

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 18, 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
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
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 7:09 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about working in the District, the Human Resources Department.

APPROVE MINUTES

02 MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes for the April 27, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that he received emails from Mr. Jerolman that echoed his comments made this evening.

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STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: June 2, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting will be held virtually.

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

Ms. Michaels stated that at the last T&L meeting they discussed [BHS & WIS] Creating Safe and Supportive Schools, Secondary Language Arts and were given an update on the Enrichment Programs.

Next scheduled meeting: June 8, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Ms. Watson stated that last month they had a working meeting to discuss policies that the Committee does not want to lose. Ms. Watson handed out a rough timeline for the manual transition (finish by next April).

Next scheduled meeting: June 8, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Ms. Gaffney stated that at the last meeting there were presentations from the three consultant groups who responded to the RFQ and a COVID update.

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

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

Ms. DeLucia stated that at the last P&F meeting they discussed the 2022-2023 openings and bridging the delta for staff needed.

Next scheduled meeting: June 15, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

In their report this evening the student representatives discussed; BHS academics, AP exams, their relief as exams come to a close, the end of the school year schedule, students eager to close out the school year on a positive note, prom (next Friday at Woodwinds, free tickets for seniors), prom court, student internships (began today), senior and school wide activities (senior class trip, BHS student awards, yearbook signing, and Salapalooza),

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; recent events at BHS for students (Politics Matter held a BHS, BHS Law Day), the Climate Survey (parent letter going out this week, conditions for a high participation rate), recognizing staff retirees (May 26 reception & June BOE meeting invitation), summer programs (July 5th start date, held at WIS and Indian Neck School), the BHS servery, BHS graduation (June 22 to be held on the Green), a June end of the year events calendar for BOE members, and a revised Org. Chart document that will be available to BOE members prior to the June meeting.

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

03 A. Strategic Planning Committee Appointments

MOTION (Raynor/Watson) to appoint the following BOE members to the Strategic Planning Committee:

- a. Cristina Cantu
- b. Meaghan DeLucia
- c. John Prins
- d. Laura Troidle

APPROVE UNANIMOUSLY

04 B. BOE Retreat Planning

Among the items that Peter Berdon and the Board discussed were; the original summer date (July), delaying the retreat until September (week nights, possible back to back 2-3 nights), possible September dates and other school events happening (possible conflicts), anchoring the meeting around full BOE or Committee meetings (3 hours), possible hours, possible dates (September 12 & 13) and location.

05 C. Second Reading of Policy C19-02

MOTION (Watson/DeLucia) to approve the second reading of policy C19-02.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

06 D. Adjust Superintendent's Annual Review Timeline to the Month of September

MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to adjust the Superintendent's annual review timeline to September.

APPROVED (Troidle abstained)

07 E. Reallocate the Superintendent's Contractual Car Allowance Benefit

MOTION (DeLucia/Michaels) to table this discussion

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DISCUSSION/ACTION & CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, discussed the org. chart, the tabled motion and allocated monies.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that ACES is developing a remote high school (pilot program next year) and they will be restarting their vaccine clinics.
- B. CABE – John Prins stated that Robert Rader is retiring, Patrice McCarthy was voted in to take his place, Vin Mastaro (Director of Policy) is also retiring. Mr. Prins also discussed attending the recent National School Board Association meeting, proposals received for the CABE convention and items passed by the State Legislative body this year.

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PTA REPORTS

- A. Sliney School - Laura Troidle reported that she was unable to attend their meeting. The PTA president reported to her that the meeting was well attended, they were happy to be back in person and they have a full Board for next year.
- B. Tisko School – Meaghan DeLucia stated that the Tisko PTA just recently had a plant sale and they have been busy.
- C. Murphy School – Marie Watson reported that Murphy has 4th grade events coming up including two different field trips, field day including t-shirt sales (all students will receive one), staff appreciation week and last week’s events.

ADJOURN

08 MOTION (Gaffney/DeLucia) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich