

SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 29, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
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	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	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 6:02 PM by BOE Vice-Chair, John Prins.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

02 A. Rescind vote from September 16, 2020 Full BOE Meeting electing the BOE Chair.

MOTION (Michaels/Borrus) to rescind the vote from the September 16, 2020 Full BOE meeting electing the BOE Chair.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

03 B. Rescind vote from September 16, 2020 Full BOE Meeting electing the BOE Vice-Chair.

MOTION (Michaels/Borrus) to rescind the vote from the September 16, 2020 Full BOE meeting electing the BOE Vice-Chair.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

04 C. ELECTION OF BOE OFFICERS

- a. Joanne Borrus nominated John Prins to be the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Chair.
- b. Dawn Perrotti nominated Meredith Gaffney to be the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Chair.

Each candidate spoke about their qualifications and why they wanted to become the Board Chair.

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BOE Chair Candidate:

John Prins:
Meredith Gaffney:

Votes:

Joanne Borrus, Chad Edgar, Ellen Michaels, John Prins
Cristina Cantu, Dawn Perrotti, Meredith Gaffney

John Prins was declared the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Chair.

- c. Joanne Borrus nominated Ellen Michaels to be the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Vice-Chair.
- d. Cristina Cantu nominated Meredith Gaffney to be the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Vice-Chair.

BOE Vice-Chair Candidate:

Ellen Michaels:
Meredith Gaffney:

Votes:

Joanne Borrus, Chad Edgar, Dawn Perotti, John Prins,
Ellen Michaels
Cristina Cantu, Meredith Gaffney

Ellen Michaels was declared the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Vice-Chair.

Mr. Prins confirmed that Meredith Gaffney will remain the Branford Public Schools Board of Education Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

Celia Toche, District parent, congratulated the Board for rescinding the vote. Ms. Toche also stated that fresh ideas and visions were very needed.

Jennifer Alexander, District parent, thanked school leaders and educators for their work during this unprecedented experience. Ms. Alexander also stated that she has heard little of how the Board will listen to the community.

Laura Green, District parent and employee, stated that she was hopeful for new blood on the Board and hopeful for diversity and transparency moving forward including a parent forum.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, stated that he was hopeful that the Board did the right thing by having a fresh set of eyes and ears that included accountability, communication and transparency. Mr. Jerolman also discussed the last BOE meeting and the nominations. He concluded by saying that Mr. Prins should step down and/or he would file a formal complaint with CABE.

Mr. Prins concluded the meeting by saying to the public that we cannot do this without your engagement. He also stated that we are fortunate to have the administrators and teachers that we have. We will tap into the community's input.

Continued...

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ADJOURN

05 MOTION (Perrotti/Michaels) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting 6:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Erich