

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

### 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
N	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
N	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
Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

---

### BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
------	-------------

---

#### CALL TO ORDER

- 01** Meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

- 02** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to add Discussion/Action Item D. Textbook Approval.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### APPOINTMENT

**03 A. BHS House Principal**

MOTION (Michaels/DeLucia) to appoint Jessica Cavallaro as the BHS House Principal.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### STUDENT PRESENTATION

**04 A. WIS Dance Team**

At 6:45 PM Mr Berdon moved the meeting to the WIS gym so that the Board could view a dance routine performed by student members of the WIS Dance Team.

- 05** At 6:54 Mr. Berdon moved the meeting back to its regularly scheduled location in the WIS Collaboration and Innovation Center (Room 112).

Continued...

## **BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Berdon stated that the Board received the following correspondence; the resignation of BOE member Marie McNamara, an email concerning the availability of PreK programs in Branford from Mr. Hernandez and a letter from Mary Fritz Perry, the president of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Heritage Foundation thanking the District for their participation in the 40th Breakfast.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made at this evening's meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 06** MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the minutes from the following meetings:  
A. March 19, 2025  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### **BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Among the items that were discussed this evening were; on April 7th the BHS Unified Sports Team held its first annual Polar Plunge in support of the Special Olympics in Connecticut, the BHS Environmental Club hosted the Earth Day Celebration at Bayview Park in Stony Creek, the 2025 Fire Service College Fair on April 12th, May 1st is decision day for BHS seniors, prom is May 9th (sales have begun, the cost for seniors is free), yesterday's BHS Pep Rally (all Spring teams participated, organized by Interim AD, Brian Zaklukiewicz), the Class of 2025 Project Graduation fundraiser (Hornets lawn signs) and this year BHS will introduce the Vision Award.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; the recent WTNH What's Right with Schools feature of the BHS Drone Club, the BOE budget was reduced by \$50,000 (Operating) by the Board of Finance - the next step in the process is the RTM Ed Committee for consideration for a vote on May 5th and the full RTM on May 13th, the third and final Master Facilities Community Conversation is scheduled for April 29th at 6:00 PM, the Anxious Generations third and final meeting was held and the focus was on mental health and the path forward for Branford (discuss at the Policy Committee meeting), progress continues on the WIS fields and it remains on schedule (still and active construction zone) and today is Administrative Professionals Day.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Ms. Michaels reported that at the last meeting there was a presentation on the Leader In Me and textbook proposals for the new courses that were approved in January.

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

### STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

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

Ms. DeLucia stated that at the last meeting the Committee discussed the Operating Budget and some of the highlights that were spent, some budget concerns of ongoing increase of costs, the Capital Budget and grants, the food service (there likely will be an increase next year) and the recruitment plan.

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

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee had five different policies on its agenda to review - three were technical in nature (advance to First Reading tonight), policy 1800 Facilities is also on this evenings agenda for discussion and First Reading and transportation was also discussed (tabled for further discussion).

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

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee met this evening and received community updates about the Master Facilities Plan and the Anxious Generation Book Club and they also had a consensus from the Committee and Board that they would look into having Board representation at the Branford Festival to engage more community members with the important work of the Board.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

#### **07 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Second Reading of Policies:**

MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) to approve the Second Reading of policies:

- a. 5550 Homeless Children and Youth
- b. 5650 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

#### **08 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the First Reading of policies:**

MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) to approve the first reading of policies with revisions as discussed:

- A. 1800 Use of School Facilities
- B. 2200 Retention of Electronic Reports and Information
- C. 4300 Employment and Student Teacher Checks

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **09 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to discontinue policy 4475 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan**

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) discontinue policy 4475 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (continued)

**10 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote approve the Project Graduation**

MOTION (DeLucia/Greenberg) to approve the request to donate \$2,500 to Project Graduation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**11 D. To consider and if appropriate, vote approve the text books**

MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to adopt the following textbooks as discussed at the April Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting:

- a. Biology, by Miller and Levine
- b. Medical Terminology, An Online Course
- c. Environmental Science for the AP Course, 4th Edition
- d. Health Now: An Integrative Approach to Personal Health
- e. Perspectivas
- f. The Language of Composition, 4th edition

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

### BOARD REPORTS

- A. **ACES** - Ms. Michaels stated that the following was discussed at the last meeting; feasibility study on ECA (historical building), ACES was leasing it but will now own it and they passed most of their budgets.
- B. **CABE** - Mr. Tiernan stated that CABE is busy in Hartford with Legislation (Special Education - how contracted and setting up standards).

### PTA REPORTS

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12 A. MOTION** (Michaels/Greenberg) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the legal cases update.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 7:54 PM. All BOE members present for this evening's meeting along with Superintendent Tranberg and Chief Operating Officer, Blaize Levitan, adjourned into Executive Session.

Continued...

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** April 23, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

---

### ADJOURN

Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 8:32 PM with no action taken.

**13** MOTION (Greenberg/Shrestha) to adjourn.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:32 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)

BOE Committee Chairs <u>for May Agendas</u> (Virtual)	April 30, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	May 7, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	May 7, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Policy Committee	May 7, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Communication Committee	May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Full BOE Meetings	May 21, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
BOE Committee Chairs <u>for June Agendas</u> (Virtual)	May 28, 2025 @ 5:00 PM