

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 17, 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
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 by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 02** Mr. Berdon moved the meeting into executive session. All BOE members present including Superintendent Hernandez adjourned in executive session to discuss the school security report.

REGULAR SESSION

- 03** Mr. Berdon moved the meeting into regular session at 9:20 PM with no action taken.
- 04** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to instill a security officer at the three elementary schools and Indian Neck, effective immediately.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment made during this section of this evening's meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 05** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon shared a thank you note with the Board that he received from Ms. Sexton. Mr. Berdon also stated that he received several emails regarding the selection process for Superintendent and a couple of emails from Mr. Jerolman.

Continued...

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STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: September 8, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting will be held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: September 14, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: September 14, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that at the last meeting the committee reviewed the 1000, 2000, 5000 and 6000 policy series.

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: September 14, 2022, 8:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that at the last meeting the committee discussed the essential dates for school opening, strategic planning and the McDowell Communications Group.

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

Next scheduled meeting: September 21, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia reported that at this evening's committee there was a robust report in regards to personnel openings.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; the first day back for teachers and students, a correspondence that he received from the Jewish Federation regarding school on Jewish holidays, the admin retreat that concluded today and the climate survey data.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

06 Strategic Coherence Planning Parent Representative Selection

The Board randomly selected the following names for district parent representatives from among those parents who expressed their interest in serving on the Committee:

BHS parents - Kathereine Rodinine and Holly Warner

WIS parents - Katy Blanchette and Jocelyn Antunes

Elementary parents - Dionne Pulcinella, Sarah Anglemire and Keisha Smith

MOTION (Raynor/Prins) to appoint the District parent representatives to the Strategic Coherence Planning Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

07 B. Strategic Coherence Planning Administrative Representative List Amendment

Superintendent Hernandez discussed removing a representative from Early Learning and adding a Media Specialist instead to the list of those serving on the Strategic Coherence Planning Committee.

MOTION (Prins/Watson) to remove the representative from Early Learning to add a Media Specialist to the Strategic Coherence Planning Administrative Representative list instead.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

08 C. RFP for Superintendent Search Firm & Timeline

MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the issuance of an RFP.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

09 MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to establish a personnel search committee: Cristina Cantu, Marie Watson, Meaghan DeLucia, Tim Raynor, Meredith Gaffney, Ellen Michaels, John Prins, Laura Troidle and Peter Berdon under Section 1-200(7) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10 D. PTA Council – Committee Referrals

Peter Berdon discussed being approached by Mary Hally to determine whether or not the Board would be interested in developing a parent/teacher council.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION/ACTION & CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that ACES will not start until September.

B. CABE – John Prins stated that Patrice McCarthy has replaced Robert Rador as the Executive Director of CABE, tomorrow is the Summer Leadership Council and convention planning is pretty much done.

PTA REPORTS

A. Murphy School – Ms. Watson stated that she received communication from PTA president, Jennifer Orlando, that they have a calendar full of events ready for the remainder of the year.

B. Tisko School – Ms. DeLucia stated that Tisko has a new president.

ADJOURN

11 MOTION (Troidle/Watson) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:46 PM.

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NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:

September 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich