

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 27, 2022

**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	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
N	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
N	Sushant Kunwar	Student Representative
N	Grahm Reynolds	Student Representative
N	Abbygail Shaw	Student Representative
N	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:

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

- 02** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to add PTA Updates to Board Reports and to move the Superintendent's evaluation as Discussion Item F.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**RECOGNITION**

**A. Kimberly Ross, Chartwells Employee**

Bobby Martin, Chartwells Regional Manager, and John Turenne, Chartwells Food Service Director, discussed the Chartwells Cheers Program and its first quarter North East Regional Recognition Award given to John B. Sliney Schools Chartwells employee, Kimberly Ross.

BOE Chair, Peter Berdon, presented Kimberly with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brett Joly, District parent, congratulated Kimberly Ross. Mr. Joly also discussed the importance of World Languages, maintaining a French program, the different language classes being offered at North Haven Middle School and advocating for the SACC program.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the District's school climate survey results and the Superintendents review.

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### APPROVE MINUTES

- 03 MOTION (Gaffney/DeLucia) to approve the minutes for the March 16, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that he did not have anything to report this evening.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: May 5, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting will be held virtually.

B. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair)

Ms. Michaels discussed the Elementary Language Arts presentation that was presented at the last T&L meeting.

Next scheduled meeting: May 11, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Ms. Watson stated that the COVID policy C19-02 is on this meeting's agenda for the first reading, the Committee discussed the 1000 and 2000 policy series, and the 3000 and 4000 policy series will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Next scheduled meeting: May 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Ms. Gaffney stated that the WIS Open House is tomorrow and all are encouraged to and also at the last meeting the Consultant RFQ was discussed.

Next scheduled meeting: May 11, 2022, 8:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

E. Personnel & Finance Committee (Meaghan DeLucia, Chair)

Ms. DeLucia stated that we are going to discuss the Healthy Food Certification at this evening's meeting.

Next scheduled meeting: May 18, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

### BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The BOE Student Representatives were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; the upcoming standardized testing, tomorrow's WIS Open House (4:00 - 6:00 PM), the importance of the home test kits that were sent out, monitoring COVID cases, reporting positive tests to the COVID Nurse, upcoming vaccination clinics. Superintendent Hernandez congratulated Kimberly Ross and discussed what exemplifies a Chartwells employee. Mr. Hernandez concluded by providing an update on the First Selectman's Athletic Fields Usage Committee and along with Assistant Superintendent Sexton discussed pushing out the upcoming climate survey.

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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**04 A. BOE Committee Assignments**

MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the new BOE Committee assignments.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**05 B. Strategic Planning Committee Appointments**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed Strategic Planning Committee assignments including; composition, consultant Jonathan Costa's opinion of organizing and coordinating the assignments and BOE member participation.

MOTION (Raynor/DeLucia) to delete the Rotary position and substitute it with a parent position (\*First Selectman's position).

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the list as amended.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**06 C. Paraprofessional Wage MOU**

MOTION (Michaels/Watson) Moved, in the interest of attracting and retaining paraprofessionals in order to best serve the educational interests of students in the Branford Public Schools, that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Branford Paraprofessionals' union, thereby modifying the 2022-23 wage schedule set forth in the parties' signed July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 collective bargaining agreement.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**07 D. 1000 and 2000 Policy Series Update**

Marie Watson discussed where to find the 1000 and 2000 policy series and asked the Policy Committee members to start reviewing the 3000 and 4000 policy series.

**08 E. First Reading of Policy C19-02**

MOTION (Raynor/Gaffney) to approve the first reading of policy C19-02.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**09 F. Initial Discussion Superintendent's Evaluation**

Peter Berdon and the Board members discussed the Superintendents evaluation. Among the items that were discussed were; CABE's assessment tool, appendix B of the assessment tool, the process including self-evaluation, establishing goals, the timeline, contractual obligations and defining the tool used.

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### CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

#### 10 A. Health Food Certification

##### I. Healthy food option motion

MOTION (Watson/DeLucia) pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

##### II. Food and beverage exemption motion

MOTION (Watson/DeLucia) The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION/ACTION & CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, discussed the para agreement and competitive wages, the Superintendent’s evaluation and CABE policies.

### BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that there was a presentation at the last meeting on the IEP process (keep everything uniform across the State), ACES had their gala that raised \$170,000 and a possible summer collaboration with ECA and Branford Public Schools.
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney stated that she did not have anything to report this evening.
- C. CABE – John Prins was not present at this evening’s meeting.
- D. PTA Meetings –
  - a. Slincy School - Laura Troidle reported that there was a huge and enthusiastic turn out at the last meeting. Among the items discussed at the meeting were ideas for fund raising and teacher appreciation week and room parents in the classroom.
  - b. Murphy School – Marie Watson reported that she attended the March PTA meeting and among the items discussed were the end of the year programs and the collaboration between the three elementary schools regarding these events.

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**FUTURE ITEMS**

A. Organizational Chart Detail Discussion.

**ADJOURN**

**11** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich