The minutes presented within this document summarize the discussion of the Special Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: 3/18/26-Special Board of Education Meeting

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Special Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education Special meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium located at 129 Church Street and via Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula,Kara Ledger,Robert Parenti, Maria Simmons, Barbara Tedesco, and Jennifer Van Gorder

Absent: Lorianne Osenkowski, Kristen Giantonio, Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk

Also, Present: Superintendent Iris White, Joseph Grabowski, Chief Talent Manager, Jodi Bond, Director of Finance, Dr. Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Services

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:
Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Discussion and Possible Action of:

2.1 Bus Patrol Proposal
Superintendent White provided an introduction to the Bus Patrol Proposal and introduced Michael Gorman, representative for BusPatrol who was on virtual zoom to answer any questions to the board of education in regards to the information provided. Michael Gorman introduced a colleague Adam Wood who provided logistical support in regards to the process of violations.

Questions and Discussion about success in another district, roll out plan, use of AI for capturing violators, installation of cameras, and revenue provided with Bus Patrol.

Chair Pons asked for a motion to approve the Bus Patrol Proposal and bring it forward to City Council.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and second by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Superintendent's Proposed FY 2027 Budget

APPROVED

Jodi Bond, Director of Finance presented a few slides from the March 4, 2026 meeting to show the current budget request for the Superintendent Proposed FY 2027 budget. The first two slides showed budget comparison for the past 6 years. Mrs. Bond explained that we were including the appropriations within our 2027 budget request vs. not including them as years passed. Superintendent White presented the next few slides and provided an update on the increase of her budget proposal from January 24, 2026 to March 4, 2026 due to increase of bus contract cost with Dattco, and the medical & dental for the 53 new proposed positions. The superintendent provided an update on budget drivers for her budget. Chair Pons invited any administrator to speak in regards to the proposed positions. Dr. Michelle LeVasseur, Principal of West Bristol spoke of the importance of Teacher Assistants and Math IST's.

Questions and Discussion in regards to the $3.4 million deficit listed in Special Education on the information provided, OT Salary, the need for (14) teaching assistants and (4.5) Math IST's, meaning of repurposed funding, and possible revenue on Out of District tuition.

Chair Pons asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2027 Budget and bring it forward to the City Board of Finance.

Motion made by Kara Ledger and second by Barbara Tedesco. Motion passed 6-1, with one opposed by Commissioner VanGorder.

2.3 25-26 School Calendar Update

Chair Pons provided an update on the survey completed by BAPS and BFT members regarding their perspectives on designating Tuesday, April 14; Wednesday, April 15; Thursday, April 16; and Juneteenth as instructional days, as well as staff availability to work on those dates. Chair Pons also shared that, following consultation with Board attorneys, Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) would be required to address provisions for staff, she also shared the substitution rates that would incur if the changes were made, and noted the potential for increased chronic absenteeism as a result of these changes. Chair Pons proposed that the Board of Education reduce the school calendar from 181 days to 180 days, aligning with the state-mandated minimum making the last day of school June 25, 2026.

Questions and discussion took place regarding the BAPS and BFT survey on April break, Juneteenth, and if a parent survey was provided.

Chair Pons asked for a motion to reduce the 2025-2026 school year calendar by one day to 180 days to make the last day of school June 25, 2026.

Motion made by Jennifer VanGorder and second by Barbara Tedesco. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjournment

APPROVED

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Regular Board of Education Meeting should adjourn. (7:40 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

APPROVED