

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

****This meeting will be live streamed****

Next Full Regular BOE Meeting: June 17, 2020

WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM*

May 20, 2020

***Please Note Time Change**

FULL SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

Branford Public Schools Mission and Vision Statement

Nurturing students and citizens who develop a deep commitment to learning today and leading tomorrow is the central goal of Branford Public Schools.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes
- IV. Agenda Changes
- V. Communication
- VI. Student Representative Report
- VII. Superintendent's Report/WIS Next Generation Update
- VIII. Discussion/Action Items
 - A. BOE involvement in the Branford Clean Energy Committee/Member Appointment
 - B. Second Reading
 - a. Policy 5112 – Ages of Attendance
 - b. Policy 5141.5 - Suicide Prevention and Intervention
- IX. Public Comment on Action Items
- X. Executive Session
 - A. Discussion regarding extension of Superintendent's contract
- XI. Discussion/Action Item
 - A. Possible action regarding extension of Superintendent's contract
- XII. Adjourn

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

To access and listen to this meeting please go to www.branfordschools.org
and click on the link:

TO WATCH BOE MEETING VIDEOS, CLICK HERE

**TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENTS PLEASE CALL:
1 (260) 218-1403 (PIN: 916459019)**

***When participating by telephone please mute your phone when joining the meeting and unmute your phone when you are ready to speak.
This can be done by pressing *6 on your phone's keypad.***

Rules Governing Public Comments:

- Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker. The Board may modify this limitation at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so. (Board Bylaw 9325)
- Conduct intended primarily to disrupt the Board of Education meeting shall not be permitted. Any speaker who engages in such conduct will be warned and allowed to correct such conduct. If the speaker continues to engage in the disruptive conduct such will be grounds for termination of the speaker's privilege to participate in public comment and may be deemed grounds for removal from the meeting site.
- All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.

SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 6, 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
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present:

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 1:05 PM by BOE Chair, Shannen Sharkey.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

02 **2019-2020 School Year Calendar Amendment**

A. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar Amendment

Superintendent Hernandez discussed amending the 2019-2020 school year calendar. He stated that in consultation with the unions, Board of Education and district leadership, it would be in the best interest of our district students, families and staff to take the five days from our current calendars spring break (April 13-17) and disperse those days throughout April and May. Superintendent Hernandez stated that the reason for this change is because we do anticipate that the Governor will be extending the school closures beyond April 20. Superintendent Hernandez noted that this is a serious virus and we should be adhering to all of the precautions so that we can get back to a normal environment as quickly as possible. Superintendent Hernandez stated that he would recommend that the Board consider postponing and rescheduling the spring break to dates determined by the administration no later than the end of this week. He also noted that there will be a calendar committee meeting next week. In closing, Superintendent Hernandez reiterated that April 10 is still a day off for students & staff therefore, there will be no Flex Learning).

Continued...

SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 6, 2020 LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM (Continued)

b. MOTION (Prin/Michaels) Move to delegate the authority to change and/or amend the 2019-2020 Branford Public Schools school year calendar to include any changes as ascribed to April break.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

03 MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Sharkey adjourned the meeting 1:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Erich

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 22, 2020 LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Page 1 of 4

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
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Riyanshu (Riya) Bam	Student Representative
Y	Mia Josephy-Zack	Student Representative
N	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
Y	Charles Cicarella, Director Student Services	Central Office

Others present: Cristina Cantu, BOE Member Nominee

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 TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 02 There were no public comments made during this section of the meeting.

VOTE TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOE MEMEBER

- 03 Motion (Prins/Gaffney) to appoint, Cristina Cantu, the newest Branford Board of Education Member to fill the seat vacated by Michael A. Krause.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVE MINUTES

- 04 MOTION (Prins/Gaffney) to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2020 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- 05 MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2020 Full Special BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 22, 2020 LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Page 2 of 4

APPROVE MINUTES (Continued)

- 06 MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2020 Full Special BOE Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 07 MOTION (Gaffney/Prins) to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2020 Full Special BOE Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Rya Bam and Mia Josephy-Zack discussed their experiences with Flex Learning. Among the things that they discussed were incorporating Google Classroom into their daily schedule, using Google Meet for some classes, the flexibility of teachers, and their various assignments. Rya Bam discussed how seniors are losing out on a lot of their end of the year traditions. She stated that "as a whole we are upset about it but we care about our health and the health of other people." Mia said that she was grateful for access to technology and being able to see classmates and also the vibe of classrooms has been very helpful.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez began by saying that the Superintendent's report would be extended to include reports for the Personnel and Finance Committee. He then turned the meeting over to Don Neel to report on monthly expenditures. Mr. Neel stated that the pupil services budget is 82.9% committed, the general operations budget is 88.3% committed for a consolidated commitment of our budget of 87.3%,

In his special education budget report, Mr. Cicarella, reported that last month going into the end of the year \$61,000 of residuals look at April from March lens we were trending toward an increase in tuition and transportation but with COVID-19 and school closing that is going to change our residuals. He stated that a transportation expense that will change is \$37,431. This is a known expense of a student awaiting placement. This was removed from the projection and brought our current projects to \$110,000. Because of the Governors Executive Order there may be some adjustment on our tuition expense report and how we are going to fund those expenses. Mr. Cicarella concluded by saying that he will be working with principals as to what the price point will be.

Mr. Neel stated that the personnel report was stable as we are complying with the Governor's Executive Order regarding personnel. The focus has been on flex learning and not on hiring. He concluded by saying that pretty soon he anticipates posting some openings for next year.

Superintendent Hernandez provided an update on the meals program. He stated that the Commissioner of Education reported that over 2 million meals have been served in Connecticut. Mr. Hernandez stated that our meals program has been very successful and he cannot say enough about John Turrene and the staff involved in making it happen. He stated that the hours for the food distribution will be changing effective tomorrow to 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM to make it easier for families to pick up breakfast and lunch in one trip. To date over 9,400 meals have been served.

Continued...

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 22, 2020

LOCATION:

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

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE (Continued)

Superintendent Hernandez stated that currently schools are closed through May 20th, based on the Governors Executive Order. He also stated that he anticipates the Governor will provide more information on school closure but it would be premature for us to state that school will be closed for the remainder of the year. However, it is important for us as a school district to contemplate what we should do through June 15th. Superintendent Hernandez discussed the Board amended school year calendar, stating that essentially that there will be a four-day flex week. The five-day spring break was dispersed over the remainder of the school year. The reason for this being; to keep students engaged, ensure students can unplug and also the fact that no one can go anywhere.

Superintendent Hernandez stated that tomorrow a letter is going home to parents asking them questions about flex learning. He stated that it is important for us to get feedback as to as to how it is going thinking about the future. The survey will close on May 1st.

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the WIS project. He stated that abatement continues primarily in the pool area and the old academic wing has been totally demolished. He also discussed the water retention catch basis that is being installed, the demolition of the fire pump room that has already been abated. Superintendent Hernandez concluded his update by discussing students musical instrument redistribution for both WIS and BHS.

Assistant Superintendent Sexton discussed flex learning. She stated that it was setup to meet requirements that were set by Commissioner Cardona and done in a way to structure time to meet the needs of students and staff members. Ms. Sexton stated that time structures varied by grade level. State guidance recognized challenges of student accessing technology and balancing demands of home life. She discussed the pass/fail basis. Stating that reports will be sent to parents regarding student progress and allowing student to have a GPA (transcripts will have a letter grade and a description). She concluded by saying that AP exams will be administered online.

Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by discussing end of the year activities. He stated that he is engaging administrators and staff to acknowledge student achievement and the milestones that they are reaching. We will take into consideration health guidance and the limitations that COVID-19 environment presents. Students are being surveyed and we are getting their input. He also stated that the best ideas how to come up with alternatives to celebrate milestones will come from the students. These are big moments in their lives. This is also true for 4th and 8th grade students as well.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

08 A. Cancellation of School Sponsored Fieldtrips (In-State & Out-of-State) in the event School Re-opens this year

Motion (Prins/Gaffney) to cancel all in-state and out-of-state field trips to avoid congregating socially in the event Branford Public Schools reopens and reverts back to a traditional setting this year.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM (continued)

09 B, First Reading

Motion (**Michaels/Edgar**) to approve the first reading of policies:

- a. Policy – 5112 Ages of Attendance
- b. Policy – 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10 C. Second Reading

Motion (**Michaels/Edgar**) to approve the second reading of bylaw:

- a. 9325 – Meeting Conduct

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, thanked everyone for their efforts and discussed the change to Bylaw 9325.

ADJOURN

- 11 MOTION (Michaels/Ehrhardt) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Sharkey adjourned the meeting 7:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Erich

Students

Ages of Attendance

Admission

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five by December 31st of any school year. Each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the program and activities of the school system without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Exceptions from routine admission may be made by the school Principal on the basis of supporting evidence from physical and psychological examinations.

Parents and those who have the care of children age five to eighteen years of age inclusive are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having control of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. If a child is eighteen years of age or older, he/she is not required to attend school.

The parent or person having legal guardianship of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age by December 31st of any school year. The parent or person having legal guardianship of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age by December 31st of any school year.

The parent or person having legal guardianship shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person having legal guardianship with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

Each child entering the district schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations and/or physicals, the expense of such immunizations and/or physicals shall on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the Town. Proof of domicile may also be requested by the Building Administrator or other school official.

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the district's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have voluntarily terminated enrollment in the district's schools and subsequently seek readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

Provisions for Special Education

According to Connecticut General Statute 176d(b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

Alternative School Placement

Children who have attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if they cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. 5118.1 – Homeless Students)

(cf. 5118.3 – Children in Foster Care)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15 Towns to maintain schools

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds

Students

Ages of Attendance

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-76a - 10-76g re special education

10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (Amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students and PA 09-6 (September Special Session)

Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board

10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils

10-233c Suspension of pupils

10-233d Expulsion of pupils

10-261 Definitions

State Board of Education Regulations

10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)

10-76d-7 Admission of student requiring special education (referral)

10-204a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95

Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016

Policy adopted:

rev 11/09

rev 12/16

rev 7/18

rev 10/19

Students

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

The Branford Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize a potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling. Instead the Board directs school staff to refer students who may be at risk of attempting suicide to an appropriate service for professional assessment, counseling and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat, attempt or ideation must take the proper steps to immediately report this information to the building Principal or his/her designee who will, in turn notify the appropriate school officials, the crisis intervention team, the student's family and appropriate resource services outside and within the school system.

Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat, or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: **Connecticut General Statutes**
 10221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Policy adopted:

BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Branford, Connecticut

(Reviewed and approved by Policy Review Committee)