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:6/3/26-Regular Board of Education Meeting

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 7:00 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,Kristen Giantonio,Kara Ledger ,Lorianne Osenkowski, Robert Parenti, Maria Simmons, Barbara Tedesco, and Jennifer Van Gorder

Absent: Joseph Grabowski, Chief Talent Officer, Peter Kelley, Board Liaison

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

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:
Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Staff and Student Recognition
The Board recognized the following staff and students:
2.1 39th Annual Staff Achievement Awards - The Staff Achievement Award is intended to recognize any BPS staff whose actions have had an extraordinary impact on our students, families or programs The following staff members received recognition:Cristabla Alcide- Social Worker at Stafford Elementary School, Kristine DelValle- Custodian at Bristol Central High School, Tara Landon- Facilities and Operations Manager at Bristol Public Schools, Amber Loukoumis-Head Secretary at Mountain View Elementary School, Lisa Maldonado- LEAD Paraeducator at Stafford Elementary School, and Andrew Wood- PE Teacher at Stafford Elementary School.

2.2 2027 Teacher of the Year - Carly Fortin provided an overview of the Teacher of the Year Program, and introduced Bevin Parent, Mountain View School as the 2027 Teacher of the Year.

2.3 2027 Paraeducator of the Year - Dr. Amy Martino provided an overview on the Paraeducator of the Year program and introduced Dana Martin, Northeast Middle School as the 2027 Paraeducator of the Year.

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2.4 Seal of Biliteracy 2026 - Lesek Ward provided an overview of the Seal of Biliteracy and recognized 120 students that qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy.

2.5 Student/Staff Recognition Days was provided by Superintendent Iris White, acknowledging that the month of June is Student Safety Month in Bristol Public Schools.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 May 6, 2026 -Regular Meeting Minutes
The Board of Education voted to approve the May 6, 2026 -Regular Meeting Minutes as written.
Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Kristen Giantonio. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 May 20, 2026 -Special Meeting Minutes
The Board of Education voted to approve the May 20, 2026 -Special Meeting Minutes
Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Commissioner Tedesco shared that during the May meeting, Erika Treannie, Director of Climate, Culture and Student Services, outlined the district's mentoring program and discussed the requirement for a program overhaul.

Student Achievement & Outcome Committee: Commissioner Ledger reported on the May 27, 2026, committee meeting. During the session, Mrs. Lindstrom introduced the middle school world language program,and the CIS team presented 5 curriculum revisions that are recommended to the full board vote.

Policy Committee: Secretary Fitzsimons-Bula stated the committee convened on May 13, 2026 and May 20, 2026 to review various policies from CABE audit and Student/Family Handbook, including four presented to the full board tonight. The committee is set to meet again on June 10, 2026.

School Safety Committee: No report provided.

Finance and Operations Committee: Vice-Chair Simmons reported that at the May 13, 2026 meeting, the committee examined financial documentation for General Funds and Pupil Services, the new financial dashboard and $2000.00 donation to the BEHS All Sports Booster Club. The next meeting will occur on June 10, 2026.

5. Student Representatives Report

Bristol Central

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Amelia Brown, Bristol Central High School student representative provided an end-of-year report highlighting student achievements, extracurricular celebrations, and upcoming senior events. Notable recognitions included awards at the 2026 Halo Awards for the musical program, a first-place psychology competition win, and acknowledgments of student organizations and clubs, including the Psychology Club's involvement in wellness initiatives.

The report also summarized a busy spring season featuring AP exams, NGSS testing, and end-of-year banquets for athletics, arts, and band. Upcoming events included Culture Day, senior celebrations, awards night, Senior Sunset, and graduation activities.

The representative concluded with reflections on their experience serving as student representative and shared post-secondary plans to attend the University of Connecticut to pursue nursing with goals in pediatric psychiatric care.

Bristol Eastern
Paige Ansah, BOE Student Representative from Bristol Eastern High School provided an end-of-year update highlighting student achievements, upcoming events, athletics, and senior activities. Music updates included final rehearsals for the concert band, Tri-M Honor Society inductions, and the upcoming performing arts banquet.

Athletics updates noted baseball advancing to the state tournament quarterfinals and track and field athletes competing at the State Opens, along with related schedules and events. Additional end-of-year recognitions included the Top 10% Award Ceremony and scholarship awards.

Senior activities were also outlined, including Senior Breakfast, final exams, Senior Sunset, graduation rehearsal, and graduation day logistics, marking the final weeks of the school year for the Class of 2026.

6. Chair Report

Chair Pons presented the monthly Chair Report. Click the following link to read the full report.
June Monthly Chair Report

7. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Iris White began her report with an update on her 2025–2026 priorities. Superintendent White provided an update on stakeholder engagement informing the Board that Bristol Public Schools distributed the 2026 Spring Guardian Climate Survey to families to gather feedback on the experiences of students and guardians. Families were encouraged to complete a separate survey for each child enrolled in the district, with translation options available in multiple languages. The survey was available through Monday, June 15, 2026, and the feedback will be used to help guide continuous school and district improvement efforts.

The Board was informed that Bristol Public Schools distributed the 2026 Spring Staff Climate Survey to all staff members to gather feedback on their experiences within the district. Staff were

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encouraged to participate, with translation options available in multiple languages. The survey remained open through Monday, June 15, 2026, and the feedback collected will be used to inform continuous improvement efforts across the district.

The Board received an update on the district's Education Pathway Development initiative designed to create a career pipeline for future educators and paraprofessionals. The pathway begins with the foundational Child, Family, & Community course, followed by introductory courses including Rising Educators 1 & 2 and Early Childhood 1. Students may then enroll in college credit-bearing capstone courses such as Early Childhood 2 (Tunxis), Individual & Family Development (UConn ECE), and If You Love It, Teach It (UConn ECE). The pathway culminates with opportunities to earn Connecticut State Department of Education industry-recognized credentials, including ParaPro (through August 2026) and ParaPathway (beginning September 2026), supported through a 2026 Postsecondary Grant. The initiative also provides students with opportunities to earn income while gaining experience as paraprofessionals in the extended school year program and through flexible substitute paraprofessional positions, strengthening the district's educator workforce pipeline.

Superintendent White introduced Cera Galluzoo, Director of Athletics who provided a presentation regarding potential avenues to support funding for middle school sports as part of the FY budget. Ms. Galluzzo reviewed possible funding strategies and opportunities to sustain and enhance middle school athletic programming while considering the district's overall budget constraints.
Superintendent White shared on behalf of the Bristol Education Foundation that they are still taking early bird registration for the Bristol Education Foundation's Trivia Night, scheduled for November 6, 2026. The event serves as a fundraiser to support educational initiatives and opportunities for Bristol Public Schools. Community members, staff, and supporters are encouraged to register early and participate in the event.

This concluded the Superintendent’s Report.

8. <u>Consent Agenda</u>

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent agenda, which include items from 8.1.a to 8.2.a

Motion made by Jennifer VanGorder and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1 PERSONNEL

8.1.a Administrative Resignation

Gaudet, Scott – GH - Principal effective June 30, 2026

8.1.b Teacher Resignations

Colopy, Griffin – GH – Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher effective June 26, 2026
Glynn, Kieran – CHMS – Grade 6/7 Mathematics Teacher effective June 26, 2026

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Kelaita, Kara – EPH – Psychologist effective June 26, 2026
Levesque, Olivia – BEHS – Mathematics Teacher effective June 26, 2026

8.1.c Teacher Retirement
Lanahan, Kathy – EPH – Grade 2 Teacher effective June 30, 2026
Therriault, Shelia – BPA – Guidance effective June 30, 2026

8.2 GRANTS
8.2.a FRC Parent Trust Fund grant, increased funding

9. <u>Public Comments</u>
Prior to public comment commencing, Chair Pons read the rules to Public Comment. Commissioner Giantonio asked for a motion to vote to remove rule *#3. Comments are limited to items on the agenda* from Public Comment this evening due to the increase of anticipated comments from the Public that were not listed as an agenda item.

After discussion amongst Commissioners in regards to the matter of public comment and policy discrepancies. Chair Pons called for a roll call vote.

Motion made by Jennifer VanGorder and second by Lorianne Osenkowski.

Chair Pons declared the motion ***FAILED.*** Following the roll call, with five (5) commissioners OPPOSED of the motion (Tedesco, Ledger, Fitzsimons-Bula, Simmons, and Pons) and four (4) commissioners IN FAVOR (Parenti, VanGorder, Giantonio, and Osenkowski).

Discussion followed allowing all public comments to address an agenda item topic.

During Public Comment, the following individuals addressed the Board:
- Vicky Frye - 11 Fox Hollow Ln. - Addressed the Board regarding Policy, Personnel and Resignations
- Jon Lukasiewicz - 290 Perkins St. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition and School Climate.
- Scott Jensen - 146 West St. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition and Bus Drivers
- Kristen Bevins - 41 Leon Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.
- Gabriella Fernansez - 41 Leon Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.
- Andrea Perez Mensces - 25 Woodmere Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.
- Jayden Glasser - 59 High Meadow Ln. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.
- Matthew Biadun - 53 Buff Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.
- Jacoby Fry- 1038 Matthew St. Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition
- Cindy LaMarre - 301 Old Orchard Rd. Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition

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- Magdalyn Palamo - 103 Partiridge Run - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition and Climate Survey
- Scott Fields - 7 Southdown Dr. - Addressed the Board regarding Staff Recognition.

10. Deliberated Items/District Leadership Team Reports

10.1 Pupil Personnel Services Report

Dr. Amy Martino provided an update on special education enrollment, services, emergency response activity, and the department budget. As of May 1, 2026, 1,823 students (22.92%) received special education services, including 130 private out-of-district and 93 public out-of-district placements. During April, 15 of 30 newly enrolled students required special education services, with one requiring an out-of-district placement. The Board also received an update on March emergency response activity, which included 28 calls to 211 and 12 calls to 911. Budget lines remained on target with the exception of transportation, which is projected to exceed budget by fiscal year-end.

10.2 Spring Sports Recap

Cera Galluzzo, Director of Athletics, introduced student leaders from Bristol Eastern High School and Bristol Central High School, who presented highlights of their respective spring sports seasons. The presentation recognized individual student-athlete achievements as well as team accomplishments.

10.3 Challenging Behavior Report

Erika Treannie, Director of Climate, Culture and Student Services provided the Board an overview of stakeholder reporting for challenging behavior incidents. During the reporting period, 45 incidents were logged, including 39 reports submitted by school employees and 6 reports submitted by parents/guardians for the 25-26 school year.

11. Curriculum Revisions

11.1 Kindergarten ELA Revisions

Zachary Maher, Supervisor of Elementary Humanities presented the Kindergarten English curriculum revision focused on a structured literacy model designed to support the full daily student learning experience. Instruction includes Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Fundations for phonics instruction, and Wit & Wisdom to support vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing development. The goals of the revisions are to strengthen alignment within the structured literacy framework and to refine learning targets based on feedback from teachers and staff to better meet student needs. Mr. Maher expressed appreciation to staff contributors from Greene-Hills, Southside, West Bristol, Ivy Drive, Stafford, Hubbell, and Mountain View schools for their collaboration and input throughout the revision process. Mr. Maher asked for a motion to approve the Kindergarten ELA Revisions as presented.

Motion made by Kara Ledger and second by Jennifer Van Gorder. Motion passed unanimously.

11.2 Grade 1 ELA Revisions

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Zachary Maher, Supervisor of Elementary Humanities, presented the Grade 1 ELA Revisions. The program reflects a structured literacy approach aligned with waiver and legislative requirements and incorporates feedback and lessons learned from Kindergarten Year 1 implementation. The daily instructional experience includes Heggerty for phonemic awareness, Fundations for phonics, and Wit & Wisdom for vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing. Recognition was given to contributing educators from Greene-Hills, Southside, Ivy Drive, and Mountain View schools for their collaboration. Mr. Maher requested a motion to approve the Grade 1 ELA Revisions as presented. Mr. Maher asked for a motion to approve the Grade 1 ELA Revisions as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Robert Parenti. Motion passed unanimously.

11.3 Grade 2 Mathematics Curriculum Revision

Debra Vitale, Supervisor of Elementary STEM presented the Grade 2 Mathematics Curriculum Revision. The Grade 2 Mathematics curriculum revision aligns instruction with Illustrative Math 360 and includes updated learning targets with added success criteria. The revision also strengthens support for all students and incorporates family support materials. Instruction is organized into eight units covering operations, measurement, number sense, geometry, time, money, and equal groups, including work within 100 and 1,000 and use of number lines and data. Special thanks were extended to BPS Grade 2 teachers, Jennifer Stafford (MLL), and Nicole Malvezzi and Kathleen Harlow (Special Education) for their collaboration and commitment to strengthening mathematics instruction and student learning experiences.
Ms. Vitale asked for a motion to approve the Grade 2 Mathematics Curriculum Revision as presented.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

11.4 Academic Support Transition - New High School Curriculum

Mikayla Pascussi-Wallace and Dr. Jessina Lemos, Supervisors of Pupil Services presented the New High School Curriculum for Academic Support Transition. The new High School Academic Support Transition curriculum is designed to align district priority indicators with CT CORE Transition Skills, IDEA requirements, and the State Performance Plan (SPP). The curriculum emphasizes development of engaging essential questions, organization of shared instructional resources across both high schools, and implementation of Universal Design for Learning strategies with differentiated supports for multilingual learners. Instruction is organized into four quarterly units: understanding learner profiles, exploring post-secondary pathways and possibilities, developing life skills for success, and building career profiles. Special thanks were extended to the BCHS and BEHS resource special education teams for their collaboration in developing this curriculum.

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Following the presentation, questions were raised regarding whether instruction includes learning transportation resources as part of the curriculum.

Ms Mikayla Pascussi-Wallace asked for a motion to approve the New High School Curriculum for Academic Support Transition.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

11.5 Grade 7 & 8 Math Curriculum Revision

Laura Lanza, Supervisor of Secondary STEM presented the Grade 7 & 8 Math Curriculum Revisions.. The goals of the revision are to ensure vertical articulation across both instructional pathways and to establish realistic expectations for content coverage to support student understanding. The work builds on prior revisions in Math 6 and incorporates Imagine Learning resources aligned with the BPS vision for access and equity. The revision also emphasizes cross-district collaboration and a shared commitment to best assessment practices.
Special thanks were extended to the middle school math teachers for their dedication and hard work throughout the process.Ms Lanza asked for a motion to approve the Grade 7 & 8 Math Curriculum Revision as written.

Motion made by Kara Ledger and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Policy Revision

12.1 Policy 1312 - Public Complaints

The Board reviewed and was presented with revisions to Policy 1312 – Public Complaints. The updated policy and revised Public Complaint Form reflect CABE recommendations and compliance updates since the policy's last approval on 3/1/17. The form establishes a structured, "lowest-level-first" process for addressing public concerns, requiring resolution at the teacher and administrative levels prior to Board involvement. The revisions also clarify procedures for general grievances (distinct from library material challenges) and support First Amendment content neutrality while reducing risks related to improper Board-level complaint handling.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the Policy 1312 - Public Complaints Revisions as presented.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and second by Kristen Giantonio. Motion passed unanimously.

12.2 Policy 6161.12 / 1312.3 -Library Material Review and Reconsideration

Carly Fortin provided the Board with an overview of the new and updated library-related policy required under Connecticut General Assembly mandates effective July 2025. Ms. Fortin asked

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for a motion to approve and adopt Policy 6161.12 / 1312.3 -Library Material Review and Reconsideration with accompanying forms.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and second by Barbara Tedesco. Motion passed unanimously.

12.3 Policy 6161.13 /1312.4 - Library Collection Development and Maintenance

Carly Fortin provided the Board with an overview of the new and updated library-related policy required under Connecticut General Assembly mandates effective July 2025. Ms. Fortin asked for a motion to approve and adopt Policy 6161.13 /1312.4 - Library Collection Development and Maintenance with accompanying regulation.

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

12.4 Policy 6161.14 / 1312.5 - Library Display and Program

Carly Fortin provided the Board with an overview of the new and updated library-related policy required under Connecticut General Assembly mandates effective July 2025. Ms. Fortin asked for a motion to approve and adopt Policy 6161.14 / 1312.5 - Library Display and Program.

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

13. <u>New Business</u>

13.1 Revision of 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting Date & Times

The Board was presented with a proposed revision to the remainder of the 2026 Regular Board of Education meeting dates and times, with meetings scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m., with the exception of the September and December meetings due to quarterly School Safety Committee meetings.

Questions and Discussion amongst commissioners and suggested amending start time to 6:30 P.M on the dates

Commissioner Van Gorder asked for a motion to amend the start times to 6:30 P.M. with exception to September and December.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

14. <u>New Business</u>

No new business to report.

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15. Information/Liaison Reports

15.1 City Council Liaison Report

No report provided.

15.2 BOE Liaison Reports

No reports provided.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board of Education Meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sydney Molina
Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

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