

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 16, 2022

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Auditorium
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2022

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	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	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: Michael Pascucilla, ESDHD Director; Dr. Richard Young, District Physician; Sarah MacDougall, BEA Union President; Laura Spignesi, BASS Union President and Peter Anaclerio, on behalf of BAO Union President James O'Connor.

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

PUBLIC HEARING RULES

Peter Berdon reviewed the rules for the public hearing portion of this evening's meeting.

02 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS TO FULL BOARD FOR ACTION

A. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Ms. Gaffney discussed last month's meeting including planning for the communication plan, COVID and WIS updates.

The next scheduled meeting is: February 23, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

B. Committee Chairs (Peter Berdon, Ellen Michaels, Tim Raynor and the new P&F Committee Chair)

Mr. Berdon stated that at the last meeting the Committee and Full BOE agendas were set.

The next scheduled meeting is: March 3, 2022, 5:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS TO FULL BOARD FOR ACTION

(Continued)

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

On behalf of Ellen Michaels, Peter Berdon stated that there was not a meeting last month.

The next scheduled meeting is: March 9, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

D. Policy Committee (Tim Raynor, Chair)

Dr. Raynor stated that this evening's meeting was canceled but at the previous meeting they discussed the transition to the Shipman and Goodwin policy manual and they will continue to work with Assistant Superintendent Sexton on the conversion.

The next scheduled meeting: March 9, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

E. Personnel & Finance Committee (Out-going Dawn Perrotti, Chair)

On behalf of Ms. Perrotti, Peter Berdon stated that the P&F Committee did not meet this past month but the Full Board did to consider the budget and will vote on the budget next Wednesday.

The next scheduled meeting: March 16, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that there is an OTPT shortage and March 30th is ACES Career Fair.
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney stated that there were no updates this month.
- C. CABE – John Prins discussed the CABE convention (November 18 & 19), they are working on a theme for the convention and proposed topics and the Legislative Breakfast held at WIS.

PUBLIC HEARING: FACE COVERING USAGE IN SCHOOLS

A. Invited Speakers

Michael Pascucilla and Dr. Young discussed the benefits and science behind face covering usage. Sarah MacDougall, Laura Spignessi and Peter Anaclerio, discussed the input that they received after canvassing their respective bargaining unit employees regarding mask usage.

B. Public Comment

a. The following community members spoke in support to abolish the face covering requirement:

- Sandra Pecataro, Branford Resident
- Bridget Montag, District parent
- Stephanie Ferraro, District parent
- Dane Curri, District employee
- Ralph Riccardelli, District parent
- Roger Maldonado, District parent
- Kevin Reiss, affiliation unknown
- Rebecca Kurdy, District parent
- Tina, affiliation unknown
- Elizabeth Church, District parent
- Courtney McCarthy, District parent
- Sarah Shattuck, District parent

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- Matt Gelo, District parent
- Dena Serio, District parent
- Jane Dahl, District parent
- Matt Rooney, District parent
- Ruth, affiliation unknown
- Jessica Kearny, District parent
- Adam Greenberg, District parent
- Dennis Karjanis, District parent
- Troy Sobieski, District parent
- Charlie Mungaho, District parent
- Jamie Kovecis, District parent
- Stephanie Ducharme, District parent
- Cassey Walsh, District parent
- Matthew Rettig, District parent
- Megan MacIsaac, District parent

b. The following District students spoke in support to abolish the face covering requirement:

- Tyler Jarvis
- McKenzie Rooney
- Rylee Marshall
- Christina
- P.J. Piscitello
- Landon McCarthy

b. The following community members spoke in support of extending the face covering date:

- Heather Sweeney, District parent
- Laura Green, District parent and employee
- Celia Toche, District parent

MOTION TO RECESS AND ADJOURN

03 MOTION (Prins/DeLucia) to recess this evenings meeting until February 23, 2022.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich