

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 14, 2018

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Michael Krause, CIC, Chair	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Betsy Regan, Secretary	Board of Education
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
N	Lisa Kroeber	Student Representative
N	William Riggs	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Michael LoSasso, Antinozzi Associates; Chris Toussaint, Fusco Corporation; Matt Byrnes-Jacobsen, Colliers International; Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator; Lee Panagoulas, Branford High School (BHS) Principal; Joseph Briganti and Stephanie Byrd, BHS Assistant Principals; Dianne Daddio, BHS Dean of Students; Raeanne Reynolds, Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) Principal; Robin Goeler, Mary T. Murphy School Principal and James O'Connor, Mary R. Tisko School Principal

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by Chair, Michael Krause.

02 **MINUTES APPROVAL**

A. MOTION (Prins/Perrotti) to approve minutes from the October 17, 2018 Full Regular BOE Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Alexander, district parent, voiced her concerns regarding the recent resignation of John B. Sliney School Principal, Margaret-Mary Gethings.

PRESENTATIONS

A. National School Development Council (NSDC) Academic Growth & Student Leadership Award

Chairman Krause and Superintendent Hernandez presented BHS students, Abdalla Syed and Max Warner with the NSDC Academic Growth & Student Leadership Award.

B. WIS Unified Sports

Robert Hale, Assistant Director of Unified Sports at Special Olympics CT – CIAC, presented the WIS Sports Team with a Unified Champion Banner. Chairman Krause and Superintendent Hernandez, also presented the coaches and players with a Proclamation and a Certificate of Achievement.

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PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

C. WIS Project Team Update

Michael LoSasso, Chris Toussaint and Matt Byrnes-Jacobsen provided an update on the WIS construction project. Among the items that they discussed were the construction phase one, the interim main entrance, the BOE's invitation to parents to view the drop off loop, the unexpected discovery of pipes/conduits, and the first delivery of steel resulting in the subsequent placement of seven columns today. The Project Team identified the "Topping Off" as a "significant milestone" that they expected to reach in the near future. In preparation, the Team stated there will be a beam placed where students can write special messages on it. They finished their presentation by stating that the target completion date is one year from now.

D. Building Goals (Administrative Team)

The District Administrative Team gave a presentation on the Districts Building Goals. Among the items that they discussed in their presentation were the goals of the District's Strategic Success Plan, Branford Public Schools Theory of Action, School Climate Goals, School Academic Goals. Mr. Goeler and Mr. O'Connor discussed the elementary school's incorporation of Global Learning Competencies into the report cards and purposeful play. Mrs. Reynolds spoke about WIS collaborations with ACES, coaching, reflection, the implementation of CORE 4 (Citizenship, Safety, Responsibility and Respect), AWAKE (At Walsh All Kids Excel). The BHS Administrative team discussed the school practices that support safe and positive school culture, connection of co-curricular activities (Class Act School), an emphasis on community, instructional coaches supporting teachers and collaborative groups working on common goals.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

GianCarlo Giannini, reported that Homecoming is Friday, a BHS football coach will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the Robotics Club is happy about a grant that they received, Model Congress is getting ready for Yale and Senior Day for Football is coming up.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez started his report by stating that he has been quiet this evening, taking a lot of notes. He stated that the District has a simple motto "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow," and when thinking of the authenticity and relevance of what we are doing, if it was ever evident, it was tonight with the work that the staff is doing and with the truly Herculean effort of our teachers. Superintendent Hernandez stated that teaching today is truly not for the faint of heart. It is a very noble profession and he could not be more proud of their work than he was today.

Superintendent Hernandez continued by stating that the 2019 BOE Meeting Schedule will be circulated to BOE Members for consideration. The calendar needs to be submitted to the Town Clerk.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that the CABE/CAPSS Convention is this Friday and Saturday. At the Convention the Board will be recognized as a Board of Distinction, Level One. This is the Board's second year for being recognized with this distinction.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Superintendent Hernandez stated that enrollment for the District as of 10/1/18 was 2,828 students. He noted that there was not much variation in numbers between 10/1/18 and 11/1/18. He stated that this is the number of kids in seats in Branford, it is not the number of students that we are fiscally responsible as we have children in other schools, including students attending magnet schools.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that all schools conducted their drills for September, October and Sliney and Indian Neck have already conducted their drills for November. Superintendent Hernandez reported that he continues to work with the Police and Fire Department relative to a District Safety Committee. He is working with the chiefs to convene the meetings three times a year. Without providing too much detail for safety reasons, Superintendent Hernandez stated that he has been working diligently for the last month and a half with the Chiefs to ensure providing building access as we have changed all the exterior doors and how people access the buildings. He also reported that he is in the process of establishing routine radio checks should something unforeseen happens. We will be addressing this routinely and not just when something happens.

03

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**A. BHS Model Congress Donations**

MOTION (O'Connor/Prins) to accept the following donations made to the BHS Model Congress:

- a. \$2,500 from Carole Brown of Branford, CT.
- b. \$3,000 from Joseph & Katherine Mele of New York City, New York

Approved Unanimously

B. BHS Field Name Addition

Mr. Krause discussed adding a field name to the James McVeigh Athletic Complex to honor Cathy & John McGuirk, for their 41 years of dedication & service to the Branford High School Girls Field Hockey Program.

MOTION (Krause/O'Connor) to approve adding the name of The Cathy and John McGuirk Field Hockey Field to the Complex.

Approved Unanimously

C. First Readings

MOTION (Michaels/Perrotti) to approve the following policies for a second reading:

- a. 6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
- b. 6114.1 – Fire Emergency (Drills)/Crisis Response Drills
- c. 6114.7 Safe Schools

Approved Unanimously

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Second Readings

MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to approve the following policies:

- a. 5118.1 – Homeless Student
- b. 5121 – Examination/Grading/Rating
- c. 5125 – Student Records/Confidentiality
- d. 5141.21 – Administration of Medications
- e. 5141.6 – Crises Response
- f. 5142 – Student Safety
- g. 6140 – Curriculum
- h. 6141.323 – Internet Acceptable Use
- i. 6159 – Individualized Ed/Special Ed. Program
- j. 6162.31 – Test Exclusions

Approved Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Mills-Sweeney, district parent, discussed maintaining cubbies in classrooms after construction for 6th grade and older students to use during the day. Ms. Mills-Sweeney also discussed having the District return to having homeroom at the end of the day.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communication Committee (Joanne Borrus, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee (John O'Connor Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

C. Teaching & Learning Committee (John Prins, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, December, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

D. Policy Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media

BOARD REPORTS:

ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that ACES approved the two year regional calendar for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Ms. Michaels also reported that ACES approved an increase in tuition, transportation and fees. She stated that the Wintergreen facility is still in negotiation.

BECC – Dawn Perrotti discussed the Week of the Young Child, the Yale Center for Emotional Attendance. Ms. Perrotti also reported that next Tuesday the Alive Program will focus on resilience.

CABE – John Prins reported that Dr. Marc Brackett will be the keynote speaker at the CABE Conference. Mr. Prins stated that tomorrow is the Delegate Assembly.

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PTA MEETINGS

- BHS - John O' Connor & Shannen Sharkey**
Scheduled Meetings: No set meeting schedule.
- WIS – Joanne Borrus, Dawn Perrotti & Betsy Regan**
Scheduled Meetings: Regular meetings have gone to twice a year – none scheduled at this time.
WIS PTA Executive Board Meetings: All Meetings are 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at WIS
November 21, and December 19, 2018, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, and
May 15, 2019
- JBS – Maria Ehrhardt & Shannen Sharkey**
Scheduled Meetings: All meetings take place in JBS Library
December 5 @ 6:45p, January 8 @ 3:45p, February 4 @ 6:45p, March 5 @ 3:45p, April 3 @
6:45p, May 2 @ 3:45p, and June 3 @ 6:45p
- Tisko – Michael Krause & Betsy Regan**
Scheduled Meetings: Not known at this time.
- Murphy – Ellen Michaels & John Prins**
Scheduled Meeting: All meetings to be held in the MTM Café at 7:00 PM
November 20, and December 18, 2018
January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21, 2019

05

ADJOURN

MOTION (Perrotti/Prins) to adjourn. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM

**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2018
at 7:00 PM in the Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Parking for Board Meetings held at Branford High School Lower Media Center is in Lot
C. Access to meetings is through the F3 library doors.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary

Prepared by
Kerry Eyrich