

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 21, 2020

LOCATION: Branford High School, Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez began his report by discussing this evening's presentation. He stated that this is a big step for the Board and the community and that we are 150% behind this project. It is now at the point where the Board and the administration need to do certain things to make sure that we are following our procedures that we do it appropriately. Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Neel has been speaking with ECG (an owner's rep type company). High School students today received an email from the principal asking them to participate in a thought exchange, asking them for their feedback on learning during the pandemic (this will be open until the early part of next year). Mr. Hernandez received a letter from the Branford Counseling Center for the Central Office staff donation for their Holiday Gift Program. Superintendent Hernandez will be communicating with staff regarding the new DPH quarantine period essentially moving the period from 14 days to 10 days. To date we have had 71 positive cases, 543 students who are all virtual, anticipate in Spring time that this could change. A survey will be sent out to All virtual parents/guardians to get a sense of when their children might be returning. Mr. Hernandez also discussed the budget to date 431 respondents, majority of respondents is for class size, followed by social and emotional learning then followed by enrichment activities. Mr. Hernandez discussed TRP (Teacher Residency Program) an ACES program for alternative to minority teacher recruitment that provides an opportunity to have a residency in a school district. In early January Superintendent Hernandez, Rachel Sexton and Don Neel will be working with the program directors to see if the program has an opportunity to be adopted in Branford. Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by discussing the park and rec child care program. Mr. Hernandez stated that this is a program developed solely by the Rec. Department, the District just helped them by facilitating the information and data from the cohorts

Doug Shaw, from the Ben Callahan Sports and Fitness Complex and Ben Callahan Foundation presented WIS with a donation of \$5,000 in gift cards to go to WIS Families in need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 02** MOTION (Michaels/Gaffney) to adjourn into Executive Session to discussion confidential documents related to certified negotiations.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 8:45 PM. All Board members present at this evening's meeting including Superintendent Hernandez recessed into the Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- 03** Mr. Prins returned the meeting to Regular Session at 9:05 PM.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 04** **A. BEA Contract**
MOTION (Gaffney/Berdon) to approve the BEA Contract.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

05 B. Board Retreat Focus

Mr. Prins and the Board members discussed the focus, plans, procedures, Board input and possible dates (March/April) for the Board Retreat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

There were no public comments made during this section of this evening's meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: January 6, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Dawn Perrotti, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: January 6, 2021, 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- C. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: January 6, 2021, 7:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.
- D. Policy Committee (Chad Edgar, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that ACES met virtually this year their gala will be virtual and the District calendar was passed.
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney reported that Robin Comey will be stepping down as the Executive Director this month, the Board of Director is working with Harvest Development Group and the Community Foundation to do a community review
- C. CABB – John Prins stated that every two weeks there is a two week check in, there was a virtual delegate assembly, the three priorities investing in our students, supporting our schools and supporting diversity equity and inclusion in education.

ADJOURN

- 06** MOTION (Michaels/Edgar) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich