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**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
POLICY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 28, 2019**

Present: Larry Covino, Samantha Sarli, Carly Fortin, Mike Dietter, Lori Eschner, Joe Grabowski, Tina Taylor, Jennifer Dube, Kristen Giantonio, Karen Hintz, Kate Carbone, Mike Higgins, Ryan Broderick, Chris Wilson, Chris Cassin

1. Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Graduation Requirements Policy #6146

Carly Fortin began by summarizing the change in the state requirements. With the class of 2023, we will be a) grouping credits differently, b) including a mastery-based learning opportunity, c) adding a World Language credit as a requirement, and d) increasing the health requirement from .25 to a full credit.

She continued to speak about the implications for Bristol as we move toward the new state mandates referencing our Vision of the Graduate. Bristol has always required more than the minimum of our high school graduates and although we must make adjustments, it will be less impactful than in some other school districts.

The World Language requirement will not affect staffing now but some difficult choices about which courses to offer may be necessary to make in the future.

The additional .75 increase in health will not impact staffing until the year 2021-2022 when an additional health teacher at each high school will be needed to meet the demand should enrollment stay steady. Class sizes may be larger next year in physical education classes as a result of the increase of health credits.

Discussion continued around physical education and special populations, differentiation, adaptive sports, Unified Sports programs, with the expectation that all students have access to the course offerings.

Credits will be grouped as 9 STEM credits, 9 Humanities credits, 3 PE/Health, and 4 electives. We have determined that for students to learn the required NGSS standards Bristol students will take Physical Science, Biology and Chemistry in high school.

There was discussion about the chemistry expectation including enrollment numbers, elective choices, study halls, maximum credits available, staffing, and combining curricula. Although Chemistry is not specifically required by the new legislation, NGSS chemistry standards are assessed by the NGSS Assessment. Student performance on this assessment is one factor in both School and District measurement of performance.

On a motion by Kristen Giantonio and seconded by Jennifer Dube, it was
VOTED: to approve Policy# 6146 Graduation Requirements Revision and forward to the Board of Education for approval at their February 6 meeting. Commissioner Taylor was opposed.

3. *On a motion made by Joe Grabowski and seconded by Tina Taylor, it was unanimously*
VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Student Achievement Committee meeting.

4. Update on Magnet School Programming

Carly Fortin updated the committee on the progress of MBIAMS. The Principles of the Vision of the Graduate is the foundation of all decision making. A short video showed the key strategies of “Design Thinking”. This concept of Inquiry, Ideation, Prototypes and Testing is the strategy the committee will use during the decision making process.

The current thinking is the 9-12 level will be taking core requirements at their home high school. They will be able to choose a pathway with a set number of credits tailored to their interests. Opportunities at the magnet school will exist for those interested in the creative arts industry post high school, while opportunities at the high schools will continue to exist or will be expanded to better serve those interested in professional services industries. All students will be engaged in rigorous and engaging instruction in Humanities and STEM as part of our Bristol Public School’s curriculum and expectations for graduating.

Grades 6-8 are still in discussion stages with expectation of approximately 75 students per grade.

Discussion included transportation costs, community feedback, building pathways, current Bristol Magnet school enrollment, special population opportunities, and additional OT/PT travel.

The next steps are to send surveys to middle school parents, current magnet school parents, and high school students and parents.

The MBIAMS committee meets frequently and has committed to reporting progress to the Student Achievement Committee monthly.

5. Update on CHMS Scheduling Pilot

Carly recapped both the positive and negative results of the CHMS Scheduling Pilot. Positive impacts were students were exposed to all core subjects, classes went to 5 day rotation, most class sizes were smaller with the exception of some 7th grade classes, REACH was redesigned and EL were offered greater access.

Negative impacts were the greater loss of instructional time than expected because of the longer transition between classes, lessened flexibility to meet student need in various pathways and approaches, less flexibility within the schedule, and the loss of co-planning time.

CHMS staff and administration met many times to collaborate and problem solve. Ultimately, it was decided to return to the original schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.

6. Update on Adult Education

Larry Covino distributed a Bristol Adult Education Center Program Profile flyer, originally designed as a marketing tool. The information detailed the demographics of Bristol Adult Education Learners and their reasons for attending. Larry spoke of the many programs offered: GED, Credit Diploma, ESL, United States Citizenship Classes, NEDP (online classes for working adults who are guided by an advisor by appointment, and Workforce Programs for manufacturing and banking. The Bristol Adult Education Center is also a Pearson Vue Testing Center.

The budget is augmented by a number of state and federal grants as well as Collaboration Agreements with a dozen or more companies, banks, and agencies that help with their expertise. In conclusion, statistics indicate adult learners in Bristol have a 97% success rate if they stay with Bristol Adult Education program.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Dube adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fippinger