

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Communication Committee Minutes

DATE: March 14, 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
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
N	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Elizabeth Regan	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	Emily Borst	Student Representative
N	Madison Daniels	Student Representative
N	Jayleen Flores	Student Representative
N	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
N	Lisa Kroeber	Student Representative
Y	William Riggs	Student Representative
N	Daniel Shamas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Lee Panagoulis (BHS), Margaret-Mary Gethings (Sliney), Raeann Reynolds (WIS), Paul Dziablo (ERACE), Alex Paluzzin (Park & Rec), Det. David Atkinson (BPD), parents: Sloane Maymon, Janet Dahl, Meredith Gaffney, Celia Toche, Nancy Kendrick, Pete Hawley, Kevin Healy, Adam Brown, Tim Shea, Taylor Erickson, Greg Gerolman, Pam DeMaio,

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:29 P.M. by Committee Chair Borrus.

02 APPROVE MINUTES

A. MOTION (Krause/Prins) to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 Communication Committee Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

B. MOTION (Prins/Krause) to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2018 Communication Committee Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

03 PRESENTATION

A. Overview of School Security

Superintendent Hernandez presented an overview of the District's School Security. They stated that the district's safety plan is a collaboration between the schools, Branford Police Department and Fire Department to address a wide variety of potential threats. The plan includes surveillance, security guards at BHS and WIS, regular visits by uniformed police officers who are familiar to students and familiar with the buildings, visitor management, employee management, communication, fire inspections, drills.

Continued...

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PRESENTATION (Continued)

The Superintendent and Det. Atkinson emphasized that much of the plan is confidential, as a precaution against someone using elements of the plan in a threat. Board members questioned the resources available to the receptionists, the need for drills and responses to be appropriate for the age levels, the need to teach kids that if they “see something, say something” and the need to constantly monitor social emotional wellness. A large number of parents presented their thoughts on family engagement, providing information, using id badges to identify students, improving mental health services, addressing bullying issues, the effectiveness of our visitors management system (particularly at WIS), arming security guards, the need to make sure teachers are confident in the systems, the need for transparency, the need to improve communication, and the need to comply with state requirements for drills and the composition of the safety committees. Students Emily Borst and William Riggs discussed the need to hear from more students, saying that students feel unsafe in general but that progress is being made. In the near future, the district is looking into a security audit, installing new interior locks at BHS, and reconstituting the safe school climate committee.

04

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. WIS Update

Superintendent Hernandez provided an update for the WIS construction project. He stated that public outreach sessions will be scheduled, beginning March 22 to reach parents at WIS and the elementary schools to update them on changes that will begin as soon as school gets out. He also mentioned that Art Week will take place in all the schools the week of March 20, and will feature more than 300 pieces of artwork by our students on display at BHS.

B. National School Climate Center Survey

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the National School Climate Center Survey. He reported that students (grade 3 and up), parents and staff will be invited and encouraged to take the survey. This is the first time the required survey is being administered by a third party. It will be available March 26-April 3.

ADJOURNMENT

05 MOTION (Prins/Sharkey) to adjourn. Committee Chair Borrus, adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018
at 6:00 PM Meeting at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary