

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** November 15, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria  
**185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT**

---

**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Judith Barron	Board of Education (Incoming)
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education (Incoming)
Y	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education (Incoming)
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education (Incoming)
Y	Clare Barnett	Student Representative
Y	Kimberly Caracondo	Student Representative
Y	Iva Sekerovic	Student Representative
Y	Conor Spaulding	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

---

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**SWEAR IN NEW BOE MEMBER**

- 02** New BOE Member, Shawn Tiernan, was sworn in by his brother Judge Charles Tiernan.
- 03** New BOE Members, Judith Barron, Adam Greenberg and Ram Shrestha, were sworn in by Lisa Arpin, Town Clerk.

**ELECTION OF BOE OFFICERS**

- 04** MOTION (Raynor/DeLucia) to elect Peter Berdon, BOE Chair; Ellen Michaels, BOE Vice-Chair; and Meaghan DeLucia, BOE Secretary.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**AGENDA CHANGES**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Berdon, stated that he received two emails, one from Mr. Jerolman and one from Mr. Jolly.

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** November 15, 2023

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

**185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT**

---

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Josh Brooks, RTM Representative, congratulated all members and also requested that there be a robust conversation on bullying.

Joanne Viglione, District guardian, spoke about the bathrooms (closed/locked bathrooms and students being late to class) at Branford High School, a situation and an incident that took place with the principal and her grandson.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 05** A. MOTION (DeLucia/McNamara) to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- 06** A. MOTION (Raynor/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2023 Full Special BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed in their this evening were; the Veterans Day Assembly, the health care career fair, Thanksgiving break and traditions, homecoming and its theme (Masquerade), Spirit Week, the girls flag football game, making posters (Monday), the college fair in the BHS Learning Commons), the revival of an old tradition (painted parking spots), Winter sports, yearbook and ring sales, the field trip to Walden Pond, Fall sports, the Thanksgiving food drive and the competition to encourage donations.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Tranberg began his report by congratulating the new BOE Members. In his report this evening Dr. Tranberg also discussed the following; John B. Sliney School being placed on the State of Connecticut Department of Education 2023/2024 School of Distinction based on growth in ELA and Math performance on the Smarter Balance growth rate, WIS received a \$136,000 competitive grant to expand high dosage tutoring in Mathematics, WIS will partner with Smart Start Education to deliver small group tutoring service in mathematics to at risk students (50-60 students), guest management services are up and running in the schools, the State successfully appealed to the US Department of Agriculture to allow school districts that had a positive financial position to allow them to use the surplus to provide free lunch for the remainder of the year, the BEA contract was signed yesterday and will be delivered to the Town Clerk tomorrow, the new Peace Pole placed outside of the Board of Education Office and the rededication of it to Mr. Peter Stolzman, being awarded the CABA Board of Distinction Level 2 award (being one out of nine districts to receive the award) and no school on Wednesday (extended Thanksgiving recess).

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 15, 2023

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT

---

### STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Teaching & Learning Committee - The November meeting was canceled
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee  
Mr. Berdon reported that tonight we received a report from Mr. Neel of our current statuses both regular and special education budget, we received the personnel report as well as the ESSER report.
- C. Policy Committee - The November meeting was canceled
- D. Communication Committee - The November meeting was canceled

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 07 MOTION (Watson/Michaels) to approve the second reading of the following policies:
  - a. 3500 Purchasing
  - b. 5450 Student Drug and Alcohol Use and Chemical HealthAPPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

#### 08 A. CABA Board of Distinction Award

Superintendent Tranberg discussed the application process, meeting the criteria, John Prins was a large reason why we met the criteria that we did, continuing CABA representation by a Board member, yearly commitments, hosting legislative breakfasts and actively continuing opportunities and engaging that way.

#### 09 B. To consider and if appropriate, approve the vote to approve the 2024 BOE Meeting Schedule

MOTION (Michaels/DeLucia) to approve the 2024 BOE Meeting Schedule.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 10 C. To consider and if appropriate, approve the vote to approve the Superintendent's Goals

MOTION (Raynor/McNamara) to approve the Superintendent's Goals.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 11 D. Budget Priorities

Mr. Berdon discussed the budget survey that they Board members received and stated that this was an important beginning part of the budget process to help administration identify the budget that reflects that community goals and aspirations. Dr. Tranberg reviewed the survey results, and discussed the following; priorities, where the Board is standing on his perception of the priorities, the following ten questions were to be rated from 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority):

1. Improving student intervention and support to address academic achievement
2. Improving student intervention and support to address the social and emotional learning needs of students.
3. Addressing district needs to continuously improve safety and security for students and staff.

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 15, 2023

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT

---

### 11 D. Budget Priorities (Continued)

4. Providing comprehensive summer programming for enrichment and academic achievement (including transportation and meals).
5. Support efforts toward net zero energy (E.g. electrifying buses)
6. Attract and retain a talented workforce by ensuring competitive labor contracts
7. Creating and refining programming to support students in their pursuit of multiple post secondary learning possibilities.
8. Maintaining small class sizes.
9. Identifying, improving and maintaining facilities through preventive maintenance and long-term planning.
10. Provide supplemental building support to address teacher absenteeism.

Dr. Tranberg concluded his report by discussing ; the opportunity to discuss other items for consideration including the communication plan, advancing the Strategic Coherence Plan (SCP), air conditioning in classrooms and communication to parents from teachers (response time consistency, which is the third goal of the SCP).

### BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ms. Michaels reported that she was unable to attend this month's meeting.
- B. CABA – This report will continue once there is a new CABA representative in place.

### PTA REPORTS

- A. Mary R. Tisko - Ms. DeLucia reported that the Trunk or Treat was very successful, in combination of all three elementary schools it brought in approximately \$3,800, there is a holiday fair coming up for students (donation coming in now), there is a food drive and they are working on the holiday float, the next meeting is in January.

### ADJOURN

- 12 MOTION (Michaels/Raynor) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Continued...

**DECEMBER BOE MEETINGS**

(All meetings will take place in the WIS Cafeteria unless otherwise specified)

BOE Committee Chairs Meeting	December 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM (Virtual)
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	December 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	December 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Policy Committee Meeting	December 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM
Communication Committee Meeting	December 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Full Regular Board Meeting	December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan DeLucia  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich