

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 21, 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: Jaime Sebring, WIS Dance Team and Lee Panagoulas, BHS Principal

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

- 02** MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to change the order of item IX. Field Trip Request and place it directly after Communications.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about a second public comment, conversations that he has had, moving forward with a new Superintendent

APPROVE MINUTES

- 03** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to approve the minutes for the August 17, 2022 Full Regular BOE meeting.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (as amended)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that he received a thank you note from Project Graduation and communications from a citizen regarding a BHS nurse’s office concern. Mr. Berdon also spoke about the benefits of Project Graduation.

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

04 A. Field Trip Requests

The Board received requests to approve the following out of State field trips:

WIS

- a. National Dance Championship, Orlando, FL – February 2-6, 2023

BHS

- a. Walden Pond, Concord MA - November 22, 2022
- b. National Dance Championship, Orlando, FL – February 1-6, 2023
- c. Quebec City, Canada – February 9-12, 2023
- d. Harvard Model Congress, Boston, MA – February 23-26, 2023
- e. Disney World, Orlando, FL – April 10-15, 2023

MOTION (DeLucia/Prins) to approve out of State field trip requests.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: October 6, 2022, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: October 12, 2022, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Michaels stated that at the last meeting there was an excellent presentation given on Summer Programs.

C. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

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

Ms. Watson stated at the last meeting the Committee voted to have a first reading on the 1000 through 6000 policy series. Mr. Berdon led a conversation of the process, timeline and work needing to be done.

D. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: October 12, 2022, 8:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that the Committee discussed two points of order from McDowell Communications Group - social media and the Districts website and also a discussion on the re-designation of 1111 Main Street.

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

Next scheduled meeting: October 19, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee just met this evening and they have two recommendations to the Board one is the org. chart and the other is the re-designation of capital funds.

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SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed were; the Strategic Planning Committee (meeting September 27), nursing visits at BHS, keeping the nurse hired with ARP Funds, the JBS RFP (is out and has been posted on website), circulating the last enrollment study (done approximately. 4 years ago), today's meeting with PBC members regarding WIS Girls Softball Field (re-establish for use next year), BOE Student Representative's return, the paraprofessional contract (negotiations begin shortly after budget season and a non-meeting under FOIA), elementary HVAC (getting updated numbers), Net Zero and Fair Haven Behavioral Health services.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION (Prins/DeLucia) to approve the Consent Agenda items.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

06 A. Receipt of Proposals for Consultancy re: Superintendent and Invitation for Interviews

Don Neel discussed the RFP for the Superintendent's search firm. Among the items he discussed were; five RFP respondents, their pricing (\$12,000 difference between high and low). Peter Berdon discussed the different proposals received, the interview process by the personnel search committee and a potential date/times and questions.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels discussed 95 new hires, a smooth opening, ACES Bridges and two new teachers hired from the teacher residency programs
- B. CABB – John Prins discussed CABB's Summer Leadership Conference, their upcoming convention in November and the new policy person at CABB (Conrad Valsing).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 9:15 PM. All Board members present for this evening's meeting including Superintendent Hernandez adjourned into Executive Session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

07 Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 11:30 PM with no action taken.

ADJOURN

08 MOTION (Troidle/Prins) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 11:30 PM.

NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:
October 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich