

**SPECIAL BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** June 7, 2023

**LOCATION:** Branford High School Auditorium

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

185 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

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**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
N	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
N	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Alya Bagdas	Student Representative
N	Casey Maymon	Student Representative
N	Rowan Rondinone	Student Representative
Y	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: Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinator; Suzanne Sullivan, Science Coach; Ryan Roberts, Excel Advisor; Sarah MacDougall, Paul Sarrazin, Gateway Credits Advisor; CT COLT Poetry Advisor; Tina Valouras, Career Pathway Coordinator and Jim Petela, Model Congress Advisor

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**02 No Place for Hate Pledge**

All BOE members present at this evening's meeting took the *No Place for Hate Pledge* as administered by the following BHS students; Lemon brown, Avery Clouse, Eyad Salem, Conor Spaulding and Aryana Wilson.

**03** MOTION (Prins/ DeLucia) to move the reading of the Pride Month Proclamation from Item B to Item A under Discussion/Actions Items.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**RECOGNITIONS**

**A. CABA Student Leadership Award Recipients**

The following students were presented the CABA Student Leadership Award; Lilly Panuccio (WIS), Thomas Pont Strong (WIS), Betul Aksu (BHS) and Liev Shpitalnik (BHS).

**B. BOE Student Representatives**

The following BHS students were recognized for their service as BOE student representatives; Alya Bagdas, Casey Maymon, Rowan Rondinone and Eyad Salem.

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**RECOGNITIONS (Continued)**

**C. Student Clubs & Activities**

Students from the following clubs/activities were awarded a certificate of achievement/appreciation; WIS Science Olympiad, History Day, Excel, Interact, BHS Math Team, BHS Science Olympiad, Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge, CT COLT Poetry, Seal of Biliteracy, Gateway Credits, Internships and Model Congress

**D. Superintendent Hamlet M. Hernandez**

Peter Berdon and the BOE members presented Superintendent Hernandez with a proclamation and a chair, thanking him for his service to Branford Public Schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Berger, District parent, spoke in support of this evening's Pride Month Proclamation and thanked the Board for their policies. Mr. Berger also spoke about national events and his sons own experience.

The father of BOE Student Representative, Rowan Rondinone, spoke in support of Pride Month Proclamation and thanked the Board for their time.

Lilian Smith, Branford resident, spoke about community support for students, the Pride Month Proclamation, pushback to the proclamation and voting in favor of it.

Dineen, Branford resident, spoke about her child's experience, supporting the proclamation and read a student on LGBTQ youth and suicide statistics.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the tribute to Superintendent Hernandez, a comment made by Superintendent Hernandez at the last meeting, the new principal at Murphy School, his personal work history, Bob Ferguson's report, going forward, embracing the truth and the Superintendent's search.

Kathleen Rondinone, District parent, spoke about supporting LGBTQ culture.

Michael Krause, former BOE Chairman and Branford resident, spoke about the District over the year, the superintendent's leadership, the changes over the year including diversity. Mr. Krause concluded by commending Superintendent Hernandez on his accomplishments.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Berdon stated that he received an email from Dawn Perrotti, supporting the Pride Month Proclamation, thank you notes from Pam Roy and Donna Ferrara. Mr. Berdon concluded by stating that the Shoreline Adult Education graduation will be June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Committee Chairs Meeting**

Next scheduled meeting: August 3, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: August 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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

Next scheduled meeting: August 9, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. DeLucia spoke about normal quarterly reports and the conclusion of budgets.

**D. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)**

Next scheduled meeting: August 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

**E. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)**

Next scheduled meeting: August 16, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that the Committee received its last COVID update report and heard from the Superintendent regarding Social Media Metrics and upcoming events.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

In his report Superintendent Hernandez discussed; a reminder that the District is engaged in Para union negotiations (meeting tomorrow night 4:00-7:00 PM), upcoming District activities and celebrations, meeting with Dr. Tranberg to apprise him of ongoing issues and a seamless transition, the Administrators Retreat and this evenings No Place for Hate Pledge and the supportive environment.

In concurrence with Superintendent Hernandez’s stated regarding tonight’s pledge, Mr. Berdon pointed out the entire audience took the pledge, which was unanticipated, and the “testament to the culture that we foster.”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**04 Second Reading of Policy 4170 – Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletes.**

MOTION (Watson/Prins) to approve the second reading and adopt policy 4170 - Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletes.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**05 A. Pride Month Proclamation**

Pride Month Proclamation as read by Dr. Tim Raynor:

WHEREAS, Branford Public Schools is committed to supporting dignity, equity, and visibility for all people in the community; and

WHEREAS, Branford Public Schools advocates for diversity and safety in our schools and promotes inclusion and respectful treatment of all our students and staff; and

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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

WHEREAS, Branford Public Schools region have a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and/or Questioning (LGBTQIA+) community; and

WHEREAS, many residents, students, family members, and school personnel are part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning community, and they contribute greatly to the enrichment of our schools and Branford Public Schools community; and

WHEREAS, although advancements have been made with respect to equitable treatment of LGBTQIA+ persons, LGBTQIA+ persons still face discrimination simply for being who they are, thus making it important for all districts and all communities to stand up and show support for all our students, staff, and families who are affected; and

WHEREAS, many cities across the United States recognize and celebrate June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, June has historically become a symbolic month in America in which LGBTQIA+ persons and allies come together in various celebrations of pride to support the community's right to live their lives out loud; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Branford Public Schools hereby declare the month of June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in our schools and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Branford, CT in conjunction with others throughout this state, hereby extends in support for the celebration of Pride Month June 2023.

MOTION (Raynor/DeLucia) to adopt the Pride Month Proclamation.

APPROVED (Watson abstained)

**06 B. First Reading of Policy 5825 – Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline**

MOTION (Watson/DeLucia) to approve the first reading of policy 5825 - Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**07 B. WIS Project Completion**

MOTION (Raynor/Watson) Branford Board of Education accepts State Projects 014-0034 EA Francis Walsh

Intermediate School and 014-0035 BE/EA Branford Central Administration Office projects as complete.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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**BOARD REPORTS**

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels was absent this evening.
- B. CABE – John Prins discussed the following; CABE passed their budget at the last meeting, they have begun planning for the annual convention in November, there is a call for talented students for participation at the conference, the Executive Directors evaluation, the UCONN Executive Leadership Program, the Legislative update, the Resolutions Committee and the Delegates Assembly.

**PTA REPORTS**

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

**BOARD RETREAT MEETING DATES**

**Before adjourning into Executive Session the following BOE Retreat meeting dates were shared:**

- A. Wednesday, July 12 at 5:30 PM
- B. Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 5:30 PM

**08**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION (DeLucia/Gaffney) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Peter Berdon moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:48 PM.

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

**09**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Peter Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 9:47 PM with no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

**10** MOTION (Gaffney/Raynor) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:47 PM.

**NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:**

**August 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney, Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich