

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** October 16, 2024  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**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
N	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	Carson Jarvis	Student Representative
N	Grace Grammatico	Student Representative
Y	Nneoma Obi	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office
Y	Kim Castoro, Director of Business Services	

Others present:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to report this evening.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joanne Viglione, Chestnut Street, District parent/guardian, spoke about her experience visiting Branford High School and its security measures including camera, audio recordings and signage.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**02** MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2024 Full Regular BOE meeting.

APPROVED (Michaels and McNamara abstained)

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### BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; college applications, the upcoming college fair, university and college visits to BHS, a recent representative visit, French, Latin, Spanish visit from UCONN, it is a high stress time for students but there is lots of support from staff, senior parking (Paint and Park on October 20th), Hispanic Month events including a cultural assembly, Flu vaccine's being offered by School Based Health, after school specials have started (extra help being offered), AP and ECE sign-up, the No Place for Hate Assembly was held last week, Word Inclusion Day (sponsored by BHS Special Education Department) and the first Principal Advisory meeting that was held on Monday (comprised of class presidents, BOE representatives and student council).

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Superintendent Tranberg discussed this evening were; the CAFE Level 2 Distinction Award (2 years in a row) and also CAFE Communications Award recognitions (best strategic plan, best special project and honorable mention for the Superintendent's newsletter), we will be awarded a Level 2 Distinction plaque at the CAFE Conference November 15 and 16, finalist interviews for the Master Plan (we are scheduled to announce the finalist at our November meeting), we are continuing to meet on the roof (looking like two distinct projects), Blaize Levitan is absent tonight because he is presenting on the Town's behalf (Live Wisely and Well, sponsored by the Branford Clean Energy Ad hoc Committee), the Board's participation in the October 26 Trunk or Treat, in November there will be a presentation and public comment opportunity regarding a School Resource Officer in partnership with the Branford PD (a separate communication will be sent out) and Zum is up and running with everything going well.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels reported that the Committee reviewed data for secondary education, BHS and WIS, and their achievement levels and goals for the upcoming year and also a conversation on civil discourse regarding the upcoming election.

#### B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee went over their normal reports and they will be having upcoming workshop and changes to simplify the monthly report.

#### C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee met to discussion Bylaw 9325, that was passed on for first reading tonight and tonight for second reading is our Title IX policies.

#### D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee just met and continued to their discussion on cell phone usage in school, reaching out to the community (focus groups) and will have a more detailed discussion next month on some of the science behind our concerns.

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### CONSENT AGENDA ITEAM

- 03 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Second Reading of Policy 4650 – Title IX Personnel and Policy 5250 – Title IX Students**  
MOTION (Tiernan/Shretha) to approve the second reading of Policy 4650 - Title IX Personnel and Policy 5250 - Title IX Students.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 04 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the BHS Dance Team Field Trip Request to Orlando, FL**  
MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the BHS Dance Team field trip request to Orlando, Florida  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 05 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the BHS Field Trip Request to Quebec City, Canada**  
MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the BHS field trip request to Quebec City, Canada  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 06 D. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Updated BOE Master Schedule**  
MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to approve the updated BOE Master Schedule  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 07 E. To consider and if appropriate, vote to ratify the Branford Administrator’s Organization Contract**  
MOTION (McNamara/Tiernan) to ratify the Branford Administrator’s Organization Contract  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 08 F. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the First Reading of Bylaw 9325 – Meeting Criteria**  
MOTION (Tiernan/McNamara) to approve the First Reading of Bylaw 9325 – Meeting Criteria as amended (text only).  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels was unable to attend the October ACES meeting.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan spoke about participation in the upcoming CABE/CAPSS Convention.

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**PTA REPORTS**

Ms. DeLucia stated that elementary is back in full swing, they are getting membership going and working on communications regarding room parents and trunk or treat. Ms. DeLucia also discussed Walsh’s first meeting and their high hopes for making it a more robust PTA.

Mr. Tiernan stated that he would be happy to help and work with Branford High School if there was a level of interest.

**ADJOURN**

**09** MOTION (Michaels/Tiernan) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan DeLucia  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich

**UPCOMING BOE MEETINGS**

(All meetings will take place in the  
WIS Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112 unless otherwise specified)

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