BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION Communication Committee Minutes

DATE:	December	8,2021
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LOCATION:

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

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

	ATTENDAN	CE	
HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION	
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Committee Chair	Board of Education	
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education	
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education	
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education	
Ν	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education	
Y	John Prins	Board of Education	
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education	
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education	
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education	
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office	
Ν	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office	
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office	
Others pre	sent: Tom Ermini, District Athletic Director		

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Committee Chair, Meredith Gaffney.

APPROVE MINUTES

02 MOTION (Prins/DeLucia) to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2021 Communication Committee Meeting. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

03 A. Athletics Update

Tom Ermini provided an update and discussed the highlights of the Fall sports season at both WIS and BHS. Among the other items that Mr. Ermini discussed were; what to expect in the winter sports season for both WIS and BHS, a communication regarding the 2021-22 CIAC guidance, and spectators at events (mask will be worn). Mr. Ermini also answered questions from Board members.

04 B. COVID Update

In his update this evening Superintendent Hernandez discussed the following; the new variant, focusing on learning, lunch locations in the elementary schools and WIS, vaccinations (BPS staff 97% vaccinated) pediatric vaccine clinics, asymptomatic vaccinated students/staff (exempt from quarantine), quarantined students (7 day test out), screen & stay (keep students in school), BPS positive COVID cases (19 staff, 53 students as of today) and Town of Branford COVID cases (27.6% positivity rate, as of December 2 DPH report).

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS (Continued)

05 D. Communication Plan Concept

Superintendent Hernandez and the Committee members discussed the following; the back ground of the communication plan, engaging with consultants (audit), communication (updating the website), the district's social footprint, the recommendation for a Communication Specialist, the Boards consideration to reengage the consultants, looking at the internal document to develop a milestone calendar, document accessibility, reordering documents, previewing other school communication plans and creating a committee preview flowchart.

06 E. Superintendent Check-In Meetings

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the recent Superintendent Check-in Meetings. So far for this round of meetings Superintendent Hernandez has met with the elementary and high school parents. These meetings were held via Zoom. Among the items that were discussed at the check-in meetings were; the budgetary process (what it entails, the timeline and how to get involved), parent budget considerations, social and emotional supports, summer programing and the capital and operational budget.

07 F. Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) Project /WIS Field Update

Superintendent Hernandez stated that we are working on closing the project out and working on change orders. Superintendent Hernandez concluded by stating that the pool will most likely be opened in mid-February.

PUBLIC COMMENT/DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY ON DISCUSSION UPDATE ITEMS

David Falcigno, District parent, discussed the WIS Fields, the possible field project and the use of these fields by outside interests.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about documents on the website, the communication plan and the consultants, technology and hearing from the current Chair regarding his goals and objectives at the next full BOE meeting.

08 MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to adjourn. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on January 19, 2022, at 8:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Gaffney Secretary Prepared by, Kerry Eyrich