

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** January 15, 2025  
**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
N	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha ( <u>Virtual</u> )	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
Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer ( <u>Virtual</u> )	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 6:39 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

Consent Agenda Item C. Community Participation Statement has been moved to Discussion/Action Item B.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that an acknowledgement was received from the Branford Counseling Center for the Secret Santa Program donation and other thank you notes were received.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about urging communication, acknowledging where we are, permitting dialogue in the regular and committee meetings, the upcoming budget, the need for maximum resources for the Superintendent, it is refreshing to see a strong leader, synergy and a meaningful partnership between the Chair and the Superintendent. Mr. Jerolman suggested to the BOE to encourage and support that it goes further. Mr. Jerolman concluded by saying, when people are more removed from education, the Board knows the needs of the district better than anyone else.

Kristi Stoyak, District parent, spoke about living in Branford and its diversity, having a vested interest in the education of not just her daughter but all kids in Branford, her discussions with other parents and WIS administrative staff regarding a lack of understanding of what incoming high school freshmen's

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)**

that might be interested in for vocational programs, her daughter's interest in voag, the understanding of what funding is available for vocational programs, her work experience, what conversations could be had and starting the dialogue about capturing the interested of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and making sure that we have the funding that we need, knowing that options are available and funded for them.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 02** MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2024 Full Regular BOE meeting as amended.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

### **BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; year book sales have begun (available to whole school), the Rocking for Raz fundraiser was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> and it was a success, graduation is less than 100 days away (seniors ordering caps and gowns), BHS is bringing back Mix-it-Up Day (students from all grades come together), the Black Student Union fundraiser (donation for students to attend the MLK Breakfast), Huddle has been made for students to broadcast winter sports on line, quarter two is coming to an end next week, mid-terms are coming up, Mrs. Valaouris will be speaking with seniors about internships, a US Flag that was flown over Iraq was gifted to BHS by Master Chief Razawiski in honor of the Veterans Day event and the Black Student Union has begun to prepare ideas for how to celebrate Black History month.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; indoor air quality (the State requires school districts to complete and post on-line the Tools for Schools checklist and the facilities team has conducted the checklists for each building and they are now available the facilities webpage as well as each schools page), the State also requires air quality test and balances of the HVAC system itself and you have to do 20% of your buildings each year for the first five years (gets us about a building a year), BHS is almost complete and will fulfill our first requirement, the district is please to officially partner with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation - Class Act students will prepare breakfast and the Music Makers will be there as well as a Pulitzer Prize winning presenter Jeffrey C. Stewart will be there, the Master Facilities is underway and Tecton is in the data gathering stage (Dr. Tranberg encouraged the community to stay alert for opportunities to provide feedback), the Master Facilities is directly connected to the Boards work two years ago on the report regarding Sliney and a recommendation for new constructed and also the feasibility done for Indian Neck School and significant needs for the high school, the Anxious Generation Book Club will meet on February

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### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (Continued)

13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Blackstone Library (copies are available at the library as well as BPS Central Office), pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration will open on February 3<sup>rd</sup> (signs will be posted throughout the town and information will be posted on our webpage) and the Superintendent's Proposed Budget is taking place next week on January 22, 2025.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels reported that the Committee received a very informative presentation on the new math program and textbooks for grade K-4 that the Board will be voting on this evening and it was very well received.

#### B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee received their monthly reports as well as some updates regarding operations. The Committee also spoke about FY 26 resolutions that they are hoping to adopt during the budget process.

#### C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee reviewed four changes in policy that are up for first reading tonight, all of these policies attempt to make uniform the appeal procedures of our non-discrimination policies. Mr. Tiernan also spoke about a court ruling that happened in the last couple of weeks involving Title IX that basically upends all of the Title IX policies created last summer chances are we will be reverting back to our old policy. Mr. Tiernan also spoke about encouraging people to reach out to either him, Mr. Berdon or Dr. Tranberg if they wanted to see any changes to a Bylaw as any changes would need to be reviewed by our lawyers.

#### D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that this evening the Committee discussed community engagement and our Master Facility Plan proposal to get out to the public as well as a discussion on The Anxious Generation book club at the Blackstone Library.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

#### 03 MOTION (Troidle/Berdon) to approve this the following Consent Agenda Items:

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

- a. 5700 - Graduation Requirements
- b. 5010 - Admission to Public Schools at or Before Age 5
- c. 5350 - Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

##### B. To Consider and if Appropriate, Vote to Approve the K-4 Math Textbook Selection

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

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### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

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

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) to approve the first reading of policies:

- a. 1000 Non-Discrimination (Community)
- b. 4600 Non-Discrimination (Personnel)
- c. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students)
- d. 5025 Student Records

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

**05 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Community Participation Statement**

MOTION (Troidle/Michaels) to approve the Community Participation Statement

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

### **BOARD REPORTS**

ACES - Ms. Michaels stated that ACES will be having a Career Fair on March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a lotter for ECA and other magnets and soon people will be seeing marketing commercials on TV regarding their Magnet Schools.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan stated that he senses that CABE is ramping up their efforts with the legislature as it just went into session a week ago. Mr. Tiernan concluded by saying that hopefully we can work with them to get the legislature to give us more money among other things.

### **PTA REPORTS**

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**06 A. To discuss the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation**

MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 7:20 PM. All BOE members present for tonight's meeting (both in person and virtual) and Superintendent Tranberg adjourned into executive session.

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### **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURN**

- 07** Mr. Berdon return the meeting to regular session at 8:45 PM with no action taken.
- 08** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 8:46 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 (Virtual)	February 5, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
Budget Workshop	February 5, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Policy Committee	February 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Budget Workshop/Personnel & Finance Committee	February 12, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Budget Adoption	February 19, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Communication Committee	February 26, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Full BOE Meetings	February 26, 2025 @ 6:30 PM