

**BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

A meeting of the Bristol Board of Education Communications and Community Relations Committee was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Shelby Pons, Thomas O'Brien, and Jennifer Dube; **ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Catherine Carbone, Dr. Michael Dietter, Brian Burke, Melanie Vetrano, and Tanya Bulls

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Karen Vibert

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Pons called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting Norms**

Commissioner Pons acknowledged the meeting norms.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

August 11, 2021 - Regular Communications and Community Relations Committee Meeting minutes were tabled to the next meeting as the present members were not in attendance at the August meeting.

**3. Public Comment** – No members of the community wished to address the committee.

**4. ParentSquare Update - Usage** – Brian Burke, Director of Communications and Community Partnerships/Engagement provided a ParentSquare Usage Update. Mr. Burke shared his ParentSquare Dashboard with commissioners. The dashboard showed commissioners some of the metrics that will be captured with ParentSquare. As of August 1, there have been 2,120 posts, 649 photos shared, 233 files shared and 24, 838 direct messages sent – direct messages are teacher to student or student to teacher contacts; our parents, students, and teachers are using the program. Smart Alerts were just rolled out this week for emergency contacts and attendance notifications should be rolled out by the end of the week. Currently, 96 % of our parents are contactable. ParentSquare is not an opt-in system, if they have an email they will get the information. Mr. Burke shared the revised district newsletter. The newsletter will be released digitally on the fourth Wednesday of every month. It will expand to include positive messaging about our schools and programs and activities that are happening around the district. Mr. Burke shared usage stats for the most recent newsletter and broke down the numbers of how and when information is received.

Questions followed regarding sharing the system with thought leaders, the Annual Report, and training families to use ParentSquare. Board members have been added to the system, so they will be receiving the information from the district. The Annual Report will be created and released every Fall at the district and school level and it appears families are navigating the system fairly well as the app has been downloaded 2,907 times.

- 5. BAIMS (Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School) Calendar of Events Grade 5-7 student and parent meetings to prepare for Opening 2022-23** – Dr. Carbone shared information related to the opening and communication related to Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School. Over the past few weeks, the communication plan for the parent and student sessions has been finalized. Beginning October 18, Dr. Dietter, Mrs. Fortin, Dr. Sarli, and Dr. Carbone will visit grades 5, 6, and 7 students' classrooms to share the courses and programs available at the new school. Dr. Carbone shared the visitation schedule and information session schedule with commissioners. High School sessions will be held in 2022, high school students will select courses for BAIMS through the elective course selection process. Questions were raised about what the school will consist of: i.e. student body? Dances? Sports teams? All of those things will be offered at BAIMS, it is a normal school. Questions were raised regarding opening the building to the public. Dr. Dietter shared that there may be a possibility of afternoon tours on Wednesdays that people can sign up for and perhaps later in the year the building will be more accessible to visitors wishing to see the building. Dr. Dietter and Mr. Burke are working on a virtual tour that will be made available to the community.

Questions followed regarding the lottery timeframe. There will be November 1 lottery pull and subsequent pulls until all seats are filled.

- 6. Reimagining BPS 2023** – Dr. Carbone provided an overview of the changes that will be occurring in the district over the next five years with the Reimagining BPS 2023 plan.

**2021-22**

- No Changes to Existing Schools Attendance Zones remain from 2020-21
- Begin process for design of larger NEMS
- Student Lottery Grades 6-8 & Course Selection 9-12 for BAIMS begins

**2022-23**

- No Changes to Existing Schools Attendance Zones remain from 2020-21
- June 2023 Close Edgewood
- Construction begins of larger NEMS
- Open MBIAMS

**2023-2024**

- Redistrict all K-Grade 4 scholars - to accommodate the closure of Edgewood
- August 2023 - Open PK Academy @ Edgewood
- Construction continues of larger NEMS
- Build NEMS

**2024-2025**

- Construction continues of larger NEMS

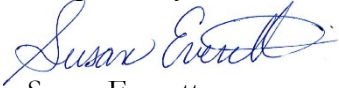
**2025-2026/2026-2027**

- Aug 2025 or 2026 - Open NEMS
- Grade 6, 7, 8 from GH and WB at new NEMS or CHMS

It was requested that the timeline be shared with the entire Board.

7. There being no other business to come before the committee, the committee adjourned. (6:40 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Everett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Everett

Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

DRAFT