

SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 14, 2021

LOCATION: Branford High School, Lower Media Center  
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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**ATTENDANCE**

<b>HERE</b>	<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Y	John R. Prins, Chair	Board of Education
Y	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
N	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hanna Bloomquist	Student Representative
Y	Carly Pierre-Louis	Student Representative
Y	Aldin Aksamovic	Student Representative
Y	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:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by BOE Chair, John Prins.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**2019-2020 SCASA STUDENT RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS**

Superintendent Hernandez introduced the 2019-2020 SCASA Student Recognition Recipients, Sophia Berdon, Gabriella Higney and Eli Mayer. Mr. Prins and Assistant Superintendent Rachel Sexton presented them with their 2019-2020 SCASA Student Recognition Certificate.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The Student Representatives spoke about what its been like to be a student in recent times, the tools they are using to be successful in the hybrid, and retaining a sense of normalcy.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the following; the communication that was sent out to faculty regarding the importance of creating spaces at schools that are developmentally appropriate for students to express how they are feeling and their different points of view, the importance of listening to each other's point of view and perspective, teachers have been given a wide berth and latitude on how they conduct their classrooms with a concerted effort to create safe spaces, the budget survey that was open

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**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE (Continued)**

to parents/guardians and community members (results will be placed on website and will become part of the budget presentation), the request made to the Board Chair to move the Budget Presentation by a week, the 2021-22 school year calendar, calendar committee and the need for longer summer to accommodate the complete of the WIS construction project (as mentioned in previous Superintendent's Report).

Superintendent Hernandez provided an update on the WIS project. Mr. Hernandez stated that the project continues to be on schedule and on budget, we recently put in for a progress payment for the month of January and the only outstanding issue that is taking up a fair amount of time, effort and resources is the final disposition of the WIS school pool, which the building commission is taking up a resolution later this month or early February

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**02 A. First Reading of Policies**

- a. C19-01 - Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic  
MOTION (Edgar/Perrotti) to approve the first reading of policy as recommended by the Policy Committee.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
  
- b. C19-02 - Use of Face Coverings in School- Health and Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic  
MOTION (Edgar/Borris) to approve the first reading of policy as recommended by the Policy Committee.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
  
- c. C19-03- Use of Face Coverings in School  
MOTION (Edgar/Perrotti) to approve the first reading of policy as recommended by the Policy Committee.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
  
- d. 5112 - Ages of Attendance  
MOTION (Edgar/Perrotti) to approve the first reading of policy as recommended by the Policy Committee.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

**03 B. BHS Donation**

MOTION (Borrus/Perrotti) to accept the donation to BHS of \$500 in food gift cards from Carter Shannon, a member of the Branford Community.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS**

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

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: February 10, 2021, 6:30 PM, Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Dawn Perrotti, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: February 10, 2021, 7:00 PM, Branford High School Lower Media Center.
- C. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: March 10, 2021, 7:00 PM, Branford High Lower Media Center.
- D. Policy Committee (Chad Edgar, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Branford High Lower Media Center.

**BOARD REPORTS**

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that she did not have a report this month
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney reported that there were no updates this month
- A. CABE – John Prins discussed the legislative priorities and the Area 7 Legislative Breakfast

**ADJOURN**

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

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich