

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Communication Committee Minutes

DATE: November 7, 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 |
| N | 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 |
| N | Dawn Perrotti | Board of Education |
| Y | John Prins | Board of Education |
| Y | Elizabeth Regan | Board of Education |
| N | Shannen Sharkey | Board of Education |
| Y | Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent | Central Office |
| Y | Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent | Central Office |

Others present:

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Committee Chair, Joanne Borrus.

02

APPROVE MINUTES

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATION

Superintendent Hernandez stated that all safety drills have been conducted for the month. He also stated that the District continues to work collaboratively with the police department.

03

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. WIS Construction Project Update

Superintendent Hernandez gave an update on the WIS project. He stated that the steel is due to arrive next week and should be erected by Christmas. The committee is contemplating "a topping off" ceremony and will be working with Raeanne Reynolds to have students sign the beam. He stated that at the sight currently there is no drainage, so there is ponding of storm water. Fusco Corporation will be discussing sustainability with students regarding what we will do with this rain water. Next week the project team will be at the full BOE meeting to provide an update. Superintendent Hernandez continued by saying this is a very exciting time and that he expects that in one year from this January we will be able to move into the academic wing. Superintendent Hernandez also mentioned that, as the Board contemplates next year's school calendar, they should create it with a three-year window in mind, because there are some project requirements that will call for a very long summer in 2021. A back-up option could be that there is a differentiated calendar for one school. He stated that although this is not the most desirable option and he feels that the work can be accomplished without this, it would be worth taking a look at.

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B. Website Update

Superintendent Hernandez stated that he wanted to make sure that the Board was aware that work on the new website continues. The administrative team has yet to meet to determine what goes into it, as this website will be robust, much more timely and there will be many apps associated with it. The plan is still to launch in January.

C. Board Communication

Superintendent Hernandez stated that he will defer to the Board for this item. He stated that he knew that they are putting together a piece for the public, which he believes the timeline for sending it out is around Thanksgiving. Superintendent Hernandez also stated that he believed that Chairman Krause wanted to have a discussion around formatting this item stylistically and to see what the Board preferences were.

Mr. Prins asked about an app called "Say Something" that he recently heard about and thought might be something that the District might make available. Superintendent Hernandez stated that he was familiar with this app. It is a national program that is based in Florida. He also stated that he knew that Guilford recently adopted it after an unfortunate gun incident that happened there. Superintendent Hernandez stated that the District has not adopted it, but is contemplating it, and he would encourage the Board to have a robust conversation about this. He continued by stating that we need to be able to look at it, partner with other communities that have used it and see how it has worked and also see what we can learn from these communities. He concluded by saying that it is certainly something that is being looked at.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made at tonight's meeting.

04

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Joanne Borrus., adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich