

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** September 18, 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
N	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
N	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
N	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Clare Barnett	Student Representative
Y	Carson Jarvis	Student Representative
Y	Grace Grammatico	Student Representative
Y	Nneoma Obi	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N\Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

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### CALL TO ORDER

**01** Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

### AGENDA CHANGES

**02** MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to remove Discussion Item C - vote to ratify the Branford Administrator's Organization Contract, from this evening's agenda.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that the Board received a number of communications regarding transportation and a request concerning the name of the BHS gymnasium.

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. New BPS Certified Staff

This evening Superintendent Tranberg introduced the following new certified staff members:

- Julia Pagnani, JBS - Speech Language Pathologist
- Mairead O'Brien, MTM - Grade 2 Teacher
- Hannah Moran, MRT – Grade 4 Teacher
- David Trotta, BHS – Social Studies Teacher
- Brittany Doorman – BHS – Social Worker

- Hilarie Alden, MRT – Grade 4 Teacher

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### **INTRODUCTION (Continued)**

- Jon Capp, BHS - CTE Teacher
- Jennifer Murphy, BHS Social Worker
- Kellianna O'Brien, BHS School Counselor
- Mikaela Cretella, JBS – Grade 3 Teacher

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made this evening.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 03** MOTION (DeLucia/Tiernan) to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2024 Full Regular BOE meeting and the August 20, 2024 Special BOE Retreat meeting.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### **BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Prior to this evening's BOE Student Representatives report, the Board members and the Central Office Cabinet Team introduced themselves to the student representatives and shared with them why they chose to become a board member

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; our community as a school, HIVE Time (inspirational videos to boost morale), the pep rally, fall sports, upper classman stepping in (helping Freshman to classes, showing them around), a sense of increased community this year, a typical day for a BHS student, the first few weeks experience for a Freshman (new environment and new opportunities), clubs starting, delving into and drumming up community involvement, wanting to bring back interest in clubs and student investment in their community, the seniors focus is college (seeking resources and guidance from staff, touring schools, letter of recommendation, receiving the help that they needs,) Sophomores and Juniors preparing for SAT's, Juniors and Seniors delving into AP Coursework, back to school night (tomorrow), areas that need attention in BHS (activities, clubs, sports), building community involvement, a focus on bathrooms, informing students about breakfast time, maintaining good conduct on the Senior Balcony, no freshman running for office, the phone policy (allowing students to make decisions themselves), student personal devices, encouraging seniors who already have plans to speak with their counselors and counselors to speak with students, keeping students on track, district Health Services and resources.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Among the items that Superintendent Tranberg discussed this evening were; today was the 14th day of school, there is great energy and we are off to a great start (on Tuesday that 10% of the school days are done), this years convocation (it's theme, faculty band, and the raffle donations by various business), this years new BOE student representatives, professional development, the fall recess, the ParentSquare app and a reminder to download it if you haven't already, the final engineering report for the BHS roof from

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### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (Continued)**

Antinozzi and the next step is to meet with the Town, the RFP deadline for the Master Plan was today, would like to make a recommendation to the Board in October, Zum will be invited at a later date to provide a more robust presentation, the CABA Conference in November, the Board applied for three CABA communications reward and tonight's discussion at Communication Committee meeting regarding cell phone usage and looking at the next steps the District should take.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **A. Teaching & Learning Committee**

Assistant Superintendent Moran stated that last Wednesday the Committee looked some of the available data from our summer session, and it will be adding another session to look at Aimsweb data when it comes in the fall and compare it toward students that attended in the summer to see if we can glean any new information from that and start planning for summer 2025, the Committee also looked at the year long teaching and learning schedule and received feedback on it.

#### **B. Personnel & Finance Committee**

Ms. DeLucia stated that this month the Committee went over their normal monthly reports, in November(ish) they will do a grants and capital workshop, Blaize and his team will begin the budget in October and we are getting more transparencies on our finances.

#### **C. Policy Committee**

Mr. Tiernan stated that at last week's Policy Committee meeting they delved into the updated policy on Title IX (personnel and students), and they are on the agenda tonight for a first reading.

#### **D. Communication Committee**

Mr. Berdon stated that at tonight's meeting the Committee recognized John Turenne the Chartwells director who recently retired, they also discussed cell phone usage and cell phone policies in the school, the Board's reading of the book, *The Anxious Generation*, to use as a focal point for their discussion and what additional information they may be looking for to continue the discussion.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**04 A. Strategic Coherence Plan (SCP)**

Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; being in Year Two of our SCP Plan, the strategies and actions that we have aligned to accomplish in Year Two, making connections to our Mission and Visions, Core Beliefs (Continuous Improvement, Growth Mindset and Reflective Practices), anchoring the SCP three goals, orientation to the goals high level (strategies, actions and success indicators) and how we will ultimately know we are successful, Technology, Strategies at a

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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

Glance, the possibilities of these being the Superintendent's goals for the years, Goal I - Achievement for All and Goal II - Global Learning Competencies and Goal III Communication. As he discussed each of the Goals, Superintendent Tranberg along with Assistant Superintendent Moran fielded questions from the Board.

**05 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the BHS Model Congress Field Trip to Penn Model Congress**

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) to approve the BHS Model Congress Field Trip to Penn Model Congress  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**06 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the First Reading of Policy 4650 – title IX Personnel and Policy 5250 – Title IX Students**

MOTION (Tiernan/Shrestha) to approve the First Reading of Policy 4650 – title IX Personnel and Policy 5250 – Title IX Students  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**BOARD REPORTS**

ACES - Ms. Michaels was absent from this evening's meeting.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan reported that the big news for CABE is the November meeting and its benefits.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**07** MOTION (DeLucia/Greenberg) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss safety and security updates.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:23 PM. All Board members in attendance this evening along with Superintendent Tranberg moved into Executive Session.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**08** MOTION (DeLucia/Greenberg) to return to Regular Session.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon returned the meeting at 9:06 PM with no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

**09** MOTION (DeLucia/Greenberg) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

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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)	October 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	October 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	October 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Policy Committee Meeting	October 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM
Communication Committee Meeting	October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Full Regular BOE Meeting	October 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM