

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 13, 2017

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

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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### ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
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
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
N	Judith Hotz	Board of Education
Y	Kate Marsland	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
N	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	Emily Borst	Student Representative
Y	Dan Shamas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Margaret-Mary Gethings, Sliney Principal; James O'Connor, Tisko Principal and Lee Panagoulas, Branford High School Principal

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

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#### CALL

**01** Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chairman, Michael Krause.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**02** MOTION (Prins/Borrus) to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2017 Full Regular BOE meeting.  
MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### AGENDA CHANGES

**03** Motion (Krause/Regan) to add Discussion/Action Item C Board Retreat Date  
Approved Unanimously

**04** Motion (Krause/Prins) to add Discussion/Action Item D Rescind the Minutes from the June 21, 2017 Full Board of Education Meeting.  
Approved Unanimously

**05** Motion (Krause/Borrus) to add Discussion Item E Approve the Minutes from the June 21, 2017 Full Board of Education Meeting.  
Approved Unanimously

**06** Motion (Krause/Prins) to add Discussion Item F Change Dates of the October Committee and Full Regular BOE Meetings.  
Approved Unanimously

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### **COMMUNICATIONS**

John Prins announced that Bonnie Carnie, a long time CAFE staff member passed away. Michael Krause mentioned the passing of former Branford Board of Finance Member, Ken Kaminsky. Mr. Krause also discussed a letter that was sent to district parents/guardians updating them on the PCB situation at Walsh Intermediate School.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

An unidentified Walsh Intermediate School parent discussed the timeline for reopening the pool/gym and also questioned alternative locker room availability for students to change their clothes in.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent introduce the districts new certified staff members. Present at tonight's meeting were:

- Mary June Champagney - (.5) Business – BHS
- Dana Decerbo, Pre-K Teacher - Tisko
- Rachel Hanchuruck - Music Teacher - Murphy
- Tessa Malcarne - 1st Grade - Tisko
- Paul Serrazin - Industrial Tech Education Teacher - BHS
- Joseph Stein - 4th Grade Teacher - Sliney
- Kristina Torre Elementary Math Instructional Coach

The WIS new district staff members were not present at tonight's meeting because they were attending the WIS Grades 6 and 7 Back to School Night. In addition to WIS new certified staff all other new certified staff members that were not in attendance tonight will attend the October full regular BOE meeting.

### **RECOGNITION**

Chairman Krause, commended Board Member, John Prins, for achieving the distinction of CAFE Master Board of Education Member. Mr. Krause read an article that recently appeared in the Sound Newspaper and also called Ruth and Adam Prins, to the front of the room for a photo as he congratulated Mr. Prins.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Returning BOE Student Representatives, Emily Borst and Dan Shamas, gave their first student report of the year. They stated that school has just started so there isn't a lot to report tonight. However; fall sports have started, the freshman class is settling in. They also reported that BHS has been doing several fundraisers to help the hurricane victims, such as, a chili cook for teachers and collections during the lunch waves.

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### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez stated that district Back to School nights were held last week and well attended. Tonight WIS is holding their Open House for sixth and seventh grade. Tomorrow night BHS will hold their Back to School Night. Among the things that will be discussed with parents/guardians who attend the Back to School Nights will be teacher expectations.

Superintendent Hernandez also discussed district enrollment. He stated that currently the district has 2,901 students, with the breakdown being; Murphy School - 388 students, Sliney School – 304 students, Tisko School - 386 students, Walsh Intermediate School – 889 students, Branford High School – 888 students, Early Years - 35 students and the out placed student count is 30.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that he was recently at a luncheon with the State of Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Dianna Wentzell. Superintendent Hernandez spoke with the Commissioner about the bonding for the Walsh Intermediate School construction project and she stated that she was very optimistic funding will come through. Superintendent Hernandez also spoke with the Commissioner about the DAS Department instituting new standards, Commissioner Wentzell replied that she was not sure if Branford would fall under these standards. Superintendent Hernandez stated that he remains optimistic and also encouraged as he stays in contact with the local delegates who also state that they remain optimistic in regards to funding.

Superintendent Hernandez finished his report by discussing the Walsh pool and gym areas. He reported that he worked with Principal Panagoulis and also with the swim and dive teams to arrange for the teams to use Wallingford facilities. He also wanted to thank Doug Shaw for his help during this time. Superintendent Hernandez also stated that the priority is the WIS large gym, then the auxiliary gym and pool. He stated that he is unable to provide a date for the reopening as State and Federal agencies will not pin down a date, another round of testing is expected to take place next week and he is positive that the reopening of the large gym will take place in September.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

07

#### A. Naming BHS Auditorium

Motion(Prins/O'Connor) to approve naming the BHS Auditorium after Cathyann Roding as discussed in the September 7, 2017 Facility Naming Advisory Committee meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

08

#### B. Second Reading of Policies:

MOTION (O'Connor/Marsland) to approve the following policies for Second Reading and to be sent to CABA for posting on the districts website:

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 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

Continued...

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

- 09 C. Special Board Retreat Meeting Date**  
A discussion was had to come up with a date for the second Board Retreat meeting. It was decided that September 27<sup>th</sup> would be the date, with a back-up date of October 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place in the Branford High School Class Act Classroom from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.
- 10 D. Rescind/Revise June 21, 2017 Full Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes – Discussion Action Item C - Superintendent Contract**  
Chairman Krause discussed the request to rescind the Full Special Board of Education meeting minutes and revise the minutes to reflect that Discussion/Action Item C – Superintendent Contract motion reflect that seven (7) Board Members voted in favor to extend the Superintendent’s Contract and one (1) Board Member abstained  
  
Motion (Prins/O’Connor) to rescind and amend the minutes of the June 21, 2017 Full Special Board of Education Meeting.
- 11 E. Date Change - October Committee and Full Board Meetings**  
Chairman Krause discussed moving the October 18, 2017 Committee meetings to October 11, 2017 and October 25, 2017 Policy Committee and Full Board meeting to October 18, 2017.  
  
Motion (Krause/Sharkey) to change meeting dates to October 11, 2018 and October 18<sup>th</sup>  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### 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.
- 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 reported that CABE recently had a meeting where Commissioner Wentzell attended to discuss education in Connecticut. He also stated that the convention is moving ahead and encouraged Board Members to attend the Delegate Assembly that is held the day before the convention.

**BECC** – Kate Marsland discussed the various events going on at BECC including the upcoming Round Table on September 26<sup>th</sup>, the theme for this meeting will be Calming Techniques in the Classroom.

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### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion (Krause/Sharkey) to move into Executive Session. Chairman Krause moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:13 PM to discuss teacher contract negotiations and also to discuss with possible action on the Superintendent's Contract. All Board Members present at tonight's meeting including Superintendent Hernandez were present during this session.

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### **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

The meeting returned to regular session at 9:02 PM.

Motion (O'Connor/Prins) to accept the financial terms of the Superintendent's contract as discussed in executive session.

APPROVED (Yes – 7 BOE Members, No – 1 BOE Member, Abstained - 0)

### **ADJOURN**

Motion (Prins/Erhardt) to adjourn. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting 9:04 PM

**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 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***