

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 21, 2024
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	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	Clare Barnett	Student Representative
Y	Kimberly Caracondo	Student Representative
Y	Iva Sekerovic	Student Representative
Y	Conor Spaulding	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Michael Lopes, Finance Manager	Central Office

Others present: Brendan Leddy, Facilities Director

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL TO ORDER

01 Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

MOTION (Troidle/Barron) to add Consent Agenda Item B. Community Agreement approval to this evening’s agenda.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon reported that the Board received several communications from stakeholders regarding soccer at WIS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Falcigno, District parent, spoke about significant changes to the proposed charging of fees.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about the use of facilities, the BOE budget and presenting it to the RTM in a traditional line item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

02 MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 Full Regular BOE Meeting APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; the BHS Hornet Card, Honor Roll Improvers, and NAEP (50 BHS seniors were selected to participate in this years National Assessment of Educational Progress), senior internships, participation in the BHS mural, the winter edition of Calliope, February events (Black History Month, Valentine's Day, varsity boys basketball, Black Student Union, Hispanic Heritage Month and Bring Change to Mind celebrations), winter sports (will be wrapping up), student athletic achievements (Naji Mohamed, Joelle Buds, Avery Klaus, Lucy Moran, Cole Snyder, Dylan Warner and Ryan Jones), a school community survey (daily schedule perspectives in student learning, student engagement, community and connections),

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Tranberg began by stating that he wanted to give a shout out to Judy Barron for being the catalyst for AED Collaboration for Branford sports, Park & Rec and Town sites. In his report this evening Dr. Tranberg discussed; CABE Day on the Hill (March 13th), Murphy School only minimum day on Tuesday, April 2, the last day of school is June 12, two upcoming meetings to discuss the WIS fields (February 27 and February 29) and Budget meeting dates (March 21, April 1, May 14).

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels stated that due to budget meetings the Teaching & Learning Committee did not meet this month.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee heard their normal reports, the ESSER report and they recommended unanimously to send the budget to the Full Board for approval this evening.

C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the four policies that were discussed at the last Committee meeting are on this evening's agenda for first reading and the work that went into policy 1800.

D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee met this evening and received some community updates, worked on the BOE Community Agreement and continued to discuss the Board communication survey.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

03 MOTION (Michaels/Tiernan) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

A. Second reading of the policy 5010 Admission into Public Schools.

B. Adopt the BOE Community Agreement as recommended by the Communication Committee.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

04 FY25 Operating & Capital Budget Discussion

Superintendent Tranberg and members of the District’s Leadership Team continued the discussion on the FY 25 Operating & Capital Budget.

05 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the FY25 Operating & Capital Budget

MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the FY25 Operating & Capital Budget as amended.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

06 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the date for BHS senior graduation.

MOTION (Michaels/Troidle) to set the date for senior graduation as June 12, 2024.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

07 E. First Reading of Policies

a. Policy 1800 – Use of Facilities

MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) to send policy 1800 on for second reading.

APPROVED (DeLucia, Barron & Greenberg opposed)

b. Policy 4200 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by Employees

MOTION (Tiernan/Michaels) to policy 4200 on for second reading.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Policy 5300 - Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) to send policy 5300 on for second reading.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Policy 5650 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

MOTION (Troidle/Tiernan) to send policy 5650 on for second reading.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels reported that at the last meeting, CAFE’s Executive Director, Patrice McCarthy was there to discuss the legislative session (the Education Committee has raised 18 bills), ACES has approved four more budgets and next month they will probably do four more budgets.

CAFE - Mr. Tiernan reported that CAFE’s focus is currently legislature and CAFE Day on the Hill (March 13).

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PTA REPORTS

WIS - Ms. DeLucia stated that she did not have anything to report this evening.

BHS - Mr. Tiernan stated that currently the BHS PTA does not have anything going on.

FRC - Ms. Barron stated that due to the budget there was nothing going on.

MTM – Mr. Shrestha stated that he had a good conversation with the PTA President, Jennifer Orlando, and they have good programs going on (cultural and dance programs),

JBS - Ms. Troidle stated that she did not have anything to report this evening.

MRT - Mr. Greenberg stated that this evening's PTA meeting was canceled, so he did not have anything to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 08** MOTION (DeLucia/Michaels) to adjourn into executive session to interview the candidate for the Chief Operating Officer position.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into executive session at 7:41 PM. Superintendent Tranberg, Assistant Superintendent Moran, Blaize Levitan and all BOE members present for this evening's meeting moved into executive session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- 09** Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to regular session at 8:17 PM with no votes or actions taken.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

- 10** To consider and if appropriate, vote to appoint the new Chief Operating Officer

MOTION (DeLucia/Barron) to appoint Blaize Levitan as the District's new Chief Operating Officer

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

- 11** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich

Continued...

MARCH 2024 BOE MEETINGS

(All meetings will take place in the WIS Cafeteria unless otherwise specified)

BOE Committee Chairs Meeting (Virtual)	March 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	March 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	March 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Policy Committee Meeting	March 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Communication Committee Meeting	March 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Full Regular Board Meeting	March 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM