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: Bristol Board of Education - January 24, 2026 - Budget Workshop Meeting #1

BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, January 24, 2026

A Budget Workshop of the Bristol Board of Education was held on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Bristol City Council Chambers, located at 111 North Main Street and via the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT: Chair Shelby Pons, Commissioners: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Kara Ledger, Maria Simmons, Barbara Tedesco, Jennifer Van Gorder, Lorianne Osenkowski(virtual)

ABSENT: Commissioner:Russell Anderson and Kristen Giantonio, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent,Joseph Grabowski, Director of Talent & Management

ALSO PRESENT: Iris White, Superintendent, Dr. Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Services, Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer and Jodi Bond, Director of Finance.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:
Chair Pons called the workshop to order at 9:00am.

Superintendent White introduced the Central Office team, Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent who was unable to join us today, Jodi Bond, Director of Finance, Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Joseph Grabowski, Chief of Talent Management, and Jeffery Telke, Director of Information and Technology & Student Database. Superintendent White welcomed and thanked the administrators from the Bristol Public Schools who were online and also in the audience for participating today. Superintendent White thanked Mayor Ellen Zoppoo-Sassu and the City Council members and Board of Finance Members for allowing the Board of Education to be in Council Chambers this morning.

Superintendent White explained that the presentation focus will be on the process of how the recommended budget was developed, as well as the major drivers responsible for her proposed increase. Following the presentation, the floor would be open for questions. Members of the Central Office team will take note of those questions and we will be prepared to respond to all questions at our next workshop on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Board of Education Auditorium.

Discussion of Superintendent's 2026-2027 Recommended Budget
Superintendent White provided an overall background on student enrollment and demographics of Bristol Public Schools. Superintendent White'd proposed budget is $152,365,000 an increase of $15,303,185 which presents a 11.17% increase. Superintendent White indicated her 2026-2027 budget drivers which highlighted bargaining unit and salary obligations, employee benefits, professional & other services, utilities, supplies and equipment, pupil service tuition rates, student transportation, instructional supplies and materials, equipment and capital outlay and anticipated revenues.

Dr. Amy Martino presented the budget needs of the Pupil Services Department for Bristol Public

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Schools. She shared a background of both federal and state funding that Pupil Services receive and shared statistics of students requiring services in specialized programs and outplacements. Dr. Martino shared the need for additional staffing in the Pupil Services Department.

Superintendent White provided a more in-depth presentation on her 2026-2027 budget drivers for the proposed increase of $15, 303,185.

Questions and discussions were opened to the audience. Questions posed focus around budget process meetings with school administration; accurate reporting of enrollment numbers accuracy; position proposals, pupil service costs in-house, outplacement and revenue of tuition reimbursement; receiving assistance from the insurance reserve; maintenance equipment; increase of software costs; increase of homeless; increase of lease; increase of athletics costs.

Adjournment
With no other business to come before the board, the meeting should be adjourned. *(10:25 a.m.)*.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sydney Molina
Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

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