

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 21, 2021

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	John R. Prins, Chair	Board of Education
N	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
N	Hanna Bloomquist	Student Representative
N	Carly Pierre-Louis	Student Representative
Y	Aldin Aksamovic	Student Representative
N	Patricio Banegas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Lee Panagoulas, BHS Principal

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by BOE Chair, John Prins.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Prins and Superintendent Hernandez presented the 2019-2020 South Central Area Superintendents Association (SCASA) award recipient to Lucy Moran.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about communication issues, questions and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and an exchange between the Board Chair and a District parent.

Laura Green, District parent, thanked the Board for having the Communication Committee last week. Ms. Green also discussed minority employee recruitment.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02** MOTION (Perrotti/Raynor) to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Joint Special Communication/Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 03** MOTION (Borrus/Berdon) to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 Full Regular BOE Meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes this evening.

COMMUNICATION

Dr. Raynor commended BHS graduate, Ryan Sember, for his achievement of being a GNAC medalist while attending Albertus Magnus and their GNAC championship year.

Mr. Prins spoke about a new State assessment - Social and Emotional (SEL) Assessment.

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Aldin Asamovic presented the BOE Student Representative Report. Aldin spoke about his experience of coming to school in person.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez along with Mr. Panagoulis and Rachel Sexton discussed the following; Solar MAP, Budget FY22, summer programming, senior activities, BOE annual calendar, DPH coordination (student vaccines), attendance (full in-person), ESSER II (April 26, 2021), minority recruitment and COVID (+) cases (April 18-April24).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Healthy Food Certification (HFC)

04 Healthy food

MOTION (Perroti/Borris) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

05 Food and Beverage Exemption

MOTION (Borris/Berdon) The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 06 A. Project Graduation Donation:**
MOTION (Raynor/Berdon) to approve the donation of \$2,140 to Project Graduation.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 07 B. Shoreline Adult Education Program Enhancement Grant**
MOTION (Raynor/Perrotti) to approve the Shoreline Adult Education Program Enhancement Grant.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 08 2021-2022 School Year Calendar**
MOTION (Borrus/Raynor) to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar.
APPROVED (Perrotti and Cantu abstained)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: April 7, 2021, 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Dawn Perrotti, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: April 7, 2021, 7:00 PM, Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- C. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: April 7, 2021, 7:00 PM, Branford High Lower Media Center.
- D. Policy Committee (Chad Edgar, Chair).
Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – In the absence of Ellen Michaels, John Prins, discussed ACES various budgets that were discussed at their last meeting.
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney discussed the extended deadline for the Community Survey and conducting more outreach for community input for their next steps.
- C. CAFE – John Prins discussed CAFE's upcoming webinars.

FUTURE ITEMS

- A. Cristy Cantu suggested having a security discussion at a future meeting.
- B. Tim Raynor requested a discussion of the modification of Bylaw 9325.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 09** MOTION (Borrus/Gaffney) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation Format.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM into Executive Session. All Board members present for this evening's meeting adjourned into executive session.

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RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- 10** MOTION (Perrotti/Raynor) to return to regular session.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins returned the meeting to regular session at 9:41 PM with no action taken.

ADJOURN

- 11** MOTION (Berdon/Borrus) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich