

## **BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: August 16, 2017                      LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center  
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting                      Page 1 of 4

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### **ATTENDANCE**

<b>HERE</b>	<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Y	Michael Krause, CIC, Chair	Board of Education
Y	John O’Connor, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Betsy Regan, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
N	Judith Hotz	Board of Education
N	Kate Marsland	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
N	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present:

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### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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#### **CALL**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman, Michael Krause.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**02** MOTION (Prins/Borrus) to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2017 Full Regular BOE meeting and MOTION (Regan/O’Connor) the July 13, 2017 BOE Retreat meeting  
MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

##### **A. Janet Brown Clayton and Rachel Sexton**

Superintendent Hernandez introduced the Superintendent Mentees, Janet Brown Clayton and Rachel Sexton. Both Janet and Rachel are going for their Superintendent’s certification. Janet is enrolled in the 093 Certification Program at Central Connecticut State University and works for New Haven Public Schools as a Principal. Rachel is enrolled in the 093 Certification Program at UCONN and works at ACES as the Chief of the ACES Institute.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Marcy Ward, Branford Lyons member, discussed a Free Spot Vision Scanning Program that she would like to see implemented in Branford Public Schools.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the first day back for Teachers. He stated that teachers will be returning for the 2017/2018 school year on August 23, 2017. Superintendent Hernandez stated that students will be returning on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that on the first day of school first responders will be out in force and next week First Student will be doing “dry runs” of their bus routes.

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### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE (Continued)**

Superintendent Hernandez also reported that the Summer Scholars Program was held again this summer and took place at Branford High School from July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated that this summer saw the most participants ever with over 140 students attending. This year also saw students from grade 4 attending and the theme was sports.

Superintendent Hernandez also discussed the Summer Meals Program. He reported that the program ends on this coming Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and served over 20,000 meals. He commended Julio Montes and his staff for all their hard work to make this program so successful.

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the BHS track. He stated that the workers are getting ready to lay down the last coat of poly track and should be done very soon. He Commended Joe Carbone for the wonderful work that he did to help get this project completed.

In his monthly report on the WIS construction project, Superintendent Hernandez stated that they are waiting to hear from the State, but reported that the District is on a priority list. He stated that at the last project meeting the First Selectman was very optimistic regarding funding. If funding does become a program, a community meeting will be held to discuss how to proceed. The next step in the process comes in November with the filing of the States ED 0214 report (Application from the Town/BOE).

03

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Donation to BHS Choral Program**

MOTION (Prins/O'Connor) to accept the \$1,000 donation that was received from the Branford Festival Committee and given to the BHS Choral Program.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **B. Donation to BHS Model Congress**

MOTION (O'Connor/Regan) to accept the \$2,000 donation that was received from Branford resident, Carole Brown and given to the BHS Model Congress.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **C. Technology Fees**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the assessment of fees for damaged technology. He stated that there are several options to consider, an example would be to collect fees vs. insurance. He also stated that the first conversation with Board regarding technology utilization fees took place approximately five years. Tom Pisani, stated that the last six weeks of school the District lost approximately seven devices a week, and no all of the damage to the devices were accidental, some of the damage was clearly intentional.

Board members discussed as well as asked several questions regarding assigning fee's including; could there be a payment plan, how are textbook fees assessed, what kind of incidences/damage have we seen in these devices, how does the district handle a parent that won't pay, a Board member stated that they did not like the idea of collected fees on a regular basis unless the damage was intentionally done, a suggestion was made that as a district we should budget for damages that happen with the exception of willful damage.

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

#### **D. Appraiser Requirement Waiver**

MOTION (Prins/O'Connor) to waive the appraisal requirement regarding the auctioning of items located at Walsh Intermediate School that are no longer needed and hold very little value.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **E. 2017/2018 Non-Resident Tuition Rate Increase**

MOTION (Borrus/Regan) to accept the 2.86% increase to the 2017/2018 non-resident tuition rate.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **F. Naming Advisory Committee**

Michael Krause, BOE Chair, discussed convening a Naming Ad Hoc Committee. He designated John Prins, as committee chair to discuss renaming the BHS auditorium.

#### **G. Rescind BPS Policy 0521.1 Grievance Procedure - Title IX/Rehabilitation Act, Section 504**

MOTION (Borrus/Prins) to rescind BPS Policy 0521.1

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **H. First Reading of Policies:**

MOTION (O'Connor/Borrus) to approve the following policies for First Reading:

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| a) 1311.1 | k) 4117.4  |
| b) 1330   | l) 4118.11 |
| c) 1700   | m) 4121    |
| d) 2400   | n) 4122    |
| e) 3313   | o) 4131.1  |
| f) 3516   | p) 4152.6  |
| g) 3517   | q) 4211.1  |
| h) 4111.1 | r) 5000    |
| i) 4112.4 | s) 5113.2  |
| j) 4112.6 | t) 5113    |

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Toni Cartisano, retired district staff member, discussed her desire to see the Branford High School auditorium named after Cathyann Roding. Stating that she "has never seen someone bring so much to the community." In her closing address to the Board, Ms. Cartisano said that she would be like to serve on the Naming Ad Hoc Committee.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Communication Committee (Joanne Borrus, Chair). Next scheduled meeting:  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Judy Hotz, Chair) . Next scheduled meeting:  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

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### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

- C. Teaching & Learning Committee (John Prins, Chair) Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M., at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.
- D. Policy Committee (Kate Marsland & John O'Connor, Co-Chairs). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 5:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**ACES** – Judy Hotz was absent from tonight’s meeting.

**CABE** – John Prins discussed the various CABE workshop that will be taking place in the coming months. He stated that yesterday was the Commissioner from the State Department of Education held the back to school meeting for Superintendents and the main topic of discussion was to implore our legislative body to “get the job done.”

**BECC** – Kate Marsland was absent from tonight’s meeting.

04

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Krause moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:25PM to discuss teacher contract negotiations. All Board Members present at tonight’s meeting including Superintendent Hernandez were present during this session.

05

### ADJOURN

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:57 PM. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting 8:59 PM with no action taken.

**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017  
at 7:00 PM in the Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Parking for Board Meetings held at Branford High School Lower Media Center is in Lot C. Access to meetings is through the F3 library doors.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**Elizabeth Regan**  
Secretary

Prepared by  
**Kerry Eyrich**