



Student Achievement Committee
May 17, 2023
MINUTES - DRAFT

Present: Russell Anderson, Catherine Carbone, Michael Dietter, Jennifer Dube, Jill Fitzsimons-Bula, Carly Fortin, Kristen Giantonio, Sara Hale, Amy Martino, Lea McCabe, Maria Pirro-Simmons, Jaime Rechenberg, Azra Redzic, Jillian Romann, Todd Sturgeon, Dante Tagariello, Melanie Vetrano, Leszek Ward

Call to Order

Commissioner Sturgeon called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Decision: Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2023 meeting:

On a motion made by Commissioner Jill Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Todd Sturgeon, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to approve the minutes of April 19, 2023.

Information: School Calendar- Religious Observances

Mrs. Carly Fortin, Chief Academic Officer, reviewed the information about the number of students and Bristol faculty absent in the last few years on Eid al Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Three Kings' Day as compared to a typical date in the school year. According to the data, Eid AL Fitr and Three Kings' Day have more absences than an average school day, however, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kuppur did not have a significant difference. There was also an increase in staff absences throughout the district on these holidays.

Questions and discussion followed.

Information: BAIMS Lottery

Mrs. Fortin reviewed information on the lottery process for BAIMS, answering several questions that were brought to our attention since the last SAC meeting. Mrs. Fortin presented information on the number of students/families that refused the lottery pull, whether they declined or were exited from the lottery (families that did not respond after multiple attempts).

Mrs. Fortin also presented that there have not been significant demographic changes from the beginning of the school year to now since we have a 97% and a 98% retention rate for students. In each round of lottery pulls, the currently enrolled and accepted demographics are analyzed and compared to the October 1st percentages of that feeder school. Students are randomized each round to make a selection (only student ID and demographic info are known). Students chosen need to meet both the number of student seats available and the demographic feeder percentage goals. The Educational Specifications state that the school should represent the demographic characteristics of the entire district. Specific course needs were also considered when filling seats.

Questions and discussion followed.

Information: Summer School

Mrs. Carly Fortin presented information on our summer school programs that will be running this summer.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will have the opportunity to strengthen their literacy and mathematics skills by focusing on pre-teaching concepts that will help students prepare for the grade they are entering. Families who responded to an interest survey were entered into a lottery and students were chosen at random to attend. Elementary summer school will take place at West

Bristol School.

Students in grades 6 through 8th are recommended by their teachers for summer school and will participate in literacy and/or math instruction to strengthen their skills. Students who are not yet ready for Algebra in grade 8 will be able to take AVID Algebra. This summer, middle school students will also be able to choose an encore class as well. This will take place at Bristol Eastern High School.

To provide K-8 students and families with greater choice and more extensive programs, Bristol Public Schools will be granting multiple scholarship opportunities for students to attend summer programming in and around Bristol. Scholarships will be determined based on camp enrollment and total cost of attendance.

High school students who have no earned credit in a required course will have the opportunity to recover credit this summer. Most courses will be hybrid, meeting at Bristol Eastern High School 2 days a week with virtual assignments as well. This summer, Bristol will be partnering with Tunxis Community College so students can enroll in and earn a certification as a CNA.

All Bristol Public Schools' students with IEPs who meet the criteria will be eligible to attend extended school year instruction and related services at our ESY program this summer. Grades Pre-K through 8 will attend ESY at West Bristol School while grades 9 through 12 will attend ESY at Bristol Central High School.

Information: Preview of the Introduction to Business course

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented the new Introduction to Business course. This is a basic business course designed to familiarize students with a variety of topics in the field of business. Students will gather a basic understanding of general business, economics, management, marketing, business law, accounting and finance. Overall, the course gives students a broad exposure to business operations and a solid background for additional business courses, This course is best for grades 9 and 10 and would be .5 credits.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sturgeon adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katlyne Laprise
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