

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 15, 2020

LOCATION: Branford Public Schools Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Betsy Regan, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	Michael Krause, CIC, (via telephone)	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
N	Riyanshu (Riya) Bam	Student Representative
N	Mia Josephy-Zack	Student Representative
N	Minsok Lee	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present:

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

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

02 **MINUTES APPROVAL**

A. MOTION (Prins/Regan) to approve minutes from the December 18, 2019 Full Special and Regular BOE Meetings.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATION

Ms. Sharkey announced that after this evenings meeting the Board will adjourn into a Non-Meeting to discuss paraprofessional negotiations.

Ms. Sharkey also stated that Board Member, Betsy Regan, has submitted her notice to step down from the Board effective January 31, 2020. On behalf of the Board of Education and Branford Public Schools, Superintendent Hernandez presented Mrs. Regan with a proclamation and a gift to thank her for her service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Carvin, district parent, discussed her concerns regarding locked bathrooms and student accessibility at Branford High School (BHS).

Pam Katynski, former Branford Public Schools (BPS) Paraprofessional, discussed her reasons for leaving the district and her support for higher wages and benefits for BPS paraprofessionals.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)

Donna Bozzutto, BPS Paraprofessional, discussed her duties as a district employee and paraprofessional wages and benefits compared to other districts.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, stated that this will be the last BOE meeting that he will be making public comments at. He discussed the recent change in BOE leadership and congratulated the district for their communication regarding the recent emailed threat.

Tracey Amodio, BPS Teacher, discussed her support for the district paraprofessionals and thanked them for their services.

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The BOE Student Representative were not able to attend this evenings meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/WIS NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the lights being left on at Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) at night. He stated that it is a programing issue and it will be address within the next two weeks by the contractor, Ducci Electric. Superintendent Hernandez also discussed a complaint he received regarding the volume of the speakers on the outside of WIS. He stated that the volume on the outside speakers was lowered today by district technology staff. Superintendent Hernandez also discussed the transition to the new building, an open house that will be held later in the month, and the start of Phase 2.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that he continues to meet with the administrative team regarding the budget and he stated that his budget presentation will take place on February 5th.

Superintendent Hernandez thanked Betsy Regan for her service and for "her meaningful and powerful conversations."

Superintendent Hernandez reported that mediation with the paraprofessionals is taking place tomorrow night. He stated that the district is not indifferent to the concerns being raised and we are guided by statutes and ground rules. He stated that the paraprofessionals are very valued and hopefully the contract will be resolved.

Superintendent Hernandez reported that the district drills are up to date with January drills still going on.

Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by discussing the meeting conduct bylaws. He stated that the current bylaw is restrictive and does not represent an open forum for a different point of view. A change to the bylaw will be brought to the Board for a first reading next month.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

03 A. Robotics Club Donation

MOTION (Prins/Perrotti) to accept the \$1,000 donation from Sikorsky Aircraft made to the Robotics Club.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

04 B. BHS Model Congress

MOTION (Prins/Perrotti) to accept the \$3,000 donation from Joseph & Katherine Mele made to BHS Model Congress.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

05 C. First Reading

MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to send policy 0521-Notice of Non-Discrimination to Full BOE for Second Reading.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

06 D. Second Reading

MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to adopt Policy 6200-Adult Education.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communication Committee (Joanne Borrus, Committee Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Dawn Perrotti, Committee Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

PLEASE NOTE: This will also be a Budget Workshop meeting.

C. Policy Committee (Ellen Michaels, Committee Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.

D. Teaching & Learning Committee (John Prins, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

BOARD REPORTS:

ACES – Ellen Michaels discussed the recent ACES meeting that she attended, including a presentation by their Nurse Coordinator.

BECC – Dawn Perrotti discussed the free community screening taking place on January 21st and also events taking place in February.

CABE – John Prins discussed upcoming CABE meetings including the first meeting of the Convention Committee.

ADJOURN

07 MOTION (Michaels/Ehrhardt) to adjourn meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Sharkey adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM

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**The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020,
at 7:00 PM at Branford High School, Lower Media Center,
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT**

**PLEASE NOTE: Parking for Board Meetings held at Branford High School Lower Media Center
is in Lot C. Access to meetings is through the F3 library doors.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary

Prepared by
Kerry Eyrich