

The Connecticut General Assembly



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ZIOGAS LAUDS SCHOOL BOARD VOTE TO ADVANCE MBS BUILDING PLAN

State Rep. Christopher Ziogas (D-Bristol) praised the Bristol Board of Education's decision to move forward with a proposal to renovate Memorial Boulevard School for use as an arts and theater magnet school.

Citing previous discussions about the renovation with Rep. Ziogas, city and state officials, the board voted Wednesday to authorize Superintendent of Schools Ellen Solek to ask city officials to file an application with the state for the creation of an arts magnet school at Memorial.

Rep. Ziogas and Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin/Southington) toured Memorial Boulevard School in January along with Mayor Ken Cockayne, Solek, and members of the City Council and Board of Education. The purpose of the tour was to discuss potential funding to renovate Memorial for use as an arts and theater magnet school.

"I'm very happy that the board of education is moving forward on this proposal. Memorial Boulevard School is one of Bristol's historic buildings, and its renovation has been one of my top priorities," Ziogas said. "Preserving this gem close to the heart of downtown Bristol and utilizing its space in a creative way for an arts and theater magnet school would be a double win for the city."

Previous plans for the 90,000-square-foot building failed to come to fruition and it has gone unused for several years.

If created, the arts and theater magnet school would be home to Bristol's largest performance theater.