

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: March 15, 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
N	Casey Maymon	Student Representative
Y	Rowan Rondinone	Student Representative
Y	Eyad Salem	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Michelle Miller and David Stein, Silver Petrucelli and Associates

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

**02** There were no agenda changes at this evenings meeting.

**STUDENT PRESENTATION**

**A. WIS Dance Team**

Student members from the WIS Dance Team performed a routine from their recent trip to Florida. All dance team students were presented a certificate of achievement and the WIS Dance Team coaching staff were presented with a resolution.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about speakers speaking out of order, a comment by a BOE member to students regarding preparation, the Superintendent Search update and the need for a real Superintendent to hit the ground running.”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**03** MOTION (Troidle/Prins) to approve the minutes from the following meetings

- A. December 21, 2022 Full Regular BOE Meeting.
- B. January 18, 2023 Full Special BOE Meeting.
- C. February 1, 2023 Superintendent’s Budget Presentation Meeting.
- D. February 7, 2023 Budget Workshop.
- E. February 15, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Continued...

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### COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications at this evening.

### PRESENTATION

#### A. JBS Project

Michele Miller and David Stein from Silver Petrucelli and Associates presented a presentation on the JBS Project. Among the items that were discussed were; the project objective, facility condition assessment, facility conditions (site, architectural: exterior, interior and structure, plumbing and fire protection, mechanical, electrical), overall facility conditions cost, priority 1 and 2 facility conditions cost, space needs/program, existing site plan – program analysis, existing floor plan – program analysis (lower level, main level and upper level), program analysis, options – Office of School Construction Grants and Review (OSCG&R) – Space Standards, Option 1 – Alterations, Option 2 – Renovate as New, Option 3 – New Construction, Option Summary, OSCG&R – 2023 Projects and next steps for the District.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: April 6, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: April 19, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ellen Michaels reported the Committee received updates on summer and afterschool and focused on foreign language.

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

Next scheduled meeting: April 19, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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

Next scheduled meeting: April 19, 2023, 7:30 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Watson stated that the committee voted to send two policies (Organization Chart and Superintendent Evaluations) to the Full Board for a second reading.

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

Next scheduled meeting: April 26, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Ms. Gaffney stated that the Committee discussed calendar options, COVID updates and celebrations for Black History month.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the Students discussed this evening were; woman's history month fund raiser, high school life before COVID, HIVE Live, Clubs (activities and presentations), reestablished pre-COVID levels of attendance, scanning into BHS, the Honors Breakfast (return after 4 years), policy changes (implementing passes to leave classrooms including bathroom passes), speaking to the administration regarding problems regarding use of passes and unhygienic issues (touching passes and where to put them), the change in breakfast times prior to the start of first period (7:00-7:30 AM), food waste consideration and accessibility, No Place for Hate (BHS pledge 85% of student have agreed to sign pledge) and the BHS Spring Musical (School of Rock).

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### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed in his report this evening were; the MTM Principal posting, the afterschool enrichment swim program (began yesterday), school wide SAT day, the resent Content Specific Instructional Practices Professional Development (PD), the Board of Finance presentation on March 23, the Strategic Coherence Plan presentation with Jonathan Costa and tonight's non-meeting after the Communication Committee meeting.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

**04** MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- A. Second Reading – Organization Chart
- B. Second Reading – Administrator/Superintendent Evaluation
- C. Healthy Food Certification

MOTION Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and
- 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**05 A. First Reading Policy – 5600 Field Trips**

MOTION (Watson/DeLucia) to approve the first reading of Policy 5600 as recommended by the Policy Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

**06 B. First Reading Policy – 5625 Fundraising Activities**

MOTION (DeLucia/Watson) to approve the first reading of Policy 5625 as recommended by the Policy Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**07 C. First Reading Policy – 5825 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline**

MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the first reading of Policy 5825 as recommended by the Policy Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

This policy will be sent back to Committee for the expansion of middle school time to be effective next year. Members from the District Administration will attend next month's meeting to discuss the operational perspective.

**08 D. Project Graduation Donation**

MOTION (Troidle/Gaffney) to approve a donation of \$3,000 to Project Graduation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ellen Michaels discussed an uptick in applications, a commercial placed during the Superbowl and attendance difficulty (a Statewide problem).

B. CABE – John Prins discussed the Innovators Mindset book club (the importance of reflection for students and teachers), teachers networking with other districts, the CABE DEI meeting including Women of Color (pioneers in the field of education) and CABE's next convention in November.

### PTA REPORTS

A. MRT – Meaghan DeLucia discussed the Community Dining Room benefit taking place in April and planning for grade 4 activities.

B. WIS – Cristy Cantu stated that the PTA is working on teacher appreciation projects. Ms. Cantu also discussed the Beyond Blues Concert and an author's visit.

C. JBS – Laura Troidle discussed the Someone Special Dance and Culture Night, the Science Fair, year-end festivities and the search for a PTA president.

### ADJOURN

**09** MOTION (Troide/Prins) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM.

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**NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:**

**April 26, 2023, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich