



**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Communication Committee Minutes**

**DATE:** August 19, 2021

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria  
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

**SUBJECT:** Communication Committee

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**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS (Continued)**

**04 B. ESSER - Next Steps/Community Outreach**

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez and Assistant Superintendent Sexton discussed were: preparation for school - August 31 through September 8 (new teacher orientation, convocation - held outdoors, professional development, workday, District holiday closures and students first day); the Superintendent's pre-recorded welcome back message to parents; ESSER grant (ARP funds) - 3.4 million dollars (we have until September 2024 to expend funds); taking recommendations (some ideas and thoughts) from the community and parents and mapping that to the actual grant; the grant review date (soft deadline); the inclusion of resources for social and emotional support for students; priority of funds; 20% set-aside for Priority One (mandated by the State); using some of funds for indoor air quality at elementary schools; school leader goals (focus on acceleration of learning, student social and emotional wellness); addressing concerns raised at Community Forums (using local funds); community outreach (listening forum for BHS, WIS and elementary school parents - September and October via Zoom) and what the return to school will look like.

**05 D. Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) Project Update**

Michael Losasso and Colin Chan, members of the OAC Team, provided an update on the WIS project. Among the items that they discussed were; timeline and logistics (Phase 2 update), Colliers schedule overview, the auditorium and music classrooms, administrative and nurse wings, Phase 2 summer work - permanent locations (final flow), bottle fillers, site logistics (entire site paved and line stripped), pool completion (January 2022), an overview of how the entire project is going to look, progress of common spaces, the WIS monument sign (made from Stony Creek granite), the future outdoor patio, student staging areas, common spaces, the main entrance and lobby, the administrative and health suites, the gymnasium and auxiliary gym, the fitness room (versatile space), locker rooms, and the natatorium.

Superintendent Hernandez provided an update on the fields. Mr. Hernandez reported that the needs assessment is going to be done by Antinozzi Associates. Mr. Hernandez stated that he gave Mike Losasso the AD's report that talks about needs from the schools prospective and also information from Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Hernandez concluded by stating that the first kick off meeting will be in week or two, and the process will line up to the budgetary process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION UPDATE ITEMS**

Laura Troidle, District parent, spoke about planning for quarantines, COVID-19, vaccinations and positivity rates and also masks/student usage and last night's BOE meeting.

Jennifer Orlando, District parent, spoke about last night's BOE meeting, parent presentations, school reopening and the next phase, having a pack-up plan, and having a plan ready to replace the Superintendent should he leave.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, thanked Ms. Gaffney for building bridges. Mr. Jerolman also spoke about the Superintendent's review, votes on raises or extensions and Board of Education elections.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

- 06** MOTION (Raynor/Berdon) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on  
September 22, 2021, at 6:30 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich