

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 19, 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	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 8:07 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about a police report, public comments, Mr. Berdon and Superintendent Hernandez.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02 MOTION (Prins/Cantu) to approve the minutes for the September 21, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (as amended)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that he received communications from Mr. Jerolman regarding the agenda and the Search Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: November 3, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: November 9, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Michaels stated that it was a very informative meeting. The Committee heard about secondary data, academics and plans to address all areas.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: November 9, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that the Committee did not meet last week.

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STANDING COMMITTEES (Continued)

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: November 9, 2022, 8:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Mr. Berdon spoke about the communications launch of social media, the development of the communications calendar and ThoughtExchange that is up and running.

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

Next scheduled meeting: November 16, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee received an update on ESSER funds, the JBS RFP and the Solar Project.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; the BOE 2023 Meeting Schedule, the calendar for the 2023/2024 school year and the possibility of creating a two-year calendar, holidays list posted on our website, Juneteenth, convening a Calendar Committee (Meaghan DeLucia agreed to be the representing BOE member on this Committee), student enrollment counts, COVID cases in the District, recent vaccination clinics, the District's social media numbers and the CABE Convention.

CONSENT AGENDA

03 Second Reading of Proposed Policy Manual for 1000, 2000, 3000 4000, 5000 and 6000 Series and Capital Funds and Re-designation

MOTION (Prins/Watson) to approve the Consent Agenda item.

APPROVED (Gaffney abstained)

04 RECESS – TO CONVENE AS SEARCH COMMITTEE

A. MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to recess to convene into Search Committee.

Mr. Berdon recessed to convene into the Personnel Search Committee at 8:42 PM. All Board members present for this evening's meeting moved into this recess.

RETURN FROM RECESS

05 Mr. Berdon returned the meeting from recess at 9:16 PM.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Superintendent Search Firm Recommendation to Board

MOTION (DeLucia/Prins) to appoint McPherson & Jacobson as the Superintendent's Search Firm.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that she was unable to attend this month's ACES meeting.

B. CABE – John Prins encouraged attendance at the CABE convention.

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PTA REPORTS

A. John B. Sliney School – Laura Troidle stated that at the last meeting they discussed; Sliney has over 113 members and over 50 % staff, they thanked the Board for the \$15,000 to go toward Cultural Arts, BOE meetings, School Safety Officers, the ThoughtExchange, the Districts social media accounts and TikTok.

B. Tisko School – Meghan DeLucia discussed the following; Trunk or Treat (October 21), trivia night at Stoney Creek (November 4), the holiday fair, the book fair and various upcoming fund raisers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 9:26 PM. All Board members present for this evening’s meeting adjourned into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

06 Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 10:48 PM with no action taken.

ADJOURN

07 MOTION (Prins/Cantu) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 10:48 PM.

NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:

November 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich