SPECIAL 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

ATTENDANCE		
HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	John R. Prins, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Ν	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Ν	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hanna Bloomquist	Student Representative
Y	Carly Pierre-Louis	Student Representative
Y	Aldin Aksamovic	Student Representative
Y	Patricio Banegas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Ν	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office
Others present: Mackey Dykes, Connecticut Green Bank		

ITEM DESCRIPTION

BUSINESS ITÉMS

CALL TO ORDER

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by BOE Chair, John Prins.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

PRESENTATION

A. Connecticut Green Bank

Mackey Dykes, Vice-President Financing Programs, for Connecticut Greenbank discussed Solar Map (Municipal Assistance Program), who Connecticut Green bank is and what they do, the program benefits, program steps, the benefits of a PPA, Municipalities and BOE's using Green Bank Solar PPA, project milestones, project details and savings for the District's elementary schools; Sliney, Tisko and Murphy.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Collectively the Student Representatives discussed the Student Council sponsored holiday lip sync contest (the Special Ed Department won), this past month Dr. Brown's morning announcement Club presented live announcements on Tuesdays and Fridays, the BHS Choir (Music Makers and Main Street) worked on a holiday album by submitting their selections virtually or in school just one student at a time and submitted them. The Representatives concluded by introducing themselves to the Board.

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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.

04 A. BEA Contract

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

MOTION (Gaffney/Berdon) to approve the BEA Contract. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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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

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