

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes

DATE: December 9, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Teaching & Learning Committee

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Ellen Michaels, Committee Chair	Board of Education
N	Joanne M. Borrus	Board of Education
N	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
N	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
N	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others in attendance: Lauren Skultety, Curriculum Coordinator; Jim O'Connor, MRT Principal; Lisa Verzella, MRT Behavior Interventionist Coordinator, Lee Panagoulas, BHS Principal; Joe Briganti, BHS Assistant Principal; Melissa Simone, BHS Social Worker; Raeanne Reynolds, WIS Principal and Cheryl Briganti, WIS Psychologist.

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Ellen Michaels, Committee Chair.

APPROVE MINUTES

02 MOTION (Raynor/Prins) to approve minutes from the November 11, 2020 Teaching & Learning Committee meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATION

03 A. Life in the Hybrid: Supporting Staff, Students & Families

Rachel Sexton, Lauren Skultety, Jim O'Connor, Lisa Verzella, Lee Panagoulas, Joe Briganti, Melissa Simone, Raeanne Reynolds, and Cheryl Briganti, gave a presentation on Life in the Hybrid: Supporting Staff, Students & Families. Among the items that they discussed were BPS reopening priority #1: Promote student and staff physical health and emotional well-being – embedded, responsive, general and specific. In the Elementary Schools; supporting staff – SEL strategies and resources, supporting work with remove students and mindfulness, the “Ripple Effect”, student support and self-advocacy, student engagement, supporting English Learners and supporting families. In the Intermediate School; supporting staff, supporting students, and supporting families. In the High School; supporting students (access and understanding, reinventing community), supporting families (communication, feedback and outreach), supporting staff (communication, Distance Learning Survey, Community – Support Team Questionnaire). The Team concluded by again discussing BPS Reopening Priority #1 – communication, connection, community, self-care and resilience. Superintendent Hernandez concluded by thanking everyone who came out and all the staff who are involved in this process. Mr. Hernandez stated that we’ve embraced the growth mindset by embracing hard things, modeling for our students, acknowledging and improving on our missteps. There are families that are hurting and we need to be there for them. We are much stronger when we work collectively.

Continued...

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ADJOURN

04 MOTION (Raynor/Gaffney) to adjourn. Ms. Michaels adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

**The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM at Branford High School Lower Media Center**

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich