

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: February 13, 2024

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

SUBJECT: FY 25 Budget Workshop Meeting

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	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Michael Lopes, Finance Manager	Central Office

Others present: Charles Cicarella, Director of Student Services; Connie Turkington, HR Manager

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by BOE Chair Peter Berdon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the budget and the budget process, solidly moving in the right direction with the right leadership, seven suggestions not included in the budget (“good to have/nice to have”), giving the budget to the RTM with the “nice to have included”, the para contract, school security, the athletic fields process and the Chief Operating Officer search (splitting positions).

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

02 FY 25 Operating Budget

Among the questions received from the Board that Superintendent Tranberg and the District’s Administrative Team discussed and answered were: a discrepancy in Central Office salaries (non-certified lines), the increase to Special Education Tuition, the 18.73% increase, the leap in purchases services, the driver of 26.5% (increase of \$24,000) under the other category, why a \$30,000 (71.4%) increase in unemployment, MTM and MRT are requesting an equal increase and JBS is below their 5% request, cultural enrichment at the elementary level and will this continue at WIS, Department Leaders (where do positions live), cuts in supplies (computer supplies), increase in instructional supplies, WIS Supplies being up, (Property piece) cost of replacing textbooks and Chromebooks and do students bear the responsibility if they break or lose the device, recent year snow removal (price differential), under

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

the finance budget is there opportunity to explore other bids on liability insurance, BHS seniors access to yearbooks, prom tickets, senior class trip at no costs, how much we spend on certified and non-certified athletic coaches at WIS and BHS, the cost for transportation for athletics (up \$29,000), more information on professional tech (\$41,000), the cost of officials (why is it doubling), increase in athletics rentals (\$10,000), projections of the nurse budget (nurses contract in the Spring), is there an increase in nursing staff, student device lease (Chromebooks), functional capacities and replacements (buyout options), where do most of the damages happen, AV costs, can leases on Chromebooks be extended, what is CEP (Community Eligibility Provision – Free breakfast and lunch program), in facilities – what are we repairing for \$869,000 (can some of these projects be captured under capital), tech rental – what is included for \$280,000, new tech communications (internet managed firewall) and boiler repairs at Sliney and Indian Neck (Capital)?

ADJOURN

03 MOTION (DeLucia/Michaels) to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich