

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Communication Committee Minutes**

**DATE:** May 12, 2021

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

**SUBJECT:** Communication Committee

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**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
N	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Committee Chair, Meredith Gaffney.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**02** MOTION (Berdon/Raynor) to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2021 Communication Committee meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**MOTIONS**

**03** MOTION (Raynor/Berdon) to amend the agenda to add Dialogue with the Community.

**04** MOTION (Raynor/Berdon) if procedurally correct to add it to future agenda items.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS**

**05 A. COVID-19 Update**

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; an inquiry from a District parent questioning why students not currently in school are listed on the Districts COVID positive cases dashboard, a parent's suggestion to color code positive cases on the Dashboard, employee vaccinations, upcoming student vaccinations and rapid testing.

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**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS (Continued)**

**06 B. Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) Project Update**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the amount of activity around the site, the facade, the Building Committee, Ed Specs, non-reimbursement for athletic fields by the State, field reconstitution to condition prior to construction, field jurisdiction, asking the Owners Rep to speak at the next BOE meeting, Capital Project vs. reimbursement. Superintendent Hernandez reported that the project continues to be on time with the exception of the pool (December 2021 or January 2022). He concluded by saying that he will facilitate a tour for the Board if they are interested.

**07 C. Community Partnership**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed ESSER II, the Districts current partnership with the YMCA and his hope to expand this partnership, partnerships with the Park & Recreation Department, Chartwells and Tabor Church (Performing Arts Program) and summer programming numbers. Superintendent Hernandez stated that we partner with these entities particularly in the summer along with the Community Dining Room to support their meals. Mr. Hernandez stated that he and Mr. Neel are talking with the YMCA to supplement our school aged childcare.

**08 End-of-the-Year Celebration**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed BHS seniors, a letter and a document (Road Map) that Principal Panagoulis sent out regarding graduation (June 18, taking place on the football field, 4 guests, chair arrangements), CDC guidance, Seniors being able to graduate as a class at the same time, the graduation rain date (June 19), Senior Prom (May 21 at Owenego), BHS Achievement Awards (June 3), Senior Scholarship Awards (June 13), Senior Drive Through Parade (June 16). Mr. Hernandez also spoke about the WIS Grade 8 Promotion Celebration (June 17), the struggle to find venues for events, the Elementary schools celebration (most likely will happen outside), the possibility of having field day with safety being an important piece and striking a balance.

**09 Website**

Superintendent Hernandez spoke about the plan to update the District website over the summer, feedback received (clunky, cumbersome, sometimes hard to navigate and find things), and looking into a one click button system.

**DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY/PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION UPDATE ITEMS**

Dr. Raynor spoke about common courtesy and refraining from personal attacks.

Jennifer Orlando, District parent, spoke about good feedback on the presentation and questions answered. Among the questions that Ms. Orlando asked were how much money has been used on the WIS Project to date and who was the project's leader?

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, thanked the Board for the meeting. Mr. Jerolman also discussed building more bridges, possible topics, discussion items, website technology, an org. chart, and his calls and emails.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on  
June 9, 2021, at 6:30 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich