

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes**

DATE: September 6, 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
Y	John Prins, T&L, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Joanne M. Borrus	Board of Education
N	Judith Hotz	Board of Education
Y	Michael Krause, CIC	Board of Education
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
N	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
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others in attendance: Meredith Gaffney, parent; Sloane Maymon, parent

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL**

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

**MINUTES**

**02** Motion (Krause/Sharkey) to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**03 A. Pre-K Update**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the Pre-K Program Audit. He stated that the ACES audit is done and report is available. The audit of the Family Resource Center, Early Years Center, and 3 elementary school-based pre-K programs was done because the programs were creating independently and have been functioning independently and we want to bring them together. Recommendations included 1) moving to a consistent curriculum across the programs and 2) going through the NAEYC self-study process. Board members emphasized the importance of any new curriculum being fun and age-appropriate. Dr. Buono stated that programs that being considered will increase outdoor activity and purposeful play. The board will see updates on that process throughout the year.

**B. World Language Update**

Superintendent Hernandez and Dr. Anthony Buono gave an update on the district World Language program. The Superintendent reviewed the history (namely, having attempted to move World Languages to the elementary level and finding it difficult to find and keep staff in an itinerant position shared among 3 schools). Dr. Buono discussed a Middlebury assessment of our program that was done previously and that recommended moving to a proficiency model (with

Continued...

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)**

**B. World Language Update (Continued)**

greater focus on conversation rather than grammar). The task of moving to such a model will take time for curriculum writing and professional development. However, we are increasing offerings at 6th grade. In prior years, 6th graders received only 30 days of language, and beginning this year will receive 180 days. In addition, fifth grade should receive 36 days (1x per week) but due to scheduling problems, that has not yet begun and will likely result in 33-34 days of instruction. Parents expressed frustration and disappointment that it had not begun and had not been communicated to them.

**C. Annual Topics**

Superintendent Hernandez and Committee Chair, Prins, led a discussion regarding topics to be discussed at future Teaching and Learning Committee meetings. Among the items discussed were Next Generation Science Standards, educational coaching (including the perspective of teachers), updates on 2 new math programs, monthly reporting of student achievement (STAR< SBAC, PSAT & SAT data), and contented work on the attributes of a BPS student.

**04**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Committee Chair, Prins, moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:09 PM to discuss the Superintendent's Contract. 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 9:36 PM. Committee Chair, Prins, adjourned the meeting 9:37 PM with no action taken.

**The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be  
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Regan  
Secretary