

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL Communication Committee Minutes**

**DATE:** January 18, 2023

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT

**SUBJECT:** Communication Committee

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**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
N	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:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Meredith Gaffney.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about reflecting on meetings, District leadership decisions, teacher departures, BOE meetings seating arrangements, and having two BOE meetings per month (until the end of the school year) like West Haven's BOE does.

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ITEMS**

**02 A. BPS Health Services Overview facilitated by Pam Neleber, District Health Director**

Pam Neleber, District Health Director provided an overview regarding BPS Health Services. Among the items that Ms. Neleber discussed were; her background and role in the District, her work with school nurses, standardization and collaboration in the schools, required screenings that need to be done by the nurses, keeping up with DPH requirements, mandated reporting, School Based Health Center services in the District (medical and mental health services), mobile dental clinics and COVID-19 (staff and student absences, protocols, a current uptick of cases, and the District websites dashboard.

**03 B. Calendar Options**

Superintendent Hernandez along with Rachel Sexton and BOE Calendar Committee Members, Meaghan DeLucia and Sarah MacDouagall discussed the different options that the Calendar Committee members came up with for the 2024-2024 and 2024-2025 school year. The Calendar Committee was composed of Assistant Superintendent Rachel Sexton, Meaghan DeLucia (BOE member), James O'Connor (BAO Union President) and Sarah MacDougall (BEA Union President). The goal of this discussion is for the Communications Committee to decide next month which option to send on to the Full Board for approval.

MOTION (Prins) to move option 3 to the full Board for approval.  
Motion failed no second.

Continued...

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**04 C. Budget Surveys**

Superintendent Hernandez discussed the following; the top four results for each survey (families, staff and community), the families budget survey results to date (currently 254 members responded), staff responses to date (currently 151 responses), community responses to date (currently 6 responses),

**05 D. COVID-19 Update**

In his report this evening Superintendent Hernandez discussed BPS reported cases, the impact of RSV and the flu and BPS average attendance (September 2022-January 2023).

**06 E. Strategic Planning Committee Update**

Meaghan DeLucia stated that they met last week and compiled all the information that will be presented tomorrow at the next Strategic Planning Committee.

**ADJOURN**

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

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on February 15, 2022  
at 6:00 PM in the WIS Cafeteria.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney, Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich