

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 15, 2019

LOCATION: Mary T. Murphy School  
14 Brushy Plain Road, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

Page 1 of 5

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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
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
N	Riyanshu Bam	Student Representative
N	GianCarlo Giannini	Student Representative
N	Mia Josephy-Zack	Student Representative
Y	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: Lee Panagoulas, BHS Principal; Robin Goeler, MTM Principal; MTM Staff; Danielle Lipkvich, Jackie Courtmanch, Lori Worth, Christine Deschaines and Jamie Sumislaski; MTM Students, Nellie Henry, Maximillian Raccaro, Silverio Curcio, Jenna Willimont, Christopher Olala, Braeden Ryan, Gio Vece and Adam Brewer.

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

01

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by BOE Chair, Michael A, Krause.

#### COMMUNICATION

Chairman Krause reviewed the guidelines for public comments and explained who the Branford BOE is and how BOE meetings are run. He reminded the members of the public in attendance that any complaints regarding a district employee need to be put into writing.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Prins requested to have the topic of future focus added to this evening's agenda.

MOTION (Prins/Regan) to add Future Focus to Discussion/Action Items.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

02

#### MINUTES APPROVAL

A. MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve minutes from the April 24, 2019 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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Page 2 of 5

---

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Jerolman, Branford resident, voiced his disappointment and concerns regarding the Board. Mr. Jerolman also voiced a complaint regarding the Superintendent.

### RECOGNITIONS

#### A. CAFE Student Leadership Award

BOE member and CAFE Liaison, John Prins, on behalf of the Branford BOE and Superintendent Hernandez presented the CAFE Student Leadership Award to BHS student, Serena Sachs and WIS students, Margo Katz and Ryder Kropiwnicki. BHS student, Ben Mehmedovic was also awarded the CAFE Student Leadership Award but he was unable to attend this evenings meeting.

#### B. BHS Boys Hockey Team

Chairman Krause and Superintendent Hernandez presented a resolution to the BHS Boys Hockey Coaches and Certificates of Achievement to the BHS Boys Hockey players for their recent championship season.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Mary T. Murphy (MTM) School: Strategies for Student Engagement

Robin Goeler began by saying that he wanted to highlight the notion of student engagement. Mr. Goeler stated that Murphy Schools works on the engagement piece in a variety of different ways. There are three different lenses; soft start, flexible seating and choice throughout the day. Mr. Goeler explained that soft start is the first 15-20 minutes of the day after the students get off the bus. He then invited the Board and Superintendent Hernandez to come and spend some time with the students in attendance and experience what soft start included.

To demonstrate the impact of various strategies the following was presented by MTM students; Nellie, showed a video of herself and Mrs. Lipkvich and spoke about her experiences with soft start. Jenna spoke about how creation station helps with her writing and the supplies that are used during this station. Max spoke about reading. He stated that he likes to read chapter books, biographies and sports and said that he event reads during his soft start. Braeden, Gio, Adam and Chris spoke about flexible seating and how it helped them focus. They also stated that it was fun and cool to have a choice.

Teachers, Lori Worth and Christine Deschaines, spoke about the aspects of engagement that allow students to come into the school day in a positive, stress-free way. Coaches Jackie Courtemanche and Danielle Lipkvich share next steps that included effective communicators and collaborators.

Mr. Goeler ended the presentation by thanking the parents for bring their children and allowing them to participate, he commended and thanked the students for a great job. Mr. Goeler also thanked the teachers, leadership team, coaches and RTI coordinators for their participation. He concluded by saying that Murphy was extremely fortunate to have incredible teachers and coaches.

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Page 3 of 5

---

### **PRESENTATION (Continued)**

#### **A. BHS Choir trip to California**

BHS Choir Teacher, Mike Martone, and BHS student Kaitlyn, and BHS student and trip coordinator, Lisa Kroeber, discussed the recent trip to California that the choir took. Mr. Martone thanks the Board for their support. Among the places that the students visited were Anaheim, San Francisco, the California Academy of Science and Grace Cathedral. The students performed on Pier 39 and Disney Land. At Disney Land the students were given the opportunity to perform backstage and were given the opportunity to participate in a workshop where they recorded two songs with Disney professionals. Mr. Marton stated that because of copy right restrictions copies could not be made of the recordings but they will be played at the concert next Wednesday night at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Martone concluded by saying that the bottom line is there are cultural opportunities within the U.S., as many kid who wanted to go - went, some of the students paid for their trip in full through fundraising. While in California the students received many compliments on their sound and behavior.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Lisa Kroeber, Student Representative, reported that this is a crazy month and a lot is happening. The BHS track team is breaking records and girls track is doing well also. AP testing is going on and will be done on next Friday. The last Pops concert is tonight and next week is the senior trip to Lake Compounce. Lisa also reported the Capstone presentation was today after school and prom is next Friday at the Omni in New Haven.

When asked by BOE member, Dawn Perrotti, where she was going for college, Lisa answered Fairfield University.

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

Superintendent Hernandez stated that he attended the SCASA Student Awards on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Tisko students; Lily Pannucchio and Nathan Frohlich; WIS students, Jade Buccarelli and Ethan Weaver; BHS students Max Warner and Emma Ng were nominated to receive this award by the adults and their respective buildings. Superintendent Hernandez explained that the elementary schools rotate their participation each year.

Superintendent Hernandez also reported that all drills have been completed for April and the drills for May are in process. The financial audits are in and will be distributed to BOE members. Mr. Hernandez stated that last night he attended the full RTM meeting where the budget passed with an overwhelming majority of 22-2. The District is in the process of posting open positions, including; science (4), world language and school psychologist positions. He reported that one teacher is leaving the district for a position in Austria.

Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by stating that SBA testing is in process and he "encouraged reinforcements at home to put fourth best efforts."

Continued...

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Page 4 of 5

03

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**A. BHS Robotics Club Grant Approval**

MOTION (O'Connor/Regan) to accept the grant of \$2,000 awarded to the BHS Robotics Club by the Branford Community Foundation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. Set Committee Meetings Dates for June**

Because the June BOE Committee meetings conflict with BHS graduation, the Board decided to move the Communication, Personnel & Finance and Teaching & Learning Committee meetings to June 5, 2019.

**C. Future Focus**

Mr. Prins continued the discussion that he started at last month's full BOE meeting to keep the future Focus and the threats to the environment in the forefront of the Boards conversations. After some discussion and a rescinded motion John O'Connor suggested the following motion on Mr. Prins's behalf:

MOTION (O'Connor/Prins) to further discuss at the BOE Retreat ways that the Board can support students and teachers and discussions of learning more about the environment and ways to improve it.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

Ellen Roman, Murphy School parent and PTA President, suggested to the Board that the District look into composting.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Communication Committee** (Joanne Borrus, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

**B. Personnel & Finance Committee** (John O'Connor Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

**C. Teaching & Learning Committee** (John Prins, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

**D. Policy Committee** (Ellen Michaels, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 6:00 P.M., John B. Sliney Elementary School, 23 Eades Street, Branford, CT.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**ACES** – Ellen Michaels was not able to attend the last ACES meeting.

**BECC** – Dawn Perrotti stated that there

**CABE** – John Prins stated CABE continues to work on their budget and plan for the convention in November.

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Page 5 of 5

**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  
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  
May 21, 2019

**ADJOURN**

**06** MOTION (Perrotti/Michaels) to adjourn. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM

**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019,  
at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center,  
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT**

**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**