

**SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: January 18, 2023**

**LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

**SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting**

**185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405**

**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
Y	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 7:08 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the previous meeting and someone speaking out of order, inconsistency in calendars, comments at the Communication Committee meeting, withholding information, lack of communication, the Superintendent search, evaluating staff and Superintendent candidates.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Berdon did not have any communications to report this evening.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Committee Chairs Meeting**

Next scheduled meeting: February 2, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Ms. Michaels stated at the last meeting there was an informative meeting on curriculum development.

Next scheduled meeting: March 8, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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

Next scheduled meeting: March 8, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia stated that the JBS Project and Solar Panel Project was discussed and there will be an ESSER fund update soon.

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### **STANDING COMMITTEES (Continued)**

D. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: February 8, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that there is a second reading of the Gender Nonconforming Youth Policy and there will be a first reading of Whistle Blowing and retaliation.

E. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: February 15, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that this evenings Committee meeting the Committee was introduced to Pam Neleber, Director of Health Services, there was also a discussion on the school year calendar and a COVID-19 update.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

A. Strategic Coherence Committee

Next scheduled meeting: February 6, 2023, 3:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Among the items the Student Representative's discussed this evening were; new initiatives (caps and gowns, National Honor Society recycling program, end of semester – revised midterms (schedule and options for midterms), technology and COVID (method of teaching has changed and tech in the classroom), No Place for Hate,

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

In his report Superintendent Hernandez discussed; the upcoming budget presentation (at WIS on February 1) and Workshops (at WIS on February 7 and 8), the rededication of 1111 Main Street (February), the survey sent out to grade 2 parents on the possibility of offering Swim Safety/Swim Enrichment in the Spring (87 respondents), Pre-K registration (next month), CAGE Legislative priorities and Special Education excess costs and Social and Emotional education for students.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**02 A. Model Congress Donation**

MOTION (Prins/Troidle) to accept the \$3000 donation made to BHS Model Congress by Robert and Stacey Bland.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**03 B. Second Reading of Policy 5145 – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth**

MOTION (Watson/Troidle) to adopt Policy 5145 – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**04 B. First Reading of Personnel Policy: Whistleblowing and Retaliation**

MOTION (DeLucia/Prins) to approve the First Reading of Personnel Policy: Whistleblowing and Retaliation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**05 C. Net Zero Resolution**

MOTION (Prins/Raynor) to approve the BPS Net Zero draft resolution with suggested revisions.

APPROVED (Troidle opposed)

Continued...

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**BOARD REPORTS**

A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that at the last meeting they talked about the teacher residency program being approved (any with a BS degree can get certified in Special Ed. through the ARC program), the approval of a teacher contract, staffing challenges in their Autism Program, one district in their catchment program needs over 200 teachers.

B. CABE – John Prins stated that the CABE/CAPSS Convention Committee met today and discussed evaluations of the recent convention, future convention dates, issues - exhibitors, student showcase and student talent committee, an RFT for students to present, deadlines for submission and the convention theme.

**PTA REPORTS**

A. Ms. Troidle discussed the following for JBS; a PJ drive in honor of Ms. Melillo (302 pajamas collected), an assembly on bullying and courage and what that, the Someone Special Dance, the science fair, Culture Night (new this year), end of year things and Sliney Night at the Islanders Hockey Game. JB interest in the Board

B. Ms. DeLucia discussed the following for MRT; there is a meeting tomorrow, the interest in the Superintendent Search, and updated information for fund raising activities

C. Ms. Cantu discussed the following for MTM; the PTA meeting in December had poor attendance, fundraising not to the level they were hoping, the February Bingo night was postponed and a few restaurant nights are coming up

**06**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION (Prins/DeLucia) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the following:

A. Security Consultant Report

B. Superintendent Review – Midyear Check-in

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Peter Berdon moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:29 PM.

All Board of Education members including Superintendent Hernandez adjourned into Executive Session.

**07**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Peter Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 10:47 PM with no action taken.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURN**

**08** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 10:47 PM.

**NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:**

**February 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney, Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich