

# BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes

**DATE:** May 10, 2023

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

**SUBJECT:** Teaching & Learning Committee

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### ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Ellen Michaels, Committee Chair	Board of Education
N	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney	Board of Education
Y	John Prins	Board of Education
N	Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
N	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others in attendance: Lauren Skultety and Ashley Marinaro, Curriculum Coordinators

### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

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#### CALL

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Ellen Michaels.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made at this evening's meeting.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

**02** MOTION (Prins/DeLuca) to approve minutes from the April 19, 2023, Teaching & Learning Committee meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### UPDATES

**03 Wonders Reading Program**

Among the items discussed in this evening's update were; what we did (analyzed data to identify needs - student and teacher, focused professional learning on foundational literacy, made systemic shifts to instruction, reviewed programs and assessments to support consistent practices and piloted elements of one program, which was selected by a comprehensive K-4 team) and initial outcomes of the Wonders Pilot (vocabulary has improved significantly - this is true of students' academic vocabulary, as well as other words, students are exposed to a lot of rich content, which builds from year to year, each grade has experience with process writing, as well as written response and students love having their own copies of common materials).

**04 Future Topics: School Start Times**

Ellen Michaels and the Committee members discussed the following; Ellen's past experience as an educator regarding school start time, an article in the Hartford Currant (nine states considering changing

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**UPDATES (Continued)**

start times), including athletics for their opinion, later start time for BHS and kindergarten, the feeling that there will be nothing changing where start times are concerned, a great discussion academically, societal changes, benefits and obstacles, conversations with other Boards, daycare, financial and logistical challenges, an email received from a concerned parent, advocating for change at a larger level and receiving strong data.

**PRESENTATION**

**05 Spotlight: Professional Learning**

Among the items discussed in this evening's presentation were; research on professional learning, Guskey's Model of Teacher Change, discussion on a well-supported teacher, the BPS Strategic Success Plan approved 12/2014 (Professional Learning System), pillars of the BPS Professional Learning Systems (collaborative time/learning, professional development, curriculum development, instructional coaching and supervision & evaluation), professional learning drivers and professional learning focus areas 2022-2023 (academic needs/social emotional needs).

**ADJOURN**

**06 MOTION (DeLucia/Prins) to adjourn.**  
**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Michaels adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.

The next Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting will be  
June 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich