

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes

DATE: April 11, 2018

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, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Joanne M. Borrus	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	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 in attendance: Kim Volkens, District ELL Coordinator; Maggie Stevens-Lopez, ACES Professional Learning Specialist, and Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator, Kristen Mancini (Hand HS, Madison), Jean Capacetti (WIS), Mariana Weinberger (WIS), Giovanna Carbone (BHS), and Alberto Cintron (BHS)

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

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

MINUTES

02 Motion (Krause/Ehrhardt) to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATIONS

03 A. English Language Learners (ELL)

Kim Volkens, District ELL Coordinator, and Maggie Stevens-Lopez, ACES Professional Learning Specialist, gave a presentation on the District's ELL Program. They discussed Branford's English Language Learning program, which continues to grow in the district. Currently, Branford students speak 28 different languages at home and their families come from 40 different countries. ELL students represent 6% and 22% of those students are transient and therefore, difficult to monitor. However, students receive services until they achieve proficiency, as determined by a yearly assessment. After achieving proficiency, they are monitored for two years. Special attention is paid to determining whether there is a need for special education services in addition to ELL services. During the last 5 years, the program has expanded to align procedures across the elementary schools, to include more monitoring of students in the later stages, to include more professional development for paras and for teachers, to push-in rather than pull-out ELL students and support classroom teachers with ELL students, to include "sheltered content" that meets content standards but in a way that is

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PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

accessible to ELL students, and to include adults through the ERACE program. As a result, Branford ELL students are outperforming the state average. The state has begun a new program, the Seal of Biliteracy, a designation attached to one's diploma that indicates language skills in any acquired or native language.

B. World Language

Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator, and several District Certified Staff Members in World Languages at WIS and BHS, gave a presentation on the District's World Language Program. They discussed the direction the district's world language program is going through recent curriculum development activities including professional development and site visits to Madison schools to observe their methods. The department is focusing on Comprehensible Input (CI), an approach to learning the language that is very dynamic and engaging. The CI lessons involve TPR (total physical response), storytelling, high frequency words, and compelling content. All world language teachers have had professional development this year with Carol Gaab, an expert in CI. The teachers spoke about their site visit to Hand HS's language lab, where students practice the language out loud in a comfortable setting. Jean Capacetti and Mariana Weinberger discussed surveying students and tailoring lessons to topics that interest them, with the goal using the language to talk rather than talking about the language. Giovanna Carbone and Alberto Cintron also spoke about changes they have made to their lessons to enforce repetition of the language. Superintendent Hernandez spoke about the on-going process to expand the world language curriculum to lower grade levels, improve variety of classes at high school (for example, a cinema class and Early College Experience (ECE). He also mentioned the Seal of Biliteracy, classes for native speakers, and the opportunity for interaction between native speakers and those acquiring the language.

04

ADJOURN

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.

**The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary