

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** September 20, 2023

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

**185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT**

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### ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

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### CALL TO ORDER

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

### AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made at this evening's meeting.

### INTRODUCTION

The following new certified staff members were invited to this evening's Board meeting:

- Daria Ague, BHS Chemistry Teacher
- Amanda Anderson, BHS School Psychologist
- Mia Bissonnette, BHS Math Teacher
- Shannon Carey, BHS Math Teacher
- Jonathan Corbett, BHS Physics Teacher
- Jessica Cyr, BHS Special Education Teacher
- Magdelana Fin, BHS Art Teacher
- Bridget Grenier, BHS Social Studies Teacher
- Anthony Ruglio, WIS PE/Health Teacher
- Brittany Sullivan, JBS Special Education Teacher

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about security, school resource officers, the paraprofessional contract and solving the problem, other Districts pay, District custodian wages and aspiring to something more.

Kevin Rice, District parent, spoke in support of having school resource officers in the District

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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 02 A. MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 03 B. MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications shared this evening.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: October 5, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

B. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: October 11, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Michaels stated that the last meeting was quite informative. The Committee heard about summer programming for students, staff professional development and the new reading pilot that will be introduced in the Fall.

C. Personnel & Finance Committee (Meaghan DeLucia, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: October 11, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee heard about the start of the year budget as well as the Special Education

D. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: October 11, 2023, 7:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that at the last meeting the Committee moved five policies for second reading and also five policies for first reading for tonight's meeting.

E. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: October 18, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that on August 16<sup>th</sup> they spoke about social media metrics, the Superintendent Entry Plan, the CAFE Workshop and the assistant Superintendent's search that has been concluded.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Tranberg discussed in his report this evening were; convocation and the good energy in the District, weather related early dismissals and the flexibility exhibited by families, his visit to the buildings during the heat, Wednesday's early release day for teacher professional development, his appreciation for Assistant Superintendent Sexton and her help in transitioning Ali Moran, the Interim AD (Sean Kennedy), school open houses, the upcoming Fall Recess, the incoming BOE student representatives, the monthly article in the Sound, and an article that ran in the New York Times in which he was quoted.

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### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**04** MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- a. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students)
- b. 5300 Administration of Medication
- c. 5400 Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease
- d. 5800 Student Discipline
- e. 6150 Weighted Grading for Honors Classes

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**05 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to appoint the Paraprofessionals contract.**

MOTION (Raynor/Troidle) to approve the Paraprofessionals contract.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**06 B. To consider and if appropriate, approve vote to approve the 2023-2024 Branford Public Schools All-Hazard School Security & Safety Plan.**

MOTION (Michaels/Troidle) based upon the recommendation of Thomas Dillon, external security advisor, I vote to approve the 2023-2024 Branford Public Schools All-Hazard School Security and Safety Plan and authorize the Chair and/or Vice-Chair to execute the same on behalf of the Branford Board of Education.

APPROVED (Watson abstained)

**07 C. To consider and if appropriate, approve vote to approve the WIS and BHS Field Trip Requests.**

MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the WIS Dance Team field trip request and the two BHS Model Congress field trip requests

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**08 D. Review and discuss the 2023-2024 BOE Master Agenda**

MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to approve the 2023-2024 BOE Master Agenda

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**09 E. First Reading of Policies:**

MOTION (Watson/Troidle) to approved the First Reading of the following policies:

- a. 1000 Non-Discrimination (Community)
- b. 4160 Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events
- c. 4300 Employment and student Teacher Checks
- d. 4350 FMLA
- e. 4600 Non-Discrimination (Personnel)

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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### BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ms. Michaels stated that at the last meeting there was a report on ECA including their declining enrollment due to lack of transportation being provided by districts and the States new increase in high school graduation requirements. Ms. Michaels also stated that there was an update on ACES’s two construction project.

B. CABA – In his report this evening Mr. Prins discussed a proposal that he drafted for the CABA Delegate Assembly regarding the importance of the Arts, the Commissioner of Education’s attendance at the last meeting, the addition of two Deputy Commissioners at the State, the convention in November and provisions provided for training of new board members.

### PTA REPORTS

Tisko (Ms. DeLucia) – packets were handed out at the Back to School Night and the first meeting will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Walsh (Ms. Cantu)– handed out an informational letter, an upcoming fundraising and their great communication through their Face Book page.

Sliney (Ms. Troidle) – spoke about the award that the PTA was awarded.

### ADJOURN

- 10** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Michaels adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

### NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:

**October 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich