

# BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Revised 5-14-19\*

DATE: April 24, 2019

LOCATION: John B. Sliney School Gymnasium  
23 Eades Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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## ATTENDANCE

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

Others present: Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer; Lee Panagoulis, BHS Principal; Cheryl Claise, BHS Psychologist, Kayla Evans, BHS Teacher; Sharon Weirsman, JBS Interim Principal; Nancy Hobbs, JBS Teacher; Cathy Miller, JBS Teacher and Judy Spaar, JBS Teacher.

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## BUSINESS ITEMS

### ITEM DESCRIPTION

01

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by BOE Chair, Michael A, Krause.

### COMMUNICATION

Chairman Krause discussed the history and role of a Board of Education and reiterated the meeting ground rules and guidelines for public comments.

### AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Krause stated that a donation made to the BHS Scholarship Fund will be added to Discussion/Action Items.

MOTION(Krause/Regan) to add the following to Discussion/Action Items as requested by Mr. Prins:

- a. Future Focus
- b. Green Proposal

Approved Unanimously

02

### MINUTES APPROVAL

A. MOTION (Prins/Borrus) to approve minutes from the March 20, 2019 Full Regular BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED (Regan & Michaels Abstained)

Continued...

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Jerolman, Branford Resident, spoke about an event that he stated occurred a year ago at a Town meeting. Chairman Krause stated that per District policy any complaint made against a District employee needs to be submitted to the Board in writing.

### RECOGNITIONS

#### A. BHS Peer Connection

The Board recognized the members of the BHS Peer Connection Club for recent random acts of kindness with a proclamation and a certificate of achievement.

#### B. BHS Peer Connection Club

The Board recognized the members of the BHS Unified Sports Team for their outstanding season with a proclamation and a certificate of achievement. The proclamation was accepted on behalf of the Unified Sports Team by team member, Chelsea Quagliano.

### PRESENTATION

#### A. John B. Sliney School Writing Workshop: Greenbelt Writing

Tonight's presenters included the following JBS staff and students; Sharon Weirsmann, JBS Interim Principal; Nancy Hobbs, JBS Grade – Teacher, Cathy Miller, JBS Teacher, Judy Spaar, JBS Kindergarten Teacher; Rylan Dwyer, Logan Heath, Sebastian Kunst and Kaliahna Hoogland, JBS Students. Among the presentation items discussed were: What is Greenbelt Writing; Greenbelt Writing and Workshop – reflects characteristics of workshop, strong connection to GLC's, foundation for curriculum and instruction, effective communicators and collaborators – conveys written information, exchanges ideas to achieve a common objective, self-directed learners – pursues interests and curiosities, expresses creativity and innovation, designs implements, preservers and accesses personal learning goals. JBS students, Kallie and Sebastian, showed a video and discussed their work to the Board. JBS students; Sebastian, Rylan and Logan presented copies of their work and discussed it with the Board. The presentation was concluded with the discussion of the next steps, including expanding ways we create communities of writers – whole school, class to class and across the three elementary schools and looking for self-directed workers.

Some of the comments from the Board members were: Ms. Perrotti stated that she “loved how you worked with other teacher. Thank you it was great.” Mr. Krause commended the students for their handwriting. Mrs. Regan asked the students what their favorite type of writing was.

Superintendent Hernandez congratulated and thanks the students. He also thanked the teachers for embracing the workshop model to engage students in their learning.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Ryanisu Bam, Student Representation, discussed the recent BHS Choirs trip to California, BHS Diversity Week. She also reported that the Parade of Nations event will take place tomorrow and the Student Council will hold a blood drive will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez stated that the District received the second reimbursement payment. Don Neel is working on the third payment. The FFE meeting at the State went well, with Tom Pisani representing the District. Superintendent Hernandez said with all of Mr. Pisani's hard work the State approved the District FFE submittal right then and there. Superintendent Hernandez stated that it is almost unheard of that the State would approve a submittal on the spot.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that the final interviews for the JBS Principal has been completed and the Committee is currently deliberating. A formal announcement will be made shortly. Superintendent Hernandez stated that he will be asking the Mr. Krause for a special BOE meeting to appointment the chosen candidate.

Superintendent Hernandez also discussed the May 14<sup>th</sup> final budget meeting, all fire drills for March have been completed, he recently reached out to the new police and discussed working collaboratively, three BHS students will receive the seal of biliteracy. He concluded his report by stating the in May he and Rachel Sexton will present on accountability measures.

03

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

#### A. **Healthy Food Certification (HFC)**

##### a. **Healthy food option motion**

MOTION (Krause/Regan) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

##### b. **Food exemptions motion**

MOTION (Krause/Michaels) The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met:  
1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;  
2) the sale is at the location of the event; and  
3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

**c. Beverage exemption motion**

MOTION (Krause/Prins) The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. Project Graduation Donation**

MOTION (Krause/Perrotti) to approve the \$2,260 donation to BHS Project Graduation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**C. BHS Scholarship Fund Donation**

MOTION (Krause/Michaels) to accept the \$9,704.12 donation made to the BHS Scholarship Fund bequeathed by Theresa Barbuto.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**D. Future Focus**

Mr. Prins discussed his desire to see an initiative to speak about the District Future Focus

MOTION (Prins/Krause) to

This motion was rescinded

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**E. Green Proposal**

Mr. Prins discussed his desire to see the District do more things to lessen its carbon footprint.

MOTION (Regan/Krause) to

This motion was rescinded

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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### CONSENT AGENDA

**A. Second Readings\***

MOTION (Michaels/Perrotti) to adopt the following policies:

- a. 5131.91 - Conduct
- b. 6146 – Graduation Requirements
- c. 6163.3 – Live Animals in the Classroom

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

There were no public comments made during this portion of the meeting.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Communication Committee** (Joanne Borrus, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

**B. Personnel & Finance Committee** (John O'Connor Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

**C. Teaching & Learning Committee** (John Prins, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

**D. Policy Committee** (Ellen Michaels, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 6:00 P.M., Mary T. Murphy School, 14 Brushy Plain Road, Branford, CT.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**ACES** – Ellen Michaels reported that CAFE gave an award to ACES. Ms. Michaels gave an update on the Hill Project. She stated that she saw the plans for the Wintergreen building which will be going to Gateway Community College.

**BECC** – Dawn Perrotti stated that BECC has busy month coming up. She discussed the various community Events, one on Saturday that will include professional certificates for teachers. She discussed student artwork that have been placed in the window of town businesses for the month.

**CAFE** – John Prins stated that CAFE is processing its annual budget. He also stated that CAFE is currently looking for a keynote speaker for their convention in November. Mr. Prins stated that if a BOE member would like to suggest a speaker to please let him know.

### 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  
May 15, 2019

**JBS – Maria Ehrhardt & Shannen Sharkey**

**Scheduled Meetings:** All meetings take place in JBS Library  
May 2 @ 3:45p, and June 3 @ 6:45p

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**PTA MEETINGS (Continued)**

**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  
May 21, 2019

**ADJOURN**

**05** MOTION (Michaels/Perrotti) to adjourn. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM

**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 2019,  
at 7:00 PM at Mary T. Murphy School, 14 Brushy Plain Road, Branford, CT.**

Respectfully submitted,  
***Elizabeth Regan***  
Secretary

Prepared by  
***Kerry Eyrich***