

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes

DATE: May 10, 2017

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Teaching & Learning Committee

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
N	John Prins, T&L, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Joanne M. Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Judith Hotz	Board of Education
Y	Michael Krause, CIC	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Kate Marsland	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor	Board of Education
Y	Elizabeth Regan	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
N	Kiersten Bjork	Student Representative
N	Carol Frye	Student Representative
N	Hunjin Lim	Student Representative
N	Jack Nelson	Student Representative
N	Jayleen Flores	Student Representative
N	Daniel Shamas	Student Representative
N	Emily Borst	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others in attendance: Nancy Norko, WIS 7th; Lauren Farrell, WIS 8th; Susan Schultheiss, WIS Math Coach; Jamie Sebring, WIS 6th; and Melanie Witcher, WIS Math Coach

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Board Chairman Mike Krause.

MINUTES

02 Motion (Hotz/Ehrhardt) to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION

03 A. Math Textbooks – Grade 6-8

Staff from WIS math department presented their findings and recommendation to change to enVision in Mathematics for grades 6-8. The program aligns with the previously recommended K-5 program as well as the Common Core State Standards.

Motion (Hotz/Ehrhardt) to recommend the enVision in Mathematics program to the full board.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Pre-K Program Update

Superintendent Hernandez gave an update on the Pre-K program and the report from ACES. The District has been working with ACES to audit our PreK, EYC and FRC programs. A report will be provided over the summer, suggesting an 18-month timeline for improvement, including possibly NYAC accreditation.

Continued...

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C. Student Behavior/School Support

Superintendent Hernandez discussed student conflict and what schools can do to create safe climates. He described the use of the Safe School Climate Plan in investigating acts of alleged bullying. Not all behavior constitutes bullying, by state definition, but conflicts are addressed by the administration nonetheless. He enumerated the programs and practices in place - school-wide town meetings, restorative circles, responsive classroom, character education, older student-younger student buddy programs, One Book, week of kindness, etc. Safe school climate survey results in the area of social-emotional security show some improvement over last year, but leave room for even more improvement. Dr. Marsland requested that this be an area of focus for the board next year and several suggestions were made to publicize even good news.

ADJOURNMENT

04 Mr. Krause, adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM

**The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary