

## **Bylaws of the Board**

### **Public and Executive Sessions**

#### **Public Meetings**

All meetings of the Bristol Board of Education shall be open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. (cf. 9320 -Meetings)

#### **Executive Sessions**

The public may be excluded from meetings of the Board of Education which are declared to be executive sessions. Executive sessions may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting taken at a public meeting only for one or more of the following reasons.

1. Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting.
2. Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation.
3. Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security.
4. Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would cause a likelihood of increased price until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions concerning same have been terminated or abandoned.
5. Discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA). The types of records which may be withheld in accordance with FOIA include personnel and health records, student identification records, matters of security, test questions and other specified in FOIA.

#### **Public Participation**

In addition to permitting the public to attend meetings, the Bristol Board of Education encourages public participation.

The following members of the public may speak at meetings of the Board:

Bristol residents, parents and guardians, students and employees of the Board; non-resident consultants to the Board and/or administration invited by the Board.

Speakers must use the following guidelines:

- Public may speak as agenda topics come up for discussion or information.
- Speakers must give name and use the microphone.
- Responses to questions may be deferred if answers not immediately available.
- Comments regarding personnel or confidential student information shall not be discussed under public comment.

### **Public Work Sessions**

When meetings or parts of meetings are designated as work sessions the Board does not normally invite discussion or questions from the general public, but brief public comment may be permitted at the end of a work session if time permits.

### **Freedom of Information**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the following are not public meetings and thus not subject to posting and other requirements:

- Meetings of personnel search committees
- Meetings for the purpose of discussion of collective bargaining strategy
- Negotiating sessions
- Chance or social gatherings not intended to relate to official business
- Caucuses of the members of a single party, provided that no persons other than the members attend the caucus.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-200](#) Definitions.

[1-206](#) Denial of access to public records or meetings.

[1-210](#) Access to public records.

[1-225](#) Meetings of government agencies to be public.

[1-226](#) Recording, broadcasting or photographing meetings.

[1-231](#) Executive sessions.

**Bylaw Adopted: March 10, 1999**

**Bylaw Revised: July 7, 2004**

**Bylaw Revised: April 6, 2016**

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bristol, Connecticut