

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 26, 2023

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

185 Main Street, Branford, CT

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	Alya Bagdas	Student Representative
Y	Casey Maymon	Student Representative
Y	Rowan Rondinone	Student Representative
N	Eyad Salem	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
N	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 6:38 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

- 02** There were no agenda changes at this evening's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made at this evening's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 03** A. MOTION (DeLucia/Gaffney) to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

B. MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to approve the minutes from March 22, 2023 Full Special BOE Meeting

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon discussed a letter from Charlene Russell-Tucker, acknowledging receipt of notice of the appointment of Dr. Christopher Tranberg as District's incoming Superintendent. Dr. Russell-Tucker's letter also confirmed Dr. Tranberg's qualifications to be a Superintendent.

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STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: May 4, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: May 10, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ellen Michaels reported that the Committee received an update on summer programming, State Standardized Testing, the Climate Survey and also heard a presentation on Special Education in BPS from Charles Cicarella and Dianibel Aviles.

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

Next scheduled meeting: May 10, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Meaghan DeLucia stated that the Committee received the ESSER Quarterly report, the normal monthly expenditures and also made a recommendation to Full BOE regarding the receipt of exit interviews.

D. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: May 10, 2023, 7:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that the Committee discussed policy 5825 and also the heat illness policy and that both policies will be sent on to the full Board for a first reading.

E. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: May 17, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Mr. Berdon Peter stated that the Committee received an update on COVID, social media metrics, year-end events and the search for the MTM Principle.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the Student Representatives discussed this evening were; the senior internship program, BHS Choir trip to Disney World (during Spring break), spring sports up and running, spring pep rally, home games, prep for end of year clubs and organizations, the national Honor society, the language honor society, the French society and AP tests. The representatives share where they will be going next year.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed in his report this evening were; the budget process (May 1 RTM decision), going before the Ways and Means Committee to discuss integrated school security system (May 3), the end of the year calendar, having one non-meeting, Ground rules May 11, the SCASA Student Recognition Award Luncheon on Friday, Pam DeMaio recognized in Sound for the Week of the Young Child, this time last year we were just coming out of the mask mandate, the sailing program, and Sailing Coach, Chris Newlan, recognized as sports person of the week, today is admin professionals appreciation day, staff appreciation first week of May (all staff recognized) and the Climate Survey and its response rate.

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

04 MOTION (Prins/Watson) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

A. Second Reading – Policy 5600 Field Trips

B. Second Reading – Policy 5625 Fundraising Activities

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

05 A. First Reading Policy – 5825 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

MOTION (Watson/Prins) to approve the first reading of Policy 5825 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

06 B. To consider and if appropriate, approve the referral from the Personnel & Finance Committee to obtain exit interview data for negotiation purposes

MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to receive exit interview data on an annual basis.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ms. Michaels did not have a report this evening.

B. CABE – In his report this evening Mr. Prins stated that several students and teachers attended day on the hill, sat in on hearings and education committee, it was meaningful day. Mr. Prins also mentioned that he attended the National School Board Convention and stated that it was very edifying, educational and fun.

PTA REPORTS

A. WIS – Ms. Cantu reported that the PTA is organizing a snack drive for teacher appreciation week.

B. JBS – Ms. Troidle stated that the PTA is busy with end of year activities, cultural arts events and they are looking forward to summer.

ADJOURN

07 MOTION (Troidle/Watson) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:

May 17, 2023, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich