

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes

DATE: November 8, 2017

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

SUBJECT: Teaching & Learning Committee

Page 1 of 2

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	John Prins, T&L, Chair	Board of Education
N	Joanne M. Borrus	Board of Education
N	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
N	Elizabeth Regan	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
N	Emily Borst	Student Representative
N	Madison Daniels	Student Representative
N	Jayleen Flores	Student Representative
Y	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
Y	Lisa Kroeber	Student Representative
Y	William Riggs	Student Representative
N	Daniel Shamas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others in attendance: Leslie Casanova, BHS French Teacher; Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator; Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator; 5th Grade Teacher, Ally Medieros; Tatum Giordano, WIS student; 6th Grade Teacher, Lisa Alberino; Sophia Berdon, WIS student; 7th Grade Teachers, Suzanne Reiss & Sherry Farmer; Daniel Liu, WIS student and Veronica Smith, WIS student; Monique Valletta, BHS Spanish Teacher

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by John Prins, Committee Chair.

MINUTES

02 Motion (O'Connor/Krause) to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting and the October 11, 2017 Special Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATION

03 A. ELA Curriculum Presentation

Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator; 5th Grade Teacher, Ally Medieros; Tatum Giordano, WIS student; 6th Grade Teacher, Lisa Alberino; Sophia Brendon, WIS student; 7th Grade Teachers, Suzanne Reiss & Sherry Farmer; Daniel Liu, WIS student and Veronica Smith, WIS student discussed the District's ELA Curriculum. Among the items that were discussed were the Curriculum Design Process, the BPS Guiding Philosophy in Curriculum Design. They gave an overview of a 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Unit, including unit highlights from students for each grade.

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Page 2 of 2

04

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Vision for the Foreign Language Program

Committee Chair Prins, led a discussion regarding the Board's visions for the Foreign Language Program. Collectively the Board discussed their vision for the foreign language program. Mr. Prins stated that this vision came about from a comment that Assistant Superintendent Buono said regarding a vision at the last Teaching & Learning Committee meeting. Mr. Prins felt that a strong message should be sent to all involved that foreign language is a priority for the Board.

Mr. Prins proposed that the District consider that all students will graduate from Walsh Intermediate School fluent in a foreign language. The Board discussed their opinions regarding this proposal.

Cecila Toche', District parent, spoke of her experiences of being an English Language Learner (ELL) and shared her opinions on introducing a foreign language program to Branford students.

Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent, discussed recent training for World Language teachers in the District that included the conversation surrounding the main goal of language acquisition and student proficiency. Superintendent Hernandez also talked about knowing what it is like to have to acquire English as a second language and his understanding of setting the conditions for students who wish to set the pathway of the acquisition of another world language and his belief that this should be done at an early age. Superintendent Hernandez discussed the District's early attempt to introduce a program and its initial failure due in part to an uneven program and having only an itinerant teacher. for the program. Superintendent Hernandez discussed his desire to see a program put in place the earlier the better for students, but said that the process needs to be slow and deliberate and address what is currently in place.

The discussion regarding the World Language program will be continued at either the December or January Teaching & Learning (T&L) Committee meeting. Superintendent Hernandez will invite the District's consultant, Christine, to a T&L meeting to talk about implementation and feasibility.

05

ADJOURN

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

**The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary