

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL RETREAT MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 25, 2023

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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
N	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
N	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	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Jonathan Costa, EdAdvance, Assistant Director; Dori Antonetti, Attorney for Shipman & Goodwin, LLP; and Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 02 A. Review and discuss the Board's approach to provide oversight of the strategic plan with guest facilitator Jonathan Costa, EdAdvance Assistant Director.**

In his presentation this evening, Jonathan Costa, discussed the following; The Mission (prepare every student for life, learning and work beyond school), The Strategic Process, Branford's Refined Global Competencies (communication and active listening, collaboration, questioning, reasoning and problem solving, adaptability and interest in new learning, demonstrate empathy and kindness and citizenship and civic responsibility), the Definition of Deep Learning, It's About Time: Part I (if you work in an economic system where speed of response is rewarded, AI will be part of your future, or your future is bleak), Vulnerable (ChatGPT can complete the activity with little to now agency from the student) vs. Durable (ChatGPT cannot complete the activity for the student. The student must be fully engaged with the learning task), ranking activities (most to least vulnerable), Good News (the technology that has made certain lessons vulnerable can be used to make them more durable), One Problem (what is the one resource that all durable activities use more than vulnerable activities?), It's About Time: Part II (durable instructional activities take more time than vulnerable instruction activities. What are you NOT going to do so you can do this?), historical approaches to reform, Essential AI Questions (how much of what we currently teach ((and test)) are made irrelevant by these ((and future)) advances), are we strong

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

enough to prioritize durable over vulnerable and say no, an assortment of AI driven educational enhancements and disruptions, Identified Priority Gaps (equitable outcomes for all student – all means all, alignment of key goals, measures and practices with the Global Learning Competencies ((GLCs)) and Definition of Deep Learning ((DODL)), and communication), the work to be done (Strategy One – ensuring equal opportunity for success for all students, Strategy Two – align the key systems of curriculum, instruction and assessment to support the acquisition of GLCs and DODL, Strategy Three – Improve communication with critical stakeholders) and Board actions moving forward.

03 B. Participate in a discussion of legislative updates to inform policy decisions for the 2023-2024 school year.

In her presentation this evening, Attorney Dori Antonetti, discussed:

- a. Changes Related to Board Operations (new BOE member required training, Board meeting agenda and document posting, publishing school district receipts, expenditures and statistics and April Enrollment Report.
- b. Changes Related to Facilities (school indoor air quality and HVAC inspections and optimal temperature comfort range guidelines).
- c. Changes related to teachers and employees (teacher performance evaluations, CSDE review of school Boards' increasing Educator Diversity Plans, exit survey for teachers leaving the profession and teacher attrition rates, School Nurses and Nurse Practitioners – appointment qualifications and professional development, Paraeducators professional development and PDEC membership and changes to paid sick leave for service workers).
- d. Changes related to students (age for special education eligibility, raising the kindergarten starting age, bullying and school climate and restorative practices response policy).
- e. Changes related to teaching and curriculum (required program of instruction, new and revised graduation requirements, play-based learning during preschool, kindergarten and grades one to five, access to curriculum, implementation of reading models or programs and changes related to special education).
- f. Miscellaneous changes of note (expanding opioid antagonist access, opioid antagonist bulk purchase fund, Title IX compliance toolkit for school districts, Statewide Master Test Audit, Suspension and Expulsion Response and Improvement Plans.

04 C. Consider and, if appropriate, appoint a new Assistant Principal for Walsh Intermediate School.

MOTION (Raynor/Prins) to appoint Ashley Marinaro as the new WIS Assistant principal.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

05 D. Consider and, if appropriate, appoint the Board of Education as a search Committee for the selection of a new assistant superintendent for the Branford Public Schools.

MOTION (Prins/Gaffney) to appoint the BOE as Search Committee for the selection of a new Assistant Superintendent for BPS.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

06 E. Review and discuss the 2023 - 2024 Master Agenda

Mr. Berdon discussed items for the 2023/2024 BOE master agenda. Among the items discussed were; planning out the year, topics, appropriate committee to handle item, requirements, statutory citation, reference to by law, referencing review period, dates, tracking, this is a work in progress, adding in the new requirements and BOE feedback.

ADJOURN

07 MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Gaffney
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich