

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 17, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

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

**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
N	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
N	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:

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

**02** There were no agenda changes at this evening's meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about a District lawsuit and his perspective, District leadership, hiring a new principal including their work history and hiring for the District.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**03** A. MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2023 Full Regular BOE Meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Berdon spoke about Dr. Raynors draft resolution pertaining to Pride Month (as discussed at the Communications Committee meeting). Mr. Berdon also stated that he and the Board received several communications from Mr. Jerolman.

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee Chairs Meeting

Next scheduled meeting: June 1, 2023, 5:00 P.M., This meeting is held virtually.

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

Next scheduled meeting: June 7, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

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

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

D. Policy Committee (Marie Watson, Chair)

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

E. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair)

Next scheduled meeting: June 14, 2023, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the Student Representatives discussed this evening were; BHS activities for Mental Health Awareness Month, senior class end of the year activities, senior yard signs, the HIVE choice activity - Rock Jam, the Student Council picnic that is returning this year, the senior trip to Lake Compounce, Project Graduation (to be held at Connecticut Sportsplex), scholarship night for seniors, senior exit interviews, AP exams (going well), internships, prom ticket sales (free for seniors after completing their graduation requirements) and this evenings choir concert. The Students Representatives ended their report this evening by thanking the Board for inviting them to be representatives and for giving them such a unique experience.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Hernandez discussed in his report this evening were; the RTM's approval of the Capital Budget and also the integrated security system, the support of RTM representative Josh Brooks, ESPA testing continues and will conclude on May 26th, starting to get into the testing make-up window, making sure that students get enough rest, nutrition and coming to school during the testing period, summer programming, staffing, teacher shortages and the new teachers being hired by the District, the dates for the Administrator Retreat (July 18 & 19) and the first look at the Climate Survey results, the WIS field project, the construction project - going through close-out process and coming in under budget, the end of the year celebrations, hearing from Jonathan Costa about the path forward and teacher negotiations (begin at the end of the summer). Superintendent Hernandez concluded his report by thanking the BOE Student Representatives for their exemplary work and participation.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

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

MOTION (Watson/Troidle) to approve the first reading of Policy 4170 Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletes

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

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

MOTION (Watson/Troidle) to table this policy.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**06 C. MTM Principal Appointment**

MOTION (Gaffney/Cantu) to appoint Imani Jones as the new Mary T. Murphy School Principal.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**07 D. FY24 Operating and Capital Budget**

MOTION (Gaffney/Michaels) to approve the FY 24 Operating and Capital Budget

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**08 E. BOE Strategic Coherence Plan Presentation and BOE Retreat Meeting Dates**

Mr. Berdon and Superintendent Hernandez discussed the work done by the SCP Committee and its upcoming presentation and shared the following dates:

May 30 – Strategic Coherence Plan Presentation @ 6:00 PM with Jonathan Costa

July 12 – BOE Meeting @ 5:30 PM with Nick Caruso

July 25 – BOE Retreat @ 5:30 PM with Jonathan Costa

### BOARD REPORTS

A. ACES – Ms. Michaels stated that the last ACES meeting was well attended by the public with the topic being changing the administrative staff at ECA, their declining enrollment, budgetary problems and eliminating department heads.

B. CABE – Mr. Prins discussed CABE’s last meeting’s topic (Supporting Children of Color) and how children of color need to be supported, the date of the convention is November 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> and they are still looking to fill slots with talented students

### PTA REPORTS

JBS - Ms. Troidle thanked Ashley Murphy for her many years of service to the PTA and stated that she will be greatly missed.

MRT - Ms. DeLucia stated that there are many end of the year activities happening including mother’s day plant sale, as well as many graduation activities. Ms. DeLucia also thanked the MRT PTA president for all of their hard work.

WIS - Ms. Cantu discussed the WIS snack drive for teachers, Dunkin Donut gift cards for teachers and staff members and the Chipotle fundraiser.

Mr. Berdon stated he wanted to give a shout out to the Project Graduation folks for all of their hard work.

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**ADJOURN**

**09** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

**NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING:**

**June 14, 2023, 2022 at 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich