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:7/8/26-Regular Board of Education Meeting

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, July 8, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8, 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: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula,Kristen Giantonio,Kara Ledger ,Lorianne Osenkowski, Robert Parenti, Maria Simmons, Barbara Tedesco, and Jennifer Van Gorder and Peter Kelley, Board Liaison

Absent: Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer,

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 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 6:30 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 June 3, 2026 -Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 3, 2026 -Regular Meeting Minutes as written.
Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and second by Jennifer Van Gorder. The motion passed 8-1, with Commissioner Tagariello abstaining.

2.2 June 10, 2026 -Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the June 10, 2026 -Special Meeting Minutes
Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and second by Lorianne Osenkowski. The motion passed 7-2, with Commissioner Giantonio and Osenkowski abstaining.

Prior to moving onto item #3, Commissioner Tagariello made a motion to move items from New Business, 10.1 Solar Array at the High Schools RFP Results, and 10.2 Resource Lighting & Energy Phase II to the next items in the agenda.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and second by Shelby Pons. The motion passed unanimously.

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10. New Business

10.1 Solar Array at the High Schools RFP Results

Adam Teff from Titan Energy presented the RFP results for the Solar Array's project for both Bristol Central High and Bristol Eastern High School.

Questions and discussion were presented to Adam Teff in regards to the presentation provided. Peter Fusco, Director of Facilities answered questions about administration feedback for Solar on school properties.

Commissioner Tagariello asked for a motion to approve the award to Greenskies for the Solar Array at the two high schools project as presented.

Motion made by Kara ledger and second by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. The motion passed unanimously

10.2 Resource Lighting & Energy (RLE) Phase II

Garrett Cudgma and Shawn Dunn presented a progress update to the Resource Lighting & Energy (RLE) project and introduced Phase II to conduct the no-cost energy assessments with each of the schools.

Questions and discussion were presented in regards to current assessments being done, and what locations are being assessed.

Chair Pons asked for a motion to approve for RLE to begin conducting no cost site audits for phase II measures with the goal of increasing the incentive Eversource will be paying on the lighting project.

Motion made by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and second by Jennifer Tagariello. The motion passed unanimously

3. Committee Reports

School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Commissioner Tedesco shared that the June Committee meeting did not occur due to High Schools Graduations.

Student Achievement & Outcome Committee: Commissioner Ledger shared that the June Committee meeting did not occur due to High Schools Graduations. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026.

Policy Committee: Secretary Fitzsimons-Bula stated the committee convened on June 10, 2026 to review various policies from CABE audit and Student/Family Handbook., which will be presented to the full board tonight. The Committee also reviewed Policy1120: Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, which will be brought back to the subcommittee

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due to Attorney input just being provided this afternoon and will need further discussion and revisions. The committee is set to meet again on August 12, 2026.

School Safety Committee: No report provided.

Finance and Operations Committee: Vice-Chair Tagariello reported they met on June 10, 2026, and were provided a live view of the new financial dashboard.

4. Chair Report

Chair Pons presented the monthly Chair Report.

5. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Iris White began her report with an update on her 2025–2026 priorities. Superintendent White provided an update on Summer SPARK (Supporting Participation and Attendance through Relationships and Key Connections), a new grant-funded summer initiative designed to strengthen students' connection to school and support improved attendance prior to the start of the school year. The initiative is intended to provide additional outreach and engagement opportunities for students who may benefit from extra support in reconnecting with their school community, including, but not limited to, chronically absent students, students experiencing school avoidance, and students transitioning to a new school. Planned activities include family-friendly engagement events, school tours, scavenger hunts, and opportunities for students and families to connect with school staff in a welcoming and supportive environment. The program aims to foster positive relationships, ease student transitions, and encourage a successful start to the upcoming school year through increased engagement and a stronger sense of belonging.

The Board was informed that following the appointment of the new Bristol Central High School Principal, a meeting will be scheduled with both high school principals to discuss the role of the Board of Education Student Representatives, as well as the current application and recruitment process.

The Board received an update that Bristol Public Schools was selected by the Connecticut State Department of Education and Santa Fe's Relational Leadership Institute to participate in the Relational Leadership Institute, a three-day professional learning experience held July 21–23 in Old Wethersfield. This opportunity was made possible through a collaborative grant involving the Connecticut State Department of Education, CREC's Statewide Family Engagement Center, the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement, the Center for Relational Learning and Relational Leading, Bristol Family Resource Centers, and the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative.

The institute focused on a Relationships-First approach to leadership, providing district and school leaders with the opportunity to explore the importance of prioritizing people and relationships while developing practical strategies to strengthen trust, collaboration, and

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engagement across schools. Participants examined tools and practices designed to enhance partnerships with students, families, staff, and the broader community, with the goal of supporting improved student outcomes and fostering a positive school culture throughout the district.Superintendent White expressed her sincere appreciation to the Bristol Lions Club for its generous donation of $896, which will fund the purchase of seven Buddy Benches, one for each Bristol Public Schools elementary school. The Buddy Benches will feature signage encouraging students to invite peers who may be feeling lonely to join them during unstructured playtime. The benches will also serve as a welcoming space that promotes kindness, inclusion, friendship, and positive social connections within each school community.

Superintendent White presented a report on teacher retention trends from the 2021–2022 school year through the present. The report included data on teacher retention rates, with a breakdown of the reasons educators left Bristol Public Schools, as well as retention data organized by school.Superintendent White recognized Former Board of Education Commissioner and Vice Chair, Maria Simmons and thanked her years of service to the Board of Education from February 2023-June 2026.

This concluded the Superintendent's Report, Questions and discussion occurred in regards to the teacher retention report provided.

6. Consent Agenda

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent agenda, which include items from 6.1.a to 6.1.i

Motion made by Jennifer VanGorder and second by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Pons invited Mr. Miguel Falcon, Dean of Students Chippens Middle School to say a few words on his appointment. Mr. Falcon addressed the Board of Principal Fitzpatrick.

8.1 PERSONNEL

6.1.a Administrative Hire

Falcon, Miguel – CHMS – Dean of Students effective August 17, 2026

6.1.b A1 Hires effective August 27, 2026

Casasanta, Caitlin – NEMS – Yellow Team Leader
Cawley, Meghan – NEMS – Silver Team Leader
Lagassie, Ellen – NEMS – Blue Team Leader
Parsons, Rebecca – NEMS – Red Team Leader
Pellegrino, Sandra – NEMS – Green Team Leader
Reynolds, Cassandra – NEMS – Purple Team Leader
Stellmach, Matthew – NEMS – Orange Team Leader

6.1.c A2 Hires effective August 27, 2026

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Blancq, Shelly – BEHS – Assistant Drama Director
D'Agostino, Silivo – BEHS – Head Drama Director

6.1.d A3 Hires effective August 27, 2026
Cawley, Meghan – NEMS – ELA Curriculum Coordinator
Killiany, Dawn – NEMS – Gifted Coach, 6-8
Luchina, David – CW – CTE Curriculum Coordinator
Parsons, Rebecca – NEMS – Middle School Science Curriculum Coordinator
Pilarski, Julia – NEMS – Middle School Math Curriculum Coordinator
Russo, Dean – NEMS – Instructional Resource Coordinator

6.1.e A3 Resignations
Roche, Sheryl – NEMS – Gifted Coach, 6-8 effective June 26, 2026

6.1.f Teacher Hire effective August 24, 2026
Kelleher, Caitlin – ID/EPH – Library Medical Specialist

6.1.g Teacher Leave of Absence Requests
Baronowski, Rebecca – Edgewood PreK – effective August 14, 2026 returning January 4, 2027
Dinnan, Sarah – BCHS – English Teacher – effective August 24, 2026 returning August 23, 2027
Tousignant, Amanada – MTV – effective October 23, 2026 returning November 2, 2026
White, Amanda – BCHS – BCHS – effective August 24, 2026 returning March 1, 2027

6.1.h Teacher Resignation effective June 30, 2026
Rawcliffe, Nicole – BCHS – On-Track Coordinator/School Counselor
Slotnick, Tatiana – STAF – Grade 3 Teacher

6.1.i Teacher Retirement effective June 26, 2026
Imfeld, Isabel - BCHS – Biology Teacher
Lanahan, Katherine – EPH – Grade 2 Teacher

7. <u>Public Comments</u>

Prior to public comment commencing, Chair Pons read the rules to Public Comment.
During Public Comment, the Board was provided a copy of an emailed public comment from:

- Emily Bailey - 21 Tiffany Lane - Address to the Board Bristol Central Principal Candidate.

The following individuals addressed the Board via online or in-person:

- Nick Jones Jr.- 36 Orchard St. - - Addressed the Board regarding Personnel
- Jon Lukasiewicz - 290 Perkins St. - Addressed the Board regarding Personnel
- Aaron Castro - 48 Munchausen Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Personnel

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- Matthew Biadun - 53 Buff Rd. - Addressed the Board regarding Personnel
- Jacoby Fry- 1038 Matthew St. Addressed the Board regarding Personnel
- Amy Lawson - 84 Lawerence Ln. Addressed the Board regarding Retention
- Rippy Patton - 49 Field St. - Addressed the Board regarding New Hire
- Scott Fields - 7 Southdown Dr. - Addressed the Board regarding Personnel

8. Deliberated Items/District Leadership Team Reports

8.1 Pupil Personnel Services Report

Dr. Amy Martino provided a Pupil Personnel Services Report enrollment and services within the district. The identification rate of Bristol Public School students requiring special education programming as of June 1, 2026 was 1823 of 7951 of the BPS students, which reflects 22.92%. The Board was informed that during the month of May 2026, 59% (10 of 17) of newly enrolled students to BPS were receiving special education services; none of our newly registered students attended an ODP placement at the time of enrollment. In addition, the Board received an update regarding emergency response activity during the month of March. There were (28) calls to 211 and (6) calls to 911. As of June 1, 2026, all represented budget lines are trending close to the budgeted figure for the 25-26 school year with the exception of transportation. We anticipate additional transportation invoices through June 30, 2026. At this time, we continue to forecast being over budget by the end of the fiscal year.

9. Policy Revision

9.1 Policy 5131 Conduct at School and Activities

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information regarding the recommendation to rescind Policy 5131. She explained that CABE has rescinded Policy 5131 and incorporated its provisions into Policy 5114, Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process. Policy 5114 was adopted by the Board of Education on May 20, 2026.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve to rescind Policy 5131 Conduct at School and Activities as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and second by Jennifer VanGorder. Motion passed unanimously.

9.2 Policy 3541 Transportation

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information on the recommended revisions to Policy 3541, Transportation. She explained that the current policy, last revised on June 7, 2017, was identified during the CABE policy audit as requiring updates because it was not based on the CABE model. The audit also determined that the existing policy combined policy and regulation language, and recommended that the two be separated. The proposed revisions align the policy with the current CABE model, with proposed additions shown in blue and recommended deletions indicated in red within the draft provided to the Board.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the revised Policy 3541 Transportation as presented.

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

9.3 Policy 5145.12 Search and Seizure

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula explained that, as part of the recent policy audit, revisions to the regulations for Policy 5145.12, Search and Seizure, were recommended. The policy, last updated on April 4, 2007, has been revised using the current CABE model to incorporate guidance regarding the involvement of law enforcement and procedures related to strip searches. She noted that, within the draft provided to the Board, proposed additions are identified in blue and recommended deletions are shown in red.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the revised Policy 5145.12 Search and Seizure as presented.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and second by Jennifer VanGorder. Motion passed unanimously.

9.4 Policy 3516.4 Sex Offender Notification

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information on Policy 3516.4, Sex Offender Notification. She explained that the current policy is based on an outdated CABE model and, following a recent policy audit, revisions were recommended to reflect legislative changes and updated legal citations. The proposed policy and regulation updates align with the current CABE model. Within the draft provided to the Board, proposed additions are identified in blue and recommended deletions are shown in red. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula noted that the policy and accompanying regulations have not been revised since their last review on May 5, 1999.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the revised Policy 3516.4 Sex Offender Notification as presented.

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

9.5 Policy 3516.5 Sexual Offenders on School Property

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information on Policy 3516.5, Sexual Offenders on School Property. She explained that the mandated policy, which is based on the CABE model, was identified during the recent policy audit as requiring updates to its legal references. The proposed revisions align the policy with the current CABE model. Within the draft provided to the Board, proposed additions are indicated in blue and recommended deletions are shown in red. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula noted that the policy was last reviewed on April 3, 2013.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the revised Policy 3516.5 Sexual Offenders on School Property as presented.

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

9.6 Policy 5142 School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information regarding Policy 5142, School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action. She explained that, as identified through the CABE policy audit, the current policy was not based on a CABE sample and requires revisions to ensure it reflects current standards and requirements. She noted that significant changes have occurred since the policy was last approved, including the need to update legal references and related guidance.

The recommended revisions were provided through CABE's February Policy Highlight Update. Within the draft, proposed additions are indicated in blue, while language recommended for deletion is identified in red with strikethrough. Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula noted that the policy was last updated on September 9, 2009.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to approve the revised Policy 5142 School Safety: Preparation, Response and After Action as presented.

Motion made by Barbara Tedesco and second by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

9.7 Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula provided background information regarding Policy 1120, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, which is based on the CABE model and was last revised on March 1, 2017. The Committee discussed obtaining feedback from Attorney Ritter regarding the proposed revisions to ensure that any recommended changes are developed in good faith and appropriately balance the interests of the public and the Board of Education.

Jill Fitzsimons-Bula asked for a motion to bring Policy 1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings back to the subcommittee for further review in light of feedback from CABE and Attorney Ritter.

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

10. <u>New Business</u>

10.3 Discussion and Appointment of BOE Commissioner to the BCHS Roof Replacement Project Committee

Chair Pons opened the floor for discussion if any Commissioner wanted to be placed on the Roof Replacement Project Committee. Commissioner VanGorder agreed to be on the committee.

Chair Pons asked for a motion to approve Commissioner Jennifer VanGorder to the BCHS Roof Replacement Project Committee.

Motion made by Jennifer Tagariello and second by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed unanimously.

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10.4 Discussion and Possible Appointment of the Principal of Bristol Central High School

Chair Pons asked for a motion to approve Mr. Brandon HuBrins as Principal of Bristol Central High School

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

No questions and discussions among the Commissioners. Commissioners Giantonio, VanGorder, Osenkowski, Tedesco, Ledger, Fitzsimons-Bula Pons and Parenti provided a statement in regards to the Bristol Central High Schools appointment.

Chair Pons called for a Roll Call Vote to be completed, Following a Roll Call Vote, six (6) commissioners (Pons,Tagariello, Fitzsimmons-Bula, Ledger, Parenti, Tedesco) were in favor of the motion and three (3) commissioners (Giantonio,Osenkowski and Van Gorder) opposed. The motion PASSED 6-3 in favor of Mr. Brandon HuBrins as the Principal of Bristol Central High School.

Superintendent Iris White introduced Mr. Brandon HuBrins and invited him to the podium. Mr. Brandon HuBrins addressed the Board of those in attendance via online and in-person on his new appointment to Principal of Bristol Central High School.

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

11.1 City Council Liaison Report

No report provided.

11.2 BOE Liaison Reports

Commissioner Tedesco provided a brief liaison report for Stafford and Hubbell Elementary School where she shared that she recently went to a Bristol Blue baseball game that was grant funded. Commissioner Tedesco accompanied administration on doing morning walkthroughs and getting first hand experience of the good morale in the school buildings.

12. <u>Adjournment</u>

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

Sydney Molina
Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

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