

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE: January 11, 2023  
SUBJECT: Policy Committee

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

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**ATTENDANCE**

<b>HERE</b>	<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Y	Marie Watson, Acting Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
N	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**

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**CALL**

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 8:12 PM by Marie Watson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE/ACTION ITEMS**

- 02** **A. Personnel Policy – Retaliation and Whistleblowing**  
MOTION (Raynor/Troidle) to send Personnel Policy – Retaliation and Whistleblowing to Full BOE for the First Reading.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 03** **B. Personnel Policy – Academic Freedom**  
Rachel Sexton discussed revising the Personnel Policy - Academic Freedom with the Board including our legal council's recommendation and case law.  
  
MOTION (Raynor) to move Personnel Policy - Academic Free forward.  
MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.
- 04** **C. To consider and, if appropriate, recommend the adoption of a policy to provide scholarships/financial aid to students in need to participate in school-sponsored/authorized activities.**  
Collectively Rachel Sexton and the Committee discussed having a process in place if a family needs assistance, the importance of families knowing that they can fully participate in events in an appropriate way, expecting educational experiences both inside the classroom and outside of the classroom, approval of trips in July not necessarily in October, coming up with language and the means to support these programs, developing programs at all levels, being a competitive student by adding experiences to resumes, fundraising including a vested interest (support own activities), levels of fundraisers put into place, budget and prioritizing, developing the regulations (across the

Continued...

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**DISCUSSION/UPDATE/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

board equitable - who is eligible to receive funds), the scope of what is being talked about (field trips vs. extracurricular activities), finding a base (clearly defined), making connections and part of school based programs, ensuring opportunities, BHS Model Congress, meeting funding guidelines, being mindful of situations (cutting back what we can draw on), self-selecting out, being careful how we proceed, checking with CABA and Shipman for policy language, clubs vs. school sponsored trips, having a consistent set of criteria and process (regulations), public notice/communication component (annual basis), equity of access, designating funds specifically for this, not fully funding/making sure there is a partnership (i.e.; parents, PTA), self-funding to the extent that is possible and funds available to support in addition to fundraising, meeting the gap (not funding the programs) and intent.

**ADJOURN**

- 05** MOTION (Troidle/Raynor) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Marie Watson adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be February 8, 2023  
at 6:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney, BOE Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich