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: 2/4/26-Regular Board of Education Meeting

Bristol Board of Education
Bristol, Connecticut
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bristol Board of Education regular meeting was held on Wednesday,February 4,2026 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, Maria Simmons, Barbara Tedesco, and Jennifer Van Gorder

Absent: Dr. Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Services

Also, Present: Superintendent Iris White, Deputy Superintendent Mary Hawk, Liaison Peter Kelley, Jodi Bond, Director of Finance, Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, Laura Lanza Secondary Stem Supervisor, Lesek Ward Secondary Humanities Supervisor, and Joseph Grabowski, Chief Talent Officer

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.

Staff and Student Recognition
Superintendent White recognized Bristol Public Schools School Counselors in honor of National School Counseling Week, observed February 2–6, 2026. She also acknowledged Bristol Public Schools Resource Officers in recognition of National School Resource Officer Day on February 15, 2026.

As part of staff recognitions, Superintendent White expressed appreciation to Sarah Lupa, Director of Adult Education and Supervisor of Secondary TESOL Programming, for her leadership in implementing the LAS testing process and for serving in the role of English Learner Assessment Coordinator during the current school year. Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, spoke on Ms. Lupa's accomplishments and formally introduced her to the Board of Education Commissioners.

Superintendent White also recognized three students from the same family who have each been named Miss Connecticut Teen over the past three years: Haylee Patton (2025), Camryn Patton (2024), and Peyton Troth (2023), the latter of whom previously served as a Board of Education

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Student Representative. Superintendent White introduced Miss Patton, who addressed the Board and expressed her gratitude for its continued commitment to Bristol Public Schools and public education. She also spoke about her successors, shared how the Miss Connecticut Teen program has influenced her life, and encouraged attendance at this year's celebration on June 27, 2026, at the Rockwell Theatre in Bristol, Connecticut.

Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2026- Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the January 7, 2026- Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and second by Kara Ledger. The motion passed 7-1, with one abstention from Commissioner Osenkowski.

January 14, 2026- Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education voted to approve the January 14, 2026- Special Meeting Minutes – as written.

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

Committee Reports

Student Achievement & Outcome Committee – Commissioner Ledger reported that the committee met on January 21, 2026. During the meeting, Lesek Ward presented three proposed curriculum revisions, which were subsequently brought forward to the full Board for consideration later in the agenda. The proposed revisions pertain to Latin 2, World Language 1, and Early Childhood Education (ECE).

School, Family, and Community Partnerships – Commissioner Tedesco reported that the committee met on January 28, 2026. During the meeting, members discussed reconnecting with former committee members to review prior work completed and expressed their commitment to continuing ongoing conversations focused on strengthening engagement with community members.

Policy Committee –Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on January 28, 2026. The committee reviewed four policies, which were scheduled to be presented later in the meeting. She also noted that future committee meetings have been scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

School Safety Committee – Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula reported that the committee met on January 14, 2026 items discussed were: ALICE roll out and Camera Update, next meeting will be in May 2026 prior to the Board of Education Regular Meeting.

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Finance and Operations Committee – Commissioner Simmons reported that the committee met on January 14, 2026. During the meeting, the committee reviewed the budget update through December 31, 2025, including reports on cafeteria operations, pupil services, student activity accounts, and substitute teachers. The next Finance & Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026.

Student Representatives Report

Bristol Central
Bristol Central Senior Representative Amelia Browne was not available to provide a report.

Bristol Eastern
Bristol Eastern Senior Representative Paige Ansah presented the monthly student update for February which consisted of past and upcoming events. Paige reported that they have officially completed their first semester and the second semester has begun. Grades 9-11 students will soon begin the process of selecting courses for the next school year, while seniors will be continuing their college and scholarship applications, such as the Main Street Scholarships, whose portal opened on January 15th and will close on March 6th.

The Model United Nations Club has been hard at work preparing for the MUN New York Conference from March 18th to the 22nd. Final paper drafts have been submitted to the dais of each committee for feedback and will be returned for revision in the coming weeks.

For athletics, Bristol Eastern track and field, recently attended the CCC Championships on January 31st, with many of the competing athletes getting new personal records. Congratulations to Jace Kozier for breaking the boys' 1000m school record with a time of 2 minutes, 37 seconds, and 56 milliseconds, as well as Kate Patterson for breaking the girls' 300 meter record with a time of 43 seconds and 82 milliseconds. Track will have their last chance to meet on Monday, February 9th, as well as Boys and Girls Class L Championships on February 12th, both at Floyd Little Athletic Center.

Beta's production of Legally Blonde is in full swing, with theater students having the opportunity to receive master classes from Kevin Rippone, who's an active dance teacher and Bristol Easton alumni who currently lives in New York. Legally Blonde's opening performance will be on May 1st, and will also be shown on May 2nd and 3rd.

Finally, Culture Day is under way, and Diversity Club students are working on making it bigger and better this year, with Culture Day possibly taking place in the Big Gym and a presentation with the theme of diversity, inclusivity, and appreciation. More information on Culture Day will come soon.

This concluded Bristol Easterns student representative report.

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Chair Report

Chair Pons reported that Superintendent Iris White served as the keynote speaker at the Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP Annual ECW/MLK Jr. Scholarship Breakfast held at Bristol Eastern High School on January 19, 2026. As she was unable to attend, Chair Pons provided a brief synopsis of the event and shared the heartfelt feedback she received regarding Superintendent White's remarks.

Chair Pons expressed her appreciation to Superintendent White for sharing her personal story, leadership, and steadfast dedication to the students, staff, families, and the entire Bristol Public Schools community. She also thanked the Greater Bristol Branch of the NAACP for hosting an event that honors scholarship, service, and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and for providing district leadership and students the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful and inspiring program.

Chair Pons concluded her report.

Superintendent Report

The Superintendent began her report with an update on the Budget Approval Process Timeline, outlining the following key dates: Superintendent's Budget Workshop #1 – January 24, 2026; Superintendent's Budget Workshop #2 – February 3, 2026; Budget Presentation to the Board of Finance – March 16, 2026; Board of Finance Meeting to Adopt the Budget Estimate – April 28, 2026; and the Joint Meeting of the Board of Finance and City Council to Adopt the 2026–2027 Budget – May 18, 2026.

As part of her commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement, Superintendent White will continue providing monthly updates to the Board regarding progress toward her Superintendent priorities. She reported that the first Parent Advisory Council meeting was held on January 29, 2026. Feedback from attendees included appreciation for the weekly updates and community events, as well as a request for clearer, simplified explanations of the fiscal budget.

Superintendent White also shared that Bristol Public Schools is collaborating with the Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative. On February 24, 2026, Dr. Amy Martino, Director of Pupil Services, will present an overview of district services followed by a question-and-answer session. The Superintendent additionally provided a brief overview of her participation as keynote speaker at the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Reverend Dr. E.C. Whitehead Scholarship Breakfast held on January 19, 2026.

An update on mental health support was also provided. School Counselors, School Psychologists, and School Social Workers participated in professional learning with the Prudence Crandall Center. Staff learned about real-world situations currently impacting students within the community, as well as indicators and strategies to better support students. Superintendent White

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thanked Mikayla Pascucci-Wallace from the Office of Pupil Personnel Services for serving as liaison and coordinating the collaboration with the Prudence Crandall Center.

Superintendent White announced that Bristol Public Schools has launched an official Facebook page to share important updates, upcoming events, celebrations, and district highlights, providing another avenue to keep families informed and connected. She also shared that she has partnered with Bristol Edition to host a monthly segment to provide school-related updates and respond to community questions. Additionally, the district is utilizing ParentSquare to issue smart alerts and notifications for school closures and delays.

To further enhance communication, Superintendent White reported that community flyers are now distributed digitally through ParentSquare in a bi-weekly e-blast around the 1st and 15th of each month. Organizations interested in including information in the e-blast are encouraged to visit the district website for submission guidelines.

Lastly, Superintendent White provided updates on three grants included on the Consent Agenda: the Connecticut Early Start Grant (formerly School Readiness), the Wheels to School Active Transportation Grant, and the Barnes Foundation: CT Storytelling Center Grant.

This concluded the Superintendent's Report.

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

Motion made by Kara Ledger and second by Maria Simmons. Motion passed unanimously.

8.1 Personnel
8.1.a Administration Resignations
Tierinni, Steven – CHMS – Dean of Students effective January 6, 2026

8.1.b Teacher Hires
Burnell, Andrea – STAF – Special Education Teacher LEAD effective January 21, 2026
Sullo, Danielle – WB – Grade 4 Teacher effective January 2, 2026
Tiwari, Anuja – GHS – Grade 8 Science Teacher effective January 26, 2026

8.1.c Teacher Resignations
Nelson, Kyle – CW – Physical Education Teacher effective last day of the 25-26 school year
Tramontanis, Brittany – WB – Grade 2 Teacher effective January 5, 2026
Vilhotti, Emily – STAF – Special Education Teacher – LEAD effective December 23,2025

8.1.d Teacher Retirement
Scalise, Ingrid – NEMS – Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher effective June 30, 2026

8.1.e A-2 Hires

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Guastella, Michelle – CHMS – Climate Coordinator effective January 5, 2026
Guerrera, Joseph – CHMS – Student Council Advisor effective October 1, 2025
MacDonald, Theresa – BAIMS – Climate Coordinator effective January 2, 2026
Zurell, Elizabeth – MTV – Climate Coordinator effective January 7, 2026

8.1.f A-2 Resignations
Divenere, Sarah – GHS – Special Performing Groups effective June 18, 2025
Ieronimo, Amy – BCHS – Assistant Softball Coach effective January 13, 2026 McDermott, Justin – BEHS – Girls Tennis Coach effective January 16, 2026

8.1.g A-3 Hire
Killiany, Dawn – GHS – 6-8 Coaches of Gifted effective September 1, 2025
Osborne, Jessica – EDGE PreK – PreK Technology Coordinator effective January 12, 2026

8.1.h A-3 Resignations
Grant, Terry – GHS – 6-8 Coaches of Gifted effective June 18, 2025
Rubbo, Cary – GHS – AVID Coordinator – effective June 18, 2025
Witkewicz, Rachael – EDGE PreK - PreK Technology Coordinator effective January 12, 2026

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve the Consent agenda, which include items from 8.2.a – 8.2.c
Motion made by Kristen Giantonio and second by Jennifer Van Gorder. Motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Grants
8.2.a Connecticut Early Start Grant (formerly School Readiness)-
8.2.b Wheels to School Active Transportation Grant
8.2.c Barnes Foundation: CT Storytelling Center

Public Comments
No public comments at this time.

Deliberated Items/District Leadership Team Reports
Pupil Personnel Services Report
Jodi Bond, Director of Finance presented Dr. Amy Martino monthly Pupil Personnel Services Report. Mrs. Bond reported As of February 1, 2026, 1,768 of the 7,868 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.47% of the total BPS student population. As of February 1st, 127 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 86 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools.

During the month of January 2026, 27% of the newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration with 1 student requiring their programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program.

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During the month of January, there were (27) 211 calls and (7) 911 calls.

As of January 1st, 2026, all budget lines represented are trending as expected. Though over in a couple of lines, but have yet to receive excess cost funds, tuition reimbursement, and/or medicaid reimbursements.. As previously noted, we were over due to the professional services, contracted services and transportation.

Questions and discussions followed regarding the deficit for Pupil Personnel Services Report for month by month Appropriations vs. YTD expenditures.

Curriculum Revisions

11.2 World Language Level 1- Lesek Ward
Can I have a motion to approve curriculum revision for World Language Level 1?
11.3 UConn ECE Individual and Family Development - LAURA LANZA
Can I have a motion to approve curriculum revision for UConn ECE Individual and Family Development?

11.1 Latin 2
Lesek Ward provided an overview on the curriculum revision for Latin 2 and thanked the staff that worked on the revision.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and seconded by Kara Ledger. Motion passed unanimously.

11.2 World Language Level 1
Lesek Ward provided an overview on the curriculum revision for World Language Level 1 and thanked the staff that worked on the revision.

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

11.3 UConn ECE Individual and Family Development
Laura Lanza provided an overview on the curriculum revision for UConn ECE Individual and Family Development and thanked the staff that worked on the revision.

Commissioners provided feedback on the course accessibility to Bristol Public Schools students.

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

Policy Revisions
12.1 Policy 2151 with Accompanying Regulation – Hiring Administrators

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Commissioner Fizsimons-Bula provided an overview and all the steps taken on the proposed changes to Policy 2151 with Accompanying Regulation – Hiring Administrators as a replacement to Policy 2100.

Questions and discussion pertaining to board and committee participation in the hiring selection process. CABE Recommended to have an organization chart presented to the Board.

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called for a motion to approve policy revision for Policy 2151 with Accompanying Regulation – Hiring Administrators

Motion made by Kara Ledger and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed 6-2, Commissioner Giantonio and Van Gorder voting no.

11.2 Policy 2100 – Administrative Staff Organization
Commissioner Fizsimons-Bula provided an overview that if we adopt Policy 2151 with Accompanying Regulation – Hiring Administrators it is recommended that we rescind 2100.

Chair Pons called for a motion to rescind policy Policy 2100 – Administrative Staff Organization due to the approval of Policy 2151

No questions or discussion.

Motion made by Jennifer Van Gorder and seconded by Jill Fitzsimons-Bula. Motion passed 7-1, Commissioner Giantonio voting no.

11.3 Policy 4111.1 – Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity
Commissioner Fizsimons-Bula provided an overview of Policy 4111.1 that the language has changed from "minority educators" to "diverse educators and aligns with CSDE and CABE.

No questions or discussion.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve policy revision for Policy 4111.1 – Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity

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

11.3 Policy 4111.3 – Increasing Educator Diversity
Commissioner Fizsimons-Bula provided an overview recommended by CABE to ensure that we are in line with CSDE.

Question and discussion in regards to if it is a requirement or recommended.

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Chair Pons called for a motion to approve policy revision forPolicy 4111.3 – Increasing Educator Diversity

Motion made by Kara Ledger and seconded byJennifer Van Gorder . Motion passed 7-1, Commissioner Van Gorder voting no.

Old Business

13.1 Parent Teacher Conference Calendar Update

Mary Hawk, Deputy Superintendent provided an update to the proposed date changes for the Parent Teacher Conferences for both the 2025-2026 school year and the 2026-2027 school year. The change was made to have Wednesday, Thursday evening conferences and Friday afternoon conferences.

Questions and discussion in regards to the proposed changes and if this would alleviate bus transportation concerns.

Chair Pons called for a motion to approve Parent Teacher Conference Calendar Update for the 2025-2026 school year and 2026-2027 school year.

Motion made by Maria Simmons and seconded by Barbara Tedesco . Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

14.1 January 1 Enrollment Count for the 2025-2026 School Year

Joseph Grabowski, Chief of Talent Management, presented the January 1 enrollment count for the 2025–2026 school year. Mr. Grabowski provided an overview of enrollment figures across all schools and noted a discrepancy in the report. Specifically, the total K–5 enrollment listed on page 2 should reflect 3,191 students rather than 2,570.

Board members engaged in questions and discussion regarding the report and requested that the corrected enrollment figures be reflected in the Board Book when available.

14. Information/Liaison Reports

No Information/Liaison Reports to report at this time.

16. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Regular Board of Education Meeting should adjourn. (8:42 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sydney Molina

Recording Secretary
Bristol Board of Education

APPROVED