

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Communication Committee Minutes**

DATE: February 13, 2019

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center  
Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

Page 1 of 3

---

**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
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Elizabeth Regan	Board of Education
N	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
Y	Riyanshu Bam	Student Representative
N	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
Y	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:

---

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M. by Committee Chair, Joanne Borrus.

**AGENDA CHANGE**

Mrs. Borrus reported that the Student Representatives Report will be added to this evenings agenda.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

- 02** Motion (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 Communication Committee Meeting.  
Approved Unanimously

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representatives, Riyanshu Bam and Mia Josephy-Zack, presented their report. They reported that on Saturday there will be a concert with the Yale Wiffenpoofs to benefit BHS Model Congress, the choir field trip to California and the Wiffenpoofs. The Music Makers are selling Music Grams for \$5 – on Valentines Day the Music Makers will go to classrooms and sing songs to whoever the Music Gram was bought for. They stated that Model Congress is going to Harvard next week (February 20-23). There is a new policy in effect at BHS where students can not wear hoods in school. They concluded by stating that that the girls basketball team is doing exceptionally well.

Continued...

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Communication Committee Minutes**

DATE: February 13, 2019

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center  
Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

Page 2 of 3

---

**03**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. WIS Construction Project Update**

Superintendent Hernandez started his update by presenting pictures of the current progress to the Board. He showed pictures featuring the first floor prepped for concrete pour, metal decking on grade, a picture of the second floor with partial concrete poured, the rock and stone base of the first floor, a picture of winter conditions with plastic hung up to keep the heat in for the proper conditions to pour the concrete, a picture of the water/vapor barrier that was put below the concrete slab, wire mesh, the grand staircase showing the height of the second floor, pictures of the conduit that feeds the cafeteria, and another picture of the winter conditions. He concluded his picture slide show by stating that since these pictures were taken “we now have decking on the second floor.”

Superintendent Hernandez stated that tomorrow Donna Mingrone and Tom Pisani, will be going to the State for a preliminary meeting to talk primarily about the furniture, fixtures and equipment package. He stated that this meeting will give us a sense of what is eligible and not eligible for reimbursement and also to find out if we have to bid out anything what the process would be for that. Superintendent Hernandez continued to say that we have some sole source letters that met with the District’s standards and have approval from the State saying yes you can use this particular one product because it is used throughout the District.

Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by stating that the process continues to move forward. He invited the Board Members to visit the site in March when weather conditions got a little better.

**B. Full Regular BOE Meetings at Elementary Schools – March, April & May, 2019**

Superintendent Hernandez stated that he was in the process of writing a communication to District parents and caretakers letting them know that the Board would be holdin their meetings at the elementary schools in March (Tisko), April (Sliney) and May (Murphy). Superintendent Hernandez stated that Rachel Sexton will be spearheading the effort of working with the Principals around what they would like to showcase. At Tisko School students have taken surveys and getting very involved, with students as young as grade 2 offering their input as to how they are going to give their presentations.

Rachel Sexton added that she wanted to emphasize that it is very much a collaboration between teachers and students in developing what they will be sharing with the Board.

**C. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar Options**

Superintendent Hernandez and the Board discussed the three different calendar options that were presented. After discussing the three options, the Board chose to recommend to the Full Board for approval a slight variation of Option 1 – instead of going with the traditional early release day prior to the winter break, December 20, 2019, will be a full day for staff and students.

Continued...

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Communication Committee Minutes**

DATE: February 13, 2019

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center  
Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

Page 3 of 3

---

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**03**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair, Joanne Borrus., adjourned the meeting at 7:09 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019,  
at 6:00 PM Meeting at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Elizabeth Regan*  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
*Kerry Eyrich*