

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL Communication Committee Minutes**

DATE: February 23, 2022

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

SUBJECT: Communication Committee

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
N	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: Tom Ermini, District Athletic Director

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Committee Chair, Meredith Gaffney.

PRESENTATION

02 **DeCordova Consulting**
This evening's presentation was canceled.

Ms. Cordova took a position at Rutgers University Foundation to serve as the Vice Chancellor for Advancement and will no longer be in the consulting business. Superintendent Hernandez and Don Neel discussed the RFQ and vetting process going forward in finding qualified candidates.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS

03 **A. COVID Update**

In his update this evening Superintendent Hernandez discussed the following:

- The survey of BPS families – the number of individuals who received emailed link (2,717), the number of responses received (1,705) and the rate of response (62.75%).
- Parent/Guardian Survey on Face Coverings Survey Results – remove after Spring Recess in April (20.2%), remove end of the school year (25%), remove when executive order expires (54.8%).
- Public Input from 2/16/22 BOE Meeting Public Comment – 37 speakers total, 28 adults who spoke to abolish the mask usage, 3 adults who spoke to extend the date, 6 students who spoke to abolish the mask mandate, BPS Comments email received 213 emails.
- BPS Case Counts by Month (December 2021 – February 2022).

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS (Continued)

- BPS Case Counts by Day (December 2021 – February 2022).
- BPS Staff & Students Case Counts by Week (January – February 2022).
- BPS Student Quarantines (January – February 2022).
- Student & Staff Daily Attendance (January – February 2022).
- Special Education Referrals – Historical Comparison.
- January RTI Data
- CIAC Athletics (Report by Tom Ermini) – the end CIAC mask requirements (February 28, 2022), determination by event venue (actual permissions and restrictions for student athletes, coaches, officials, game workers and spectators) and the 15-month validity period for physicals (vs. usual 13-month).

04 B. Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) Pool Update

In his update Superintendent Hernandez discussed;

- Working with Parks & Rec. Department and the YMCA to formulate a schedule to open up the pool.
- The possibility of WIS students using the pool.
- Getting a lifeguard.
- Anticipating all mechanical parts to open the pool.
- Opening the pool sometime in March.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, asked what the purpose was for the consultant to attend tonight's meeting?

ADJOURN

05 MOTION (Gaffney/Watson) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on March 9, 2022,
at 6:00 PM in the WIS Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney, Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich