

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 20, 2024

LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

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
N	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Clare Barnett	Student Representative
N	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 6:35 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

AGENDA CHANGES

- 02** MOTION (Troidle/McNamara) to add Consent Agenda Item C. AP US History textbook approval and Consent Agenda Item D. K-4 Reading textbook approval to this evening’s agenda.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

At 6:36 PM the Board and all those in attendance for this evening’s meeting moved into the gymnasium to view the BHS and WIS girls dance team performances.

When both performances were complete, BOE Chair, Peter Berdon, and Superintendent Tranberg presented the coaches, assistant coaches and the students were presented certificates of achievement for all their hard work and accomplishments.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon reported that he did not have any communications to discuss this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Falcigno, Branford parent, spoke about the amendment to policy 1800, youth sports organization not being charged, no change for use started 32 years ago, events falling on Sunday (were never charged) and his appreciation for the time and work put into it.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 03 MOTION (Tiernan/Michaels) to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Full Regular BOE Meeting
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; The BHS Thrift Store (free to students, off of the cafeteria, students need pass to go and sign in/out, open a few months and have approximately 11,000 items), the mural is underway (finished in next 2 weeks), SAT week for students (test is completely digital and shorter, unique to every student), the BHS Musical (Legally Blonde, sold \$40,000 in tickets), International Women's Day celebration held in small gym, Model Congress's successful conference last month in Boston, the senior class admissions process, the delays in FAFSA (frustrating) and Spring sports started Saturday.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Tranberg began by presenting the Board with BOE Appreciation Month gifts. In his report this evening Dr. Tranberg discussed the following; CABE Day on the Hill (March 13), a reminder that MTM will be in session for a minimum day on April 2, the Grade 2 Swimming Program is going well (60 students), March Music in our Schools Month, The BHS Play (Legal Blonde was fantastic), the WIS Play this weekend is SpongeBob, attending the CAPSS Superintendent Conference today with Ali Moran in Bristol, the end of year transition planning for grades 4 and 8, kindergarten registration (reminder), March 29 is the due date of the Communication Survey and the Board of Finance budget meeting is tomorrow night at Fire Headquarters.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels stated that the Committee received a presentation on Strategy Mapping/School Goals, and textbook approvals.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Mr. Berdon stated that the Committee received a presentation regarding the budget to date, received the personnel report, we are currently in the budget process, he and Dr. Tranberg will be presenting the budget tomorrow night to Board of Finance meeting and that the RTM meeting is in three to four weeks.

C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee discussed four policies; 4250, 5800, 5900 and 5950, addressing issues, generative AI and appropriate issues in schools. All four are on tonight's agenda for first reading.

D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that the communication survey is out and that next month's meeting will be a Special Meeting on April 17th at WIS.

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 04** MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items; A. Second Reading of Policies (4200 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by Employees, 5300 - Administration of Student Medications in the Schools, 5650 Suicide Prevention and Intervention), B. US History Textbook Approval, C. K-4 Textbook Approval and D. Healthy Food Certification (HFC).

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

LANGUAGE FOR HFC MOTION:

1. Healthy food option motion

MOTION Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups

2. Food and beverage exemption motion

MOTION The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and
- 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

“Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 05 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to appoint the new Secondary Curriculum Coordinator.**

MOTION (DeLucia Michaels) to appoint Kathleen (Katie) Wagner as the District’s new Secondary Curriculum Coordinator.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

06 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Districts Diversity Educator Goals.

MOTION (Troidle/McNamara) to approve the goals presented for the Diversity Educator Plan as presented by the administration.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

07 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Project Graduation Donation

MOTION (Troidle/McNamara) to approve a \$3,200 donation to Project Graduation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

08 E. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the first reading of policies; 4250 Employee Use of the District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications, 5800 Student Discipline, 5900 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety and 5950 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

MOTION (Tiernan/McNamara) to approve the first reading of policies 4250, 5800, 5900 and 5950.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

09 F. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the second reading of policy 1800 Use of Facilities

MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to approve the second reading of policy 1800.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels stated that at the last meeting there was a presentation by Representative Curry (Chair of the Legislative Education Committee) discussing funding and looking at education certification. ACES also approved four more budgets.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan reported that CABE Day on the Hill was March 13th. Mr. Tiernan stated that he attended along with Dr. Tranberg, a BHS teacher and two BHS students and they met with two out of our three delegates.

PTA REPORTS

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

BHS - Mr. Tiernan stated that there are no meetings currently scheduled.

FRC - Ms. Barron stated that the current focus is getting ready for the Week of the Young Child and they are looking for families to share photos.

MTM - Mr. Shrestha was not in attendance this evening's meeting.

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

MRT - Mr. Greenberg stated that he did not have anything to report this evening.

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ADJOURN

10 MOTION (DeLucia/Greenberg) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich

APRIL 2024 BOE MEETINGS

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

BOE Committee Chairs Meeting (Virtual)	April 4, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	April 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	April 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Special Communication Committee Meeting	April 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM*
Special Policy Committee Meeting	April 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM*
Full Regular Board Meeting	April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM

***PLEASE NOTE: Date & Time Changes**