

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE: August 18, 2021  
SUBJECT: Policy Committee

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

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**ATTENDANCE**

<b>HERE</b>	<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor, Committee Chair	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	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
N	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
N	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by BOE Chair, John Prins.
- 02** The meeting was recessed from 6:05 PM and returned at 6:18 PM with a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 03** MOTION (Gaffney/Raynor) to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 04** **Review and Discuss Policies:**
  - A. C19-02 – Health & Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic**
  - B. C19-03 – Use of Face Coverings in School**

MOTION (Raynor/Gaffney) to act in accordance with Bylaw 9311 to temporarily extend BOE Policy C19-02 and BOE Policy C19-03 effective August 18, 2021 through December 31, 2021 or until the formal adoption of related BOE policies, whichever should occur first.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Matthew Rispoli, District parent, spoke about mask usage, his son's experience in school, sending kids to school without a mask, and scientific studies of mask usage.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Continued)**

Laura Green, District parent, spoke about her health experience, her support of mask use, COVID rates, her employment with the SACC program and no complaints from students, and anecdotal evidence.

Tim Rispoli, Branford resident, spoke about masking his 3-year-old daughter, long term effects of mask usage, not doing mask mandates and the health/safety of our children and the World Health Organization guidance.

Megan Delucia, District parent, policy extension metrics and fluctuations, expectations (remote vs. in person), and air conditioning priorities.

Jamie Kovecis, District parent, spoke about the number one priority (children's health), mask mandates (research), supporting mask mandates, and unbiased scientific evidence.

Ms. Kovecis cited studies from the Journal of American Medical Association.

Isiah, Branford resident, discussed his concerns about mask wearing and delays, studies and long term effects.

Christina Rooney, District parent, spoke about lip reading, facial cues, being the mother of a deaf child, removing masks when the mandate is over, mask wearing in hallways and compromises.

Matt Rooney, District parent, spoke about dialogue on mask mandate, proper planning and a sense of urgency, the plan to return to school, concerns about mask mandates, the importance of access to communication, mask impediments, and Governor Lamont's mandate.

Stephanie Decharmes, District parent, spoke about policies and teacher inconsistencies, the need for breaks, the honor system, tiem for kids to wash their hands, PCR testing, her daughter's experiences las year, cloth masks vs. disposable masks.

Stephanie Carvin, District parent, stated that she wanted to say thank you to Branford Public Schools, Superintendent Hernandez and the Board. Ms. Carvin spoke about masks (important at this time, a layer of protection), being in hybrid, her experiences as a teacher in another district, not removing this mandate (may lead to shutdown), children unable to be vaccinated, follow the science and echoed what Ms. Green said.

Jason Simmons, District parent, spoke about his work and family experience, OSHA, what the CDC says about mask protection, science vs. politics, cloth masks (ineffective) and how COVID is spread.

Roger Maldonado, District parent, stated that the mandates are not laws. Mr. Maldonado read a statement and spoke about unlawful policies, mask usage, his displeasure of mask usage and a grievance that was filed.

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**ADJOURN**

**05** MOTION (Raynor/Edgar) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM by Tim Raynor.

**The next Policy Committee meeting will be September 29, 2021  
at 6:00 PM  
at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich