

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Communication Committee Minutes

DATE: August 8, 2018

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
N	Joanne Borrus, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Michael Krause, CIC	Board of Education
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
N	John Prins	Board of Education
N	Elizabeth Regan	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Donna Mingrone, Technology Director

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by BOE Chair Michael Krause.

02 **APPROVE MINUTES**

A. MOTION (O'Connor/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2018 Communication Committee Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATION

Michael Krause, BOE Chair, and Superintendent Hernandez presented a resolution and Certificates of Recognition to the BHS girls lacrosse team for their second straight year as State champions.

Mr. Krause also recognized several of the girl's lacrosse team mates for their All State recognition as well as Caroline Ericson for her recognition as Academical All American.

03 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. WIS Construction Project Update

Superintendent Hernandez gave an update on the WIS project. Among the project's recent highlights, he discussed:

- The old Industrial Arts building is detached from the other building.
- Material from the building is being sorted.
- The project is slightly ahead of schedule.
- Abatement is done, the remainder of the building will be done and scheduled for the 15th.
- August 30th is the 5th grade orientation. This year the orientation is for students only and will be for approximately one hour. Students are encouraged to take the bus to orientation so that they can get experience with their bus route.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

- The parking lots are ready to be paved, and will be done within the next week to week and a half.
- First Student will perform a test run by August 28th.
- There will be a controlled arrival and dismissal, with stacked buses (buses will be side by side). There will be no cars allowed in the bus lane.
- There will be 183 parking spots available. With several locations on Walsh school grounds. A review of the parent parking lots will be provided.
- Most activity will take place in the gated area and totally isolated from the building.

B. Website Update

Donna Mingrone, Technology Director, provided an update on the districts website. She stated that the contracted vendor for the new website design is Aptegy. Aptegy is developing an app so that our website can be accessed from mobile devices. Feedback from a recent survey showed that parents most often access the BPS website from their mobile devices such as their cell phones and Ipads. Mrs. Mingrone stated that the District has applied to the Google and Apple App Store for licensing. She explained that the vetting process for Apple is a more in depth process and will likely take some time. The District App will be free. Mrs. Mingrone also stated that the new website will be compliant with federal laws including ADA laws for accessibility and state required postings such as chemical and asbestos information. The new website will be robust and dynamic and once the District moves over to the new site and is using it for a few weeks another survey will be sent to parents to see what they think.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Krause started this section of tonight's meeting by mentioning the issue of volunteer coaching. He stated that Superintendent Hernandez is looking into past practices and the Policy Committee will be looking in to policies surrounding volunteers.

Nancy Kendrick, District parent, commented on the Districts practices and policies and also the use of volunteers in the District.

Mike Tracy, District parent, teacher and coach, shared his view of the benefits of using and the vetting of volunteers in the District.

Bill Alessi, BHS Girls Lacrosse Coach, spoke about his experience as a volunteer coach and the importance of having volunteer coaches available.

04

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Michaels/Perrotti) to adjourn. BOE Chair Krause, adjourned the meeting at 6:39 P.M.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018,
at 6:00 PM Meeting at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich