

SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 14, 2020 LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Page 1 of 2

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Shannen Sharkey, Chair	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
N	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
N	Riyanshu (Riya) Bam	Student Representative
Y	Mia Josephy-Zack	Student Representative
Y	Minsok Lee	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: First Selectman, James Cosgrove, Jim Finch, Town of Branford Finance Director, Branford Clean Energy Committee Members; Bob Babcock, Shirley McCarthy, Gregory Ames, Elena Cahill, Mackey Dykes, Sharon Huttner and Michelle Sember

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

This meeting was conducted remotely in accordance with State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7b, issued by His Excellency Ned Lamont

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by BOE Chair, Shannen Sharkey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made during this section of this evenings meeting.

PRESENTATION

A. Overview Branford Clean Energy Committee

Superintendent Hernandez introduced the Branford Clean Energy Committee to the Board and discussed their work. First Selectman Cosgrove, gave an overview of what the Town has accomplished by taking on a number of initiatives that have had financial and environmental benefits. Branford Clean Energy Committee Co-Chairs, Bob Babcock, Shirley McCarthy along with the members of the Branford Clean Energy Committee gave a presentation that provided an overview of who they are and what the committee hopes to accomplish.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Celia Toche', District parent, thanked the Board for keeping "us informed while working through these difficult times." She also discussed the clean energy initiative and said that she would like to see "more thought and research done."

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

02 A. 2020-21 Adult Education Program Enhancements Project Application

MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve Superintendent Hernandez signing the 2020-2021 Adult Education Program Enhancements Project Application.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

03 B. Flex Learning Update

Superintendent Hernandez began by saying that we could not be doing what we are doing without the support of families. He also stated that he wanted to acknowledge the tremendous work of our staff. We have had to revamp the school district on a dime, with very short notice.

Rachel Sexton provided an update on BPS Flex Learning. She discussed the parent survey questions and results, the dates of the survey and the amount of students represented, decision making going forward into the summer, satisfaction around what teachers were doing, live interactions, adaptability of teachers and school leaders, the theme to pay attention to (more consistency), the power of teacher personal connections, learning goals, capturing student progress, addressing student learning gaps, supporting teachers, social/emotional support for students, and approaching summer and fall.

When asked about their experience with flex learning, BOE Student Reps, Mia and Minsok, stated that they thought that flex learning has gone well and classes have been pretty consistent. Mia stated that AP teachers have been very helpful providing resources. This is the first year that AP exams will be online. They have felt supported and gave an example of how parents on Facebook have started an Adopt a Senior page.

ADJOURN

04 MOTION (Gaffney/Prins) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Sharkey adjourned the meeting 7:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Erich