

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL RETREAT MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** July 23, 2024

**LOCATION:** Board of Education Central Office  
Conference Room  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

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**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	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran	Central Office
Y	Blaize Levitan	Central Office

Others present: Patrice McCarthy, CABE Executive Director & General Counsel

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**02 A. Review and Discuss the BOE's Self Evaluations**

**Facilitated by Patrice McCarthy, CABE Executive Director & General Counsel**

Prior to these evenings meeting Board members were asked to individually complete the Board Self Reflection document that was then submitted to CABE when completed. Those results were aggregated. Positive highlights included all members participating, there is unity in vision and mission and positive superintendent relations. Future focus areas include streamlining communication, connecting with community organizations, and making better use of data in decision making. Among the question that Ms. McCarthy asked each Board member (in one sentence) to describe why they decided to serve the community in this capacity? Central office administration were asked to share (in one sentence) why they entered the field of education?

**03 B. Review and Discuss BOE Member Roles and Responsibilities Facilitated by Patrice McCarthy, CABE Executive Director & General Counsel**

Ms. McCarthy began by sharing overarching legislation that designates the Board as the responsible party for creating educational goals every five years. Discussion highlights included; best practices in serving constituents, FOIA updates, and the importance of communication with the community. Ms. McCarthy reinforced the importance of communication coming from designated board spokesperson (the Chair) or the Superintendent of Schools.

Continued...

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**04 C. Review and Discuss the District's Strategic Plan Year Two Focus**

This evening's Retreat ended with a presentation from central office administration that included focus areas for year two of the Strategic Coherence Plan. Highlights included technology use and screen time, Conni4 partnership with UConn to support student intervention and finance updates. Board members received a copy of Jonathan Heidt's *The Anxious Generation*. The Board will continue to discuss this text during upcoming meetings.

**05 D. Review and Discuss the BOE's 2024 - 2025 Master Agenda**

The Board members were asked to review the 2024-2025 Master Meeting Schedule for further discussion at the next full BOE meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**06 MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to adjourn.**

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan DeLucia  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich