

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Communication Committee Minutes

DATE: April 11, 2018

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Joanne Borrus, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Michael Krause, CIC	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
N	John O'Connor	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	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
N	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
N	Lisa Kroeber	Student Representative
N	William Riggs	Student Representative
N	Daniel Shamas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
N	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Donna Mingrone, director of technology

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Committee Chair Borrus.

02

APPROVE MINUTES

A. MOTION (Prins/Regan) to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 Communication Committee Meeting.

APPROVED 3-0, Ellen Michaels abstained.

03

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Donna Mingrone discussed the District's Pre-K and Kindergarten registration process. She stated that registration had been changed from a walk-in time-frame to a rolling online process. Paper option still exists for those without computer access, but the process has been streamlined. Parents in all local preschool programs are invited by letter to access the FAQ and online registration process, which takes about 10 minutes and is followed by a personal meeting to prove residency. The online system allows families to register multiple children at once. The system automatically sends notification immediately to the administration, school nurse, and special ed or ELL programs at the appropriate school. Reaction among users has been positive on both sides of the process.

B. District Website Demonstration

Donna Mingrone, gave a demonstration of a potential new web page application for the district. Our current web page is out-of-date and not ADA compliant in terms of size, contrast and the ability for

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

speech reader. She demonstrated Apptegy, a web system that provides allows us to make the improvements we hope for, allows a one-way live stream of information on the web and broadcast through the Infinite Campus system to other user devices. It also allows customization for districts and schools, meets all the legal requirements, and Apptegy will do much of the work to convert to our current Web page to the new platform. It was suggested that this is a tremendous opportunity to seek feedback from families on what a new Web page should include.

B. School Security Update

BOE Chair, Michael Krause, provided an update on the District's School Security efforts. He stated that the board will now receive monthly updates and an end-of-the-year report on the drill cycle at each school. That the Safe School Climate Plan will be reviewed at the start of next school year (estimate). Safe School Committees are being re-established. Interviews were completed for the new security position at WIS, and vacancy at BHS with hopes to start after vacation. Meetings were held with BPD and BFD to review the integrated surveillance system (follow-up meeting in April). Safety plans were submitted to the State for review, awaiting feedback. Web site/app redesign, as discussed, will allow better communication. Researching firms for a district-wide security audit - suggestions/costs to follow. WIS main entrance foyer to be redesigned as part of construction project. District is reviewing to proposals to redesign entrance foyers at BHS and INS. New locks will be installed over the summer. Drills were held at all schools in March and so far, two schools in April. New entrance procedures instituted at BHS. Superintendent Hernandez added that the district has contracted with Dr. Joseph Errardi, former Newtown superintendent, to review school security from an institutional perspective. This is in addition to a security firm to audit the security from a law enforcement/first responder perspective. John Prins asked for follow-up information/conversation about the negative psychological effects of repeated drills and Superintendent Hernandez responded that there are mixed opinions in the industry but that it could be discussed as part of Dr. Errardi's report.

04

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Borrus, adjourned the meeting at 6:29 P.M. The meeting was briefly reconvened to allow questions from parent Kristen DeFrancesco, who asked about parent representation on the Safe School committees (principals would choose from among volunteers or appoint someone if no volunteer presents himself/herself), communication from the committee (the parent volunteer would not be responsible for disseminating information, but rather the committee or the school administrator would disseminate information) and about the student entrances to BHS (which have been refined to only two entrances in the morning when students are coming in. The meeting was again adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018,
at 6:00 PM Meeting at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary