

BA Magnet Announcements/Discussions

- 9/8/23 – Letter sent to all members of the Colchester School Community via ParentSquare
 - Announcing meeting on 9/19/23 inviting collaboration on committee/work
- 9/13/23 – Pride and Purpose Committee Announcement sent out on Facebook (also on main page of website) & Parent Square
- 9/22/23 - September 2023 Smores Newsletter, *ConnectED* (9/22/23)
 - Message to families/community thanking them for attending the Pride and Purpose meeting on 9/19.
 - Identified the committees including BA Magnet
“BA Magnet - to identify programs of need and interest in the region; to work with the State Department of Education to become an approved Connecticut magnet school; to develop a recruitment campaign for the BA Magnet Program”
 - Invited those who are interested but unable to attend to reach out
- 11/1/23 - Budget Finance Committee Meeting
 - “Mr. Sullivan discussed the District’s magnet school application. Mr. Sullivan stated that Andrew Barillari, Director of Educational Operations, is working on getting a quote for portable buildings, a small garage, etc. Mr. Sullivan stated that the state would pay for transportation and staffing at no cost to the District (no offset; paid directly to the Town of Colchester).”
- 11/14/23 – BOE Meeting Including BA Magnet Update from the Superintendent
 - “Mr. Sullivan stated that he, Jessica Kuckel, Amy Begué, and Ashley Zaugg, recently had a meeting with the CT State Department of Education school choice office where they learned how the magnet program works and all of the support the state would provide if accepted into the program. Superintendent Sullivan stated that they are waiting on a quote from the facilities department and then will submit an initial application to the state.”
 - “Mr. Rivers stated that the magnet school would be a win for the community and the cost for transportation and tuition would be funded by the state. Mr. Sullivan said that it allows the opportunity to add additional programming to BA as well as career opportunities.”
- 11/22/23 - Invitation to community to State of the Schools and Community Expo via Facebook (also on main page of website) & Parent Square
- 11/29/23 - State of the Schools and Community Expo
 - The Superintendent discussed the Pride and Purpose Committees including the BA Magnet as part of the opening presentation
- 12/12/23 – BOE Meeting Including BA Magnet Update from the Superintendent

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- “Superintendent Sullivan said that Amy Begué and Ashley Zaugg have been working with the Pride and Purpose BA Magnet School Committee. Mr. Sullivan stated that the state department of educational opportunities stated that they are intrigued by the District’s geographic location and they have spoken to them about space and construction of a small building (removing the portables). Mr. Sullivan stated they seemed very receptive to supporting those programs. Mr. Sullivan said the intention is to finalize the application for a BA Magnet school within the next few weeks. Superintendent Sullivan said that once submitted a short presentation will be done at the January Board Meeting. Mr. Sullivan said this is an opportunity to expand opportunities for students in Colchester and for students at Bacon Academy.

Ms. Begué said that a BA Magnet Committee meeting was held this evening. Ms. Begué stated that the Committee is working on the pathways for the magnet courses to ensure students will continue to meet requirements for a BA diploma.

Mr. Sullivan stated that out of town students attending the magnet school would be transported by and costs covered by the state. Mr. Sullivan stated there is no financial obligation from the citizens of Colchester at all.”

- 1/9/2024 - BOE Meeting Including BA Magnet School Proposal
 - Ms. Begué presented on the Bacon Academy (BA) Magnet School Proposal. Ms. Begué stated that the magnet school would provide an opportunity to increase enrollment at BA and provide more post diploma opportunities for students who may want to go right into the workforce. Ms. Begué stated that the theme of the magnet school will be the Public
 - Service Academy of Eastern CT. Ms. Begué thanked Ashley Zaugg, Co-Chair of the BA Magnet Committee, Steve Hoffman and other members of the BA Magnet Committee. Ms. Begué stated that the pathways include fire and public safety, healthcare, education, aviation and Air Force ROTC. Ms. Begué stated that these pathways would align with the Governor's Workforce Initiative. Ms. Begué said that the magnet school will not cost the District any money; the District would partner with the state and pursue a plethora of partnerships in the development and finetuning of these pathways. Ms. Begué said that the state would also be transporting students who choose to attend. Ms. Begué said the proposal includes the construction of a single level metal building hopefully funded by the state. Ms. Begué discussed the anticipated timelines. Ms. Begué spoke to a three year anticipated enrollment, projecting that the District would add 120 students to BA with the state helping with recruitment of some of those students outside of Colchester.
 - Fire Chief Steven Hoffman stated that this is a wonderful opportunity and he is working with the State of Connecticut on building a 4 year curriculum for the public and fire safety component. Mr. Hoffman said this would help the District access Perkins grants, etc.
 - Mr. Sullivan stated that there would be a lottery for students who applied whether or

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not the student is from Colchester or out of District.

- Ms. Dean asked if they would be dual-enrolled (receive college credits). Ms. Begué said the District would work toward having the courses college accredited. Ms. Begué said there would still be regular academic requirements; however, they will look at overlap for regular coursework and the magnet courses (i.e. Capstone). Ms. Begué stated the District will define the course requirements very specifically for the magnet school.
 - Ms. Tracey-Calash asked if there was a scenario where the magnet school was approved but the building was not. Mr. Sullivan said the state would apply to its Department of Administrative Services for funding for the building and the state seems very optimistic that this would be approved. Mr. Sullivan stated that once the building is built, it belongs to the District even if the magnet school portion closes. Mr. Sullivan stated that he would not want to start the program until the District knows that the financial component will be covered by the state. Mr. Sullivan stated that the planned pathways and location are very appealing to the state. Mr. Rivers stated he is excited about the opportunities it gives students and carves the pathway into career opportunities beyond the diploma and potentially to jobs right in Colchester.
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- 1/10/2024 - Magnet Proposal sent to the State for approval.

 - 11/25/2024 - BOE Special Meeting with the sole purpose being to approve or deny the Magnet Pilot offered by the State of Connecticut.