model UN Mock Conference with Mayor Caggiano as a guest speaker, Powderpuff Volleyball Tournament, a student talent show, Daffodil Days for the American Cancer Society, Blood Drive for fallen police officers, a spring sports update, Juniors participated in PSATs, Senior were completing scholarship, including 513 to the Main Street Community Foundation, Walkout for 24th Anniversary of Columbine, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Diversity Day coming up.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Dube reported that she and Commissioner Tagariello attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the BristolWorks! Program. The program offers intensive training which is free to all Bristol residents who are unemployed, underemployed or those seeking a new career path. Areas of concentration are Early Childhood Education, Health Care, Information Technology and Manufacturing. Job placement upon completion is also a highlight of this program. Chair Dube thanked Dr. Jamie Rechenberg and Mr. Larry Covino for the assistance they both gave to curriculum development and networking opportunities. Pathways towards career Readiness are an initiative being brought to our district and it is an honor to share those goals within our larger community.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Carbone presented the monthly Superintendent Report. Highlights from the report include Dr. Carbone shared that

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dube asked that Item 8.A.1 Teacher Retirements be pulled out for further discussion.

Chair Dube called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which will now include Items 8.A.2. through 8.C.7.

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the Consent Agenda as written.*

## **PERSONNEL**

### **8.A.2. Teacher Resignations**

Bieu, Richard - WB - Psychologist effective April 17, 2023

McLean, Racia - BAIMS - Grade 8 Science Teacher effective June 14, 2023

Taylor, Jaime - ID - Special Education Teacher effective March 27, 2023

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to accept the Teacher Resignations as written.*

### **8.A.3. New Teacher Hires**

Reddick, Katherine - BEHS - Latin Teacher effective August 31, 2023

Young, Tylar - ID - Special Education Teacher effective April 17, 2023

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the New Teacher Hires as written.*

### **8.A.4. A-1 Resignation - Effective February 22, 2023**

Lupa, Sarah - CHMS - Grade 7 Team Leader

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to accept the A-1 Resignation as written.*

### **8.A.5. A-1 Hires**

Grabowski, Joseph - CHMS - Blue Team Leader effective March 6, 2023

Zaldivar, Christa - WB - Grade 6 Team Leader effective March 8, 2023

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the A-1 Hires as written.*

### **8.A.6. Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence**

Dornfried, Jessica - BCHS - Guidance Counselor - effective March 8, 2023 through April 5, 2023

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence as written.*

### **8.B.1. TEAM Mentors/Cooperating Teachers Applicants**

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Angelina Saporito	Ivy Drive School, Special Education
Brittany Micari	Bristol Eastern High School, CTE
Leandra Feron	South Side Elementary School
Kathleen Stailey	Ivy Drive School, Physical Education
Cassandra Dupre	Ivy Drive School, Special Education
Erin Meyer	Bristol Eastern High School, Science
Terry Grant	Greene Hills School, Science

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the TEAM Mentors/Cooperating Teachers Applicants as written.*

### **8.C. GRANTS**

- 8.C.1. FRC Grant Award: Girl Up! Leadership and Empowerment Skills for Girls
- 8.C.2. FRC Grant Award: Raising Readers Grant, The Stocker Foundation
- 8.C.3. FRC Grant Award: Expanded WatchD.O.G.S. Program
- 8.C.4. FRC Grant Award: School Readiness, QE grant
- 8.C.5. FRC Grant Award: United Way of West Central CT, SEARCH Grant Award
- 8.C.6. FRC Grant Award: Community Development Block Grant
- 8.C.7. FRC Grant Award: Parent Trust Fund, People Empowering People Parent Leadership Training

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the FRC Grants as written.*

### **8.A.1. – Teacher Retirements**

- Caron, Cheryl - GH - Grade 8 Math Teacher effective June 30, 2023
- Ceglarski, Joanne - CHMS - English Teacher effective June 14, 2023
- Collins, Michelle - BCHS - Social Studies Teacher effective June 30, 2023
- Fuller, Nancy - MTV - Grade 2 Teacher effective September 29, 2023
- Rustico, Janice - NEMS - Literacy Coach effective June 30, 2023
- Silverhart, Marci - MTV - Speech and Language Pathologist effective October 31, 2023
- Tinker, Thomas - NEMS - ELA Teacher effective June 30, 2023

Kim Culkin, Chief of Talent Management explained that the date of retirement for Joanne Ceglarski - CHMS - English Teacher was listed as June 14, 2023, however, the date should be listed as June 30, 2023.

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Russell Anderson, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the Teacher Retirements with the revised date for Joanne Ceglarski.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Dube read the rules of Public Comment into the record.

1. Written Comment received from Marwa Shaalan – 17 Jeannette Street regarding Muslim Holidays.
2. Video Comment received from Yasin Mousa – 17 Jeannette Street regarding Muslim Holidays.
3. Hoda Mousa –145 Seymour Street, addressed the Board regarding Muslim Holidays.
4. Emily Bailey – 21 Tiffany Lane, addressed the Board regarding fighting and bullying
5. John Sklenka – 2030 Perkins Street, addressed the Board regarding issues at Chippens Hill Middle School

## **DELIBERATED ITEMS/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **BCHS Study Abroad - France 2024**

Leszek Ward introduced Anya Rochester a Bristol Central High School French Teacher who is requesting that her students at Bristol Central continue an ongoing, 10 year collaborative exchange with their partner school in France. Students from Bristol Central would travel to France from Friday, February 23rd to Saturday, March 2nd, 2024. During that time, the students would immerse themselves in the language and culture of France by living with host families, attending classes with their student counterparts, and participating in a variety of educational excursions to Normandy, Paris, and Versailles. Full details can be found in the attached itinerary. In addition to gaining greater cultural sensitivity, global citizenship, environmentalism, and an international perspective on their studies, students return home feeling more confident and independent—qualities that stay with them throughout their academic, professional and personal lives.

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the Bristol Central High School trip abroad to France from February 23, 2024 to March 2, 2024.*

### **Healthy Foods Certification for the 2023-24 School Year**

Lynn Boisvert presented the Healthy Foods Certification for the 2023-24 School Year. At the Finance Committee meeting on March 8, 2023, the committee approved the recommendation to continue Bristol's Public Schools Food Service participation in the Healthy Food Certification program of the State of Connecticut Department of Child Nutrition. Districts that choose the healthy food option receive an additional 10 cents per lunch based on the total number of reimbursable lunches paid free and reduce. The Healthy Food Certification (HFC) statute (C.G.S. Section 10-215f) requires that each local board of education or governing authority (BOE) for public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) each year must certify whether all food items sold to students (separately from reimbursable meals) will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The BOE must complete a vote on the required motion language by July 1, 2023, or the BOE will not be eligible for HFC during SY 2023-24 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024).

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) resolved to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.*

### **Federal Holiday Revision on 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year Calendars**

Dr. Carbone presented the Federal Holiday Revision on 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year Calendars. Martin Luther King Day was revised on both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year calendars to reflect the correct observation date.

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Eric Carlson, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the revised 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Year Calendars to reflect the correct observance date for the Martin Luther King Day holiday.*

### **Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2023-2024 and 2024-2025**

Dr. Carbone presented Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. With the School Year Calendars for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 approved, the school administrators and supervisors meet to set the parent conference and marking period dates for the next two school years. There are no changes to the number of sessions that will be available for parent conferences. Commissioners were provided copies of the Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

*On a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Dante Tagariello, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the Parent Conference and Marking Period Dates for SY 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as presented.*

### **High School Graduation Date and End of Year Closing Date**

Dr. Carbone presented the **High School Graduation Date and End of Year Closing Date**. Traditionally, the closing day of school, as well as the high school graduation date, has been set at the April Board meeting. Based on the summary of closing dates and upon completion of 181 school days, the last day of school for the 2022-2023 school year will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023. *\*( This date will be subject to change in the event additional emergency closing days are required in the interim to the end of the school year)*. Promotional exercises at middle schools take place in the morning, on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. High school graduations will be scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

*On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and a second by Dante Tagariello, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve the high school graduation date and the last day of the 2022-2023 school year as Tuesday, June 13, 2023, following the completion of the 181 school days. This date may be subject to change in the event additional emergency closing days are required in the interim to the end of the school year.*

### **SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT**

Dr. Kim Culkin presented the monthly Special Services Report. During the month of February, we welcomed new students to Bristol Public Schools an 8.1% of newly registered students came to us with special education eligibility and programming needs. No students came to us during that month receiving their special education services at out of district placements at the time of their enrollment.

As of March 1st 1,767 of our 8,201 Bristol students were identified as students requiring receiving special education that reflects a 21.5% of the total Bristol Public School student population. Also as of March 1st 114 of our students with disabilities require out-of-district programming at private special education School placements and 77 students were receiving require special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools including magnet schools. In February, 71 risk assessments were conducted by Bristol Public School staff six calls were placed to 911, one being a misdial and 19 calls were replaced to 211 for student assessments

### **POLICY REVISIONS**

Dr. Dietter presented the policy revisions before the board this evening.

#### **Policy 1331 - Smoke-Free Environment – Revised**

Discussion and Review of Model Policy 1331 (Smoke Free Environment). After review of policy it was agreed upon to accept the Model Policy.

*On a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve Policy 1331 - Smoke-Free Environment.*

#### **Policy 1412 - Community Relations – Fire Department – Revision**

Discussion and Revision occurred of Policy 1412 (Community Relations - Fire Department) - a change of language - "Volunteer" and "Town" to "City".

*On a motion by Eric Carlson and a second by Dante Tagariello, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve revisions to Policy 1412 - Community Relations – Fire Department.*

**Policy 1415 - Community Relations – BPRYCS – Revision**

Discussion and Revision occurred of Policy 1415 (Community Relations - BPRYCS) - a change of language - updating of the new name of the City Departments - Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

*On a motion by Todd Sturgeon and a second by Dante Tagariello, the Board of Education (Commissioners Anderson, Carlson, Fitzsimons-Bula, Giantonio, Pons, Simmons, Sturgeon, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to approve Policy 1415 - Community Relations.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula had a question about the calendars. She would like for the vote of the calendars to be tabled for further discussion.

*On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Kristen Giantonio, the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to add the discussion of Muslim holidays to New Business.*

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula wanted to know what the process was for adding the Muslim holidays to the school calendar. Dr. Carbone explained various ways the process could be brought up for discussion. The topic will be moved to the Student Achievement Committee for a comprehensive report and further discussion. Discussion followed regarding student attendance and the number of excused school days.

**BUILDING REPORTS**

Tim Callahan presented the following building reports:

1. ESSER/ARP Grant
2. High School Culinary Arts Project
3. Edgewood School Update

**INFORMATION/LIAISON REPORTS**

A liaison report for February and March was given by Commissioner Sturgeon for Ivy Drive School, Commissioner Anderson provided a report for Edgewood School and Stafford School, Commissioner Simmons shared a report from South Side School and Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula shared a report from Bristol Eastern and BECC.

Chair Dube thanked Jolene Lusitani for her work as the Council Liaison and introduced Erick Rosengren as the new Council Liaison to the Board of Education.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, and,

On a motion by Dante Tagariello and a second by Eric Carlson the Board of Education (Commissioners Carlson, Giantonio, Fitzsimons-Bula, Pons, Simmons, Tagariello, and Dube) voted to adjourn the meeting (8:18 p.m.).

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Everett, Recording Secretary  
Bristol Board of Education