

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** March 19, 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
Y	Judith Barron (Virtual)	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg (Virtual)	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
Y	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:

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

#### ITEM DESCRIPTION

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#### CALL TO ORDER

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes made this evening.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon stated that the Board received a thank you note from Dr. Katie Wagner.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 02** MOTION (DeLucia/Troidle) to approve the minutes from the following meetings:
- A. January 15, 2025 Full Regular BOE Meeting
  - B. January 22, 2025 Superintendent's Budget Meetings
  - C. January 24, 2025 Legislative Breakfast Meeting
  - D. January 27, 2025 Budget Workshop
  - E. February 5, 2025 Budget Workshop

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### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Continued)**

F. February 19, 2025 Full Special BOE Meeting

G. March 4, 2025 Special Naming of Facilities Recommendation Committee

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; the Arts Clubs and extracurricular, the BHS play (Matilda), Spring sports, the BHS drone competition, the Model Congress trip to Boston, the BHS trivia contest (Cooking for Cause), juniors taking SAT's tomorrow, the annual National Honor Society induction, parent teacher conferences will be held on March 27th (virtual website sign-up), BHS will be piloting a new CNA certification program next school year for juniors and seniors (a virtual information session will be held on March 31 at 6:00), the March 5th career awareness assembly, the UCONN tour field trip for Juniors (40 juniors participated), class of 2025 scholarship application (due April 21), BHS black student union's end of the month black history feast to celebrate the ending of black history month, the February 28th Woman's day event organized by students, on February 27 – 48, grade 8 WIS Orchestra and Band Instrumentalists joined the BHS orchestra and concert band for set-up day, the BHS annual community service fair (20 local and non-profits in attendance) and the seal of biliteracy testing taking place on April 1 and April 3.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Tranberg began his report this evening by saying that March was Board member appreciation month and by presenting the BOE members and BOE student representatives with a gift to thank them for their service to Branford Public Schools. Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; CABE Day on the Hill (he, Shawn Tiernan, BHS Teacher, Dave Trotta and the BOE student representatives attended, they met with Rob Comey, saw our Senator and spent a few minutes with her and spent time with students, there are a lot of good things are happening), the grade 2 swimming program is up and running, March is Music in Our Schools Month (congratulations to BHS cast and crew of Matilda), tomorrow's CAPSS Leading for Transformational Learning Conference (the keynote speaker is Jonathan Haidt author of *The Anxious Generation*), tomorrow night's Board of Finance Budget Presentation (the BOF vote will be March 31 and the RTM Education Committee Presentation will be on April 7), the next Master Facilities Community Conversation will be March 26 at 6:00 in the WIS Cafeteria, *The Anxious Generation* Book Club will meet for a second time on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 (Colleen Patterson from Educational Support Services will be the facilitator), Full day PreK registration is open and will close on April 11 (currently there are 53 general ed students registered, projected revenue is exceeding the \$200,000 estimation), Kindergarten registration is ongoing (to be eligible children must turn five years old before September 1, 2025) and the WIS construction project is now out of winter shutdown (progress continues daily and remains on schedule).

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### A. Teaching & Learning Committee

Ms. Michaels reported that the Committee reviewed the K-4 Winter Aimsweb data (ELA and Math) and received a K-4 literacy update.

#### B. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. DeLucia stated that the Committee did not have a quorum but did hear about their normal reporting and differed hearing about the Healthy Food Certification to the Full Board.

#### C. Policy Committee

Mr. Tiernan stated that the Committee reviewed two policies 5550 and 5650 and advanced them to tonight's meeting for the First Reading.

#### D. Communication Committee

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee received some communication updates and also, received an update from Dr. Tranberg on High Reliability Schools. Ms. Troidle also gave a reminder that the Master Facilities plan meeting is next Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at and The Anxious Generation Book Club is meeting on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 03 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Second Reading of Policies:**  
MOTION (Tiernan/Berdon) to approve the Second 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)

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 04 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to the Health Food Certification (HFC)**  
**MOTION (Michaels/DeLucia) 1. Healthy food option** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Branford 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, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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, and

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### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

2. Food and beverage exemption motion The Branford 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**06 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to create a Naming of Facilities Ad Hoc Committee**

MOTION (Troidle/Tiernan) to create a BOE Naming of Facilities Ad Hoc Committee.

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

**07 C. To consider and if appropriate, vote to request an interim funding request of \$600,000 for the BHS skylight replacement**

MOTION (Tiernan/DeLucia) to approve the request for \$600,000 interim funding for the BHS skylight replacement.

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### BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels was unable to attend this month's ACES meeting.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan discussed attending CABE Day on the Hill with BHS teacher, Mr. Trotta, and the BOE Student Representatives that included seeing Representative Comey and seeing Senator Cohen "in action" and spending a few minutes with her, and it was a good day for CABE with a lot of good things happening.

### PTA REPORTS

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

### ADJOURN

Before adjourning this evening's meeting, Mr. Berdon once again gave a reminder that there is a Facilities Master Plan Meeting on March 25th and an *Anxious Generation* Book Club meeting on March 27th.

- 08** MOTION (Troidle/Shrestha) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:11 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)	April 2, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting	April 9, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting	April 9, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Policy Committee	April 9, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Communication Committee	April 23, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Full BOE Meetings	April 23, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
BOE Committee Chairs <u>for May Agendas</u> (Virtual)	April 30, 2025 @ 5:00 PM