

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 17, 2024
SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
N	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
N	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Clare Barnett	Student Representative
Y	Kimberly Caracondo	Student Representative
N	Iva Sekerovic	Student Representative
Y	Conor Spaulding	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Bob Ferguson, McPherson & Jacobson, LLC.

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to share this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pam Van Winkle, Branford resident and MTM Paraprofessional, spoke about delayed openings due to the weather and the literacy para’s request to work an extra hour and were told that they couldn't, the dis-service to students, her request to look at the policy.and being equitable.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the prospect of making a change to the vendor of school transportation, the risk associated with the prospect, advantages, risks vs. rewards, other things to be on the cutting edge on, tabling and reassessing, time and effort and the next six months.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

02 MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; reflecting on the previous meeting, showing their support for the school buses, the effort that the Board is making to try to have a sustainable future for other generations, support for the addition of the ECE and Humanities courses, senior internships (how it benefits seniors, when do they start, how do they affect school schedule, what do seniors need to do, mock interviews with seniors to prepare them), midterms (due to weather they were moved starting tomorrow and ending on January 23rd), scheduling make up work, athletic practices and bus schedules during mid-terms, college applications and deadlines, the competitiveness of getting into colleges (record amount of early decision students), decision in March and April, HIVE Live (effective tool for students), principal/student advisory committee (addressing bathroom access), food services breakfast (free grab and go after the first bell rings), Calliope (4 issues every year where student can express their creative abilities).

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Tranberg began his report by thanking the District's custodians and grounds crews as well as public works and first responders for their hard work to keep our campuses safe and accessible. Dr. Tranberg also wished good luck to the BOE Student Representatives and all BPS students getting ready to take their midterms and also good luck to the BHS and WIS Dance Teams as they prepare for the National Dance Championships in Orlando. In his report this evening Dr. Tranberg discussed the following; the introduction of a new Kindergarten policy in response to legislative changes to eligibility age, Sliney School's Safety Patrol Induction Ceremony (7 students inducted), the new transportation information tab (proposals, RFP and FAQ's) that was added to the BOE webpage, the transportation FAQ is a live doc and will be updated as questions come in and a BOE meeting date calendar is being created and will also be embedded on the BOE webpage.

To conclude his report and on behalf of the Board, Dr. Tranberg and Mr. Berdon, presented Don Neel with a proclamation and gifts to thank him for his years of service as the District's COO. Mr. Neel will be retiring on February 2, 2024.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels stated that the committee reviewed High Dosage Tutoring grant in Math at WIS

B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that Committee reviewed the monthly reports (expenditures, personnel report, special education) and there was a motion to move the transportation contract to tonight's meeting.

C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee discussed two policy proposals; policy 5010 Admission into Public Schools - discusses the appeals process for parents who wish to have their child enrolled in Kindergarten despite missing the age cutoff and policy 1800 Use of Facilities addresses the use of school facilities (priority use, fees imposed for use of facilities and the timing of implementation). Policy 1800 was tabled for further discussion at next month's Policy Committee Meeting.

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D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle said that the Committee received a report on Community Updates (how school cancellations and delays come to be), a reminder that if you're sick please stay home and a letter of support for the WIS athletic fields, the development of the Board of Education Pledge (tailoring the pledge to meet our mission), developing a Board Communication Plan (initiating it with a survey, there are a sample of questions for the Committee to review).

CONSENT AGENDA

03 E. Second Reading of Policies

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- a. Policy 4475 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan
- b. Policy 1000 Non-Discrimination
- c. Policy 4600 Non-Discrimination
- d. Policy 5000 Non-Discrimination

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

04 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to accept the proposed transportation award

MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute the transportation contract consistent with the RFP and Board input.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

05 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the 2023-2028 BPS Strategic Coherence Plan

MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the 2023-2028 BPS Strategic Coherence Plan.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

06 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the revised 2023-2024 school year calendar

MOTION (DeLucia/Barron) to approve the revised 2023-2024 school year calendar.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

07 E. First Reading of Policies

MOTION (Tiernan/McNamara) to approve the first reading of policy 5010 Admission into Public Schools.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels reported that the following was discussed at the last ACES meeting; a review of their services that they provide to districts, the approval of four budgets (done every month until all budgets are approved), and their High Dosage Tutoring grant.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan reported that Superintendent Tranberg and Adam Greenberg attending the CABE Legislative Breakfast in Seymour and our District's Legislative Breakfast is taking place next Friday,

PTA REPORTS

WIS - Ms. DeLucia stated that WIS did not have a meeting to report on.

BHS - Mr. Tiernan stated that he spoke with Ms. Erickson regarding the PTA as there are no meetings currently happening as the interest seems to be in booster clubs. However, Ms. Erickson stated that if there is interest in reactivating a meeting she would be interested in hearing from them.

FRC - Ms. Barron discussed the following; FRC attendance at a holiday fair in the Community in December for families in the communities, they held one for local vendors (successful and well attended), collaborations with various entities in the community (Branford Early Learning Center, Adult Education, and Branford Recreation, etc.).

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM - Ms. Barron stated that two teachers were recognized as the Office of Early Childhood qualified staff members.

SACC - Ms. Barron discussed the following; the program sending holiday cards created by the children to the local senior center, all sites participating in the After School Alliance Program called Lights After School and hosting an art show showcasing student's artwork.

JBS - Ms. Troidle reported that the PTA meeting was canceled due to the weather, their next meeting is in February, she updated PTA Leadership on developments from the past month's BOE Committee meetings regarding the kindergarten issue and also the Strategic Plan, the bus contract and the COO's retirement.

MRT - Mr. Greenberg reported that the rescheduled meeting will take place tomorrow night at 6:30 PM in the Tisko Library, he stated that he provided updates similar to what Ms. Troidles session did at Sliney School by providing information on the Board and also getting information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 08** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into executive session at 7:29 PM. Superintendent Tranberg, Bob Ferguson and all BOE members present for this evening's meeting moved into executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- 09** Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to regular session at 9:05 PM with no votes or actions taken.

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ADJOURN

- 10** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

FEBRUARY 2024 BOE MEETINGS

(All meetings will take place in the WIS Cafeteria unless otherwise specified)

BOE Committee Chairs Meeting (Virtual)	February 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Superintendent’s Budget Meeting	February 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Budget Workshop	February 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Policy Committee Meeting	February 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Budget Workshop/Personnel & Finance Comm. Meeting	February 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Communication Committee Meeting	February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Full Regular Board Meeting	February 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich