

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 15, 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	Sushant Kunwar	Student Representative
Y	Grahm Reynolds	Student Representative
Y	Abbygail Shaw	Student Representative
Y	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 7:35 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

RECOGNITION

A. CABE Student Recognition

Peter Berdon and Superintendent Hernandez presented the CABE Student Leadership Award Certificates to the following students:

- a. Branford High School - Nina Shamas & David Loomis
- b. Walsh Intermediate Students – Dylan Hall & Nate Durante

B. District Retirees

Peter Berdon and Superintendent Hernandez presented a proclamation to the following 2021-2022 District retirees:

- Robert Anderson – WIS Custodian
- Katherine Benard – WIS Music Teacher
- Daryle Brockett – BHS Paraprofessional
- Pamela Castro – BHS Career Specialist
- Kenneth Cain – BHS Custodian

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B. District Retirees (Continued)

- Sarah DeCaprio – WIS Math Teacher
- Scott Fonicello – Tisko Grade 4 Teacher
- Rudolf Gosteli – WIS Grade 6 Teacher
- Maura Hudson – WIS Grade 5 Teacher
- Theresa Hammond – Tisko Grade 2 Teacher
- Naomi Kantrow – BHS Paraprofessional
- Pamela Kerpen – WIS Library Secretary
- Savas Synodi – BHS Physical Education Teacher
- Salvatore Mignosa – Indian Neck Custodian
- Donna Mingrone – Director of Technology
- Marian Montano – BHS Guidance Counselor
- Jane Murray – Tisko Administrative Assistant
- Gustof Peterson – WIS Social Studies Teacher
- Theodore Samodel – Sliney Music Teacher
- Steven Sutcliffe – Tisko Custodian
- Lisa Tinary – Tisko Paraprofessional
- Lurna Worden – Sliney Grade 2 Teacher

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leah Moriarty, Branford resident, spoke about her post graduate experience, her mother's employment with the District, sending her daughter to school and safety in Branford, community and school safety and urged the BOE to work with the police department.

Brian Allen, District parent, spoke about the school safety letter, a letter that he sent to Superintendent Hernandez, he apologized for the tone. Mr. Allend also spoke about his anxiety and fear for his daughter's safety, a sense of helplessness, an overall plan, having an anonymous tip line, he urged the BOE to establish a permanent safety and security committee.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about safety, active shooter/fire drills, past meeting agendas and the Superintendent's review.

Jaime Kovicsis, District parent, spoke about school safety, updating security and drills and security guards in elementary schools.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02** MOTION (Taynor/Watson) to approve the minutes for the May 18, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that thank you notes from Jenn Iovanne & Laura Carbone were sent to the Superintendent and the Board thanking them for the Peace Lilies they received. Dr. Raynor discussed opening up a dialogue regarding Pride Month.

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STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: August 4, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting will be held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: August 10, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: August 10, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: August 10, 2022, 8:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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

Next scheduled meeting: August 17, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

In their report this evening the student representatives discussed; the National Honor Society induction, the student Council picnic (formerly known as Salpalozza), the internship program and thank you notes for sponsors, public comments on safety, promoting a safer community, BHS graduation on the green (rain location will be the BHS Commons), graduation practice and Project Graduation.

Peter Berdon thanked the Students for their years of service to the Board. Together Mr. Berdon and Superintendent Hernandez presented the Student Representatives with a certificate thanking them for their service.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; summer programming numbers, school security (redesigned foyer at BHS), redoing the BHS servery, summer hiring, the rigorous applicant process, the Central Office move (in July), its [CO] final clean out (December) and the Climate Survey.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

03 A. Strategic Planning Committee Update

Superintendent Hernandez stated that the letters were sent out, we have had four respondents reply yes and one no and there are seven slots.

04 B. Communications Update

Don Neel discussed the following; the scope of work with McDowell Communications, the contract, we anticipate them working immediately on cessation of free meals and summer programs.

05 C. Summer Projects Update

Don Neel discussed the BHS server, including its funding (accomplished with money through the State of Connecticut meal reimbursement program) and the servery's location.

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

06 D. Non-Resident Tuition Rates

MOTION (Michaels/Troidle) to approve the new non-resident tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION/ACTION & CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Brian Allen, Branford parent, spoke about rethinking how much is kept hidden from the public, being as open as can be, taking action, speaking with students and people in the school.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about hiring, the climate survey (favorability rating) and the communications study including what it cost.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels did not have anything to report this evening.
- B. CABE – John Prins was absent from this evening’s meeting.

PTA REPORTS

- A. Sliney School - Ms. Troidle discussed wrapping up events, all officer positions have been filled and the PTA president stating that they would love to see more teacher involvement.
- B. Tisko School – Ms. DeLucia discussed the upcoming trip to Paradise and concerns regarding commencement activities (one elementary restricted to two people).
- C. Murphy School – Ms. Watson discussed a letter that the PTA president sent out that included the budget, next school year and the final wrap up.
- D. Walsh Intermediate School - Ms. Cantu stated that the PTA is planning and strategizing for a post COVID environment, the PTA funded diploma holders and they are looking for membership for next September.

ADJOURN

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

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:09 PM.

NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:

August 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich