

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** December 15, 2021

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

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Sushant Kunwar	Student Representative
N	Grahm Reynolds	Student Representative
Y	Abbygail Shaw	Student Representative
Y	Veronica Smith	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Michael Losasso, Antinozzi Associates Principal

---

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Troy Sobieski, District parent, spoke about his daughter’s quarantines, COVID mitigation measures, progress and contacting the East Shore District Health Department.

Sharon Klarman, District parent, spoke about Screen and Stay, quarantines, data (how impacted Branford kids), a quote from American Pediatrics on mask usage in the community and the mental health impact on children.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Peter Berdon stated that he received emails regarding quarantining, CAFE, budget items, the sailing team and personnel matters.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

- 02** MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to add Discussion/Action Item F – BOE Authorization to apply for a grant.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 15, 2021

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

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

---

### APPROVE MINUTES

**03** MOTION (Raynor/Gaffney) to approve the minutes for the November 17, 2021 Full Regular BOE meeting minutes.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PRESENTATION

#### A. Antinozzi Associates Athletic Fields Report

Michael Losasso, discussed the athletic fields edited draft report for. Among the items that he discussed were; the concept, the consultant team (Stantec), Fusco (donated their services), the original plan, existing conditions, proposed improvements, and estimated improvement costs. Mr. Losasso concluded his report by fielding questions from Board members.

### BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The student representatives discussed; recent and future academic events, culinary classes (raised \$8,000 for breast cancer research), the Monarch Butterfly hatch, extracurricular activities, Winter sports, the Spring musical (Anything Goes), club fund raisers, the morning traffic pattern (update).

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE

In his report, Superintendent Hernandez discussed; a meeting with the elementary PTA's, the December 18<sup>th</sup> vaccination clinic, the now completed Superintendent Check-in Meetings, CIAC guidance in conjunction with DPH and the State Department of Education (vaccination status and the unintended consequence), Screen and Stay (very limited alternative to quarantining), COVID cases and hiring a second nurse to work on reporting COVID cases.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

#### **04 A. Establish BOE Budget Priorities**

The Board members discussed and submitted their budget priorities.

#### **05 B. BOE Retreat Date/Process and Facilitator**

Superintendent Hernandez and the Board members discussed the BOE Retreat. Among the items they discussed were; past retreats and facilitators, the Strategic Success Plan, possible facilitators and the day of the week (weekday preferred). The Board was poled and the consensus for the retreat facilitator was Jonathan Costa and Jeff Kitching from EdAdvance.

#### **06. C. Select and Approve Entering into a Professional Services Agreement with a Revised Policy Manual.**

MOTION (Ryanor/Perrotti) to approve Shipman & Goodwin as the provider of our policy manual.

APPROVED (Michaels and Prins against)

#### **07. D. Amend the 2022 BOE Meeting Schedule**

MOTION (Berdon/Perrotti) to amend the 2022 BOE Meeting Schedule (Option 4).

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 15, 2021

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

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

---

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

**08. E. Amend the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar.**

MOTION (Perrotti/Prins) to amend the 2021-2022 school year calendar to include 3 early release days (Option 1).

APPROVED (Michaels and Troidle abstained)

**09. F. BOE Authorization to Apply for a Grant**

MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to authorize the Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer to file an application for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants in response to RFP #972 and to otherwise act as the authorized representative(s) of the Branford Public Schools in connection with the application.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, thanked Mr. Berdon for his efforts. Mr. Jerolman also discussed budget priorities, para wages, the health department, data requests, the BOE retreat and CABE.

Celia Toche, District parent, spoke about meeting transparency, Fusco's pro bono estimate, budget priorities, mental wellness, suicide prevention training, the Board's strategic aspirations, CABE and a new policy manual.

Mike Stackpole, District parent, spoke about CIAC and DPH guidelines (masks), a conversation that he had with the Department of Health's epidemiologist, athletes wearing masks and quarantines.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**A. Teaching & Learning Committee** (Ellen Michaels, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: **January 19, 2022, 6:00 PM**, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

**B. Policy Committee** (Tim Raynor, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: **January 19, 2022, 7:00 PM**, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

**C. Communication Committee** (Meredith Gaffney, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: **January 19, 2022, 8:00 PM**, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

**D. Personnel & Finance Committee** (Dawn Perrotti, Chair).

Next scheduled meeting: **January 26, 2022, 6:30 PM**, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

### BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that at the last ACES meeting they showcased their student's art work (note cards), they have seen an uptick in their homeschool referrals for Autism programs and they have instituted self-care for good health for all staff (walking program).
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney reported that the board is working diligently on their strategic planning.
- C. CABE – John Prins discussed CABE's workshop that was held last week. He deferred to Peter Berdon who also attended. Peter said there were great discussions and an opportunity to meet with other Board members. He stated that he believes that CABE is a valuable program and he was glad he went. John stated that professional development not just important for educators but for Board members as well.

Continued...

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** December 15, 2021

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

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

**FUTURE ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items offered this evening.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 10** MOTION (Watson/Prins) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's contract terms.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 9:53 PM. All BOE Members present for this evening's meeting adjourned into Executive Session.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

- 11** Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 10:15 PM with no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

- 12** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich