

Barbara Maresca
Chris Hynes
Josh Brooks
Ed Prete, Chair



Donna Laich
Adrian Bonenberger
Lindsay Greenberg

Education Committee Special Meeting

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday November 22, 2021

The Education Committee of the Branford Representative Town Meeting held a special meeting on **November 22, 2021 at 7 pm** at Fire HQ. A quorum was reached and the meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. In attendance from the Education Committee were representatives Maresca, Hynes, Brooks, Laich, Bonenberger, Greenberg and Prete. Also in attendance were Rep. Riccio, Rep. Everson, Rep. Ingraham, State Rep. Comey, Superintendent Hernandez, COO Neel, BOE Chair Berdon, Adam Greenberg and Greg Jerolman.

1. Public Comment

Mr. Jerolman spoke and expressed his concerns with the BAO contract specifically around declining enrollment and the number of administrators.

2. To hear details of the Branford Administrators Organization (BAO) contract

Superintendent Hernandez gave a detailed explanation of the Branford Administrators Organization contract. Highlights include:

- Contract runs from July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2025
- Settled in mediation, however, without a mediator
- BOF member was part of the negotiation team
- The contract calls for a 2.25% wage increase each year

- Settled under state average by approximately 1%
- A one time annuity contribution of \$500 for each bargaining unit member

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- Employee health premium cost share contribution increases each year by .5%, from 19% to 20.5%
- No new language added, however, there was some language clean-up; that is clarification
- Added Athletic Director and re-purposed Dean of Students to Admin. For Emotional / Social learning
- Removed Adult Education Administrator; from 18 Admins. To 16 with the plan to replace 1.
- Removed language for “give back” on days
- Total annual costs:
 - 2022-2023 \$2.4 million
 - 2023-2024 \$2.46 million
 - 2024-2025 approx. \$2.5 million

Quite a lively and informative discussion ensued. Many good questions and detailed answers from the Superintendent and COO.

Vote was unanimous (7 to 0) to approve and recommend to the full RTM at their next meeting.

3. Update on Federal Stimulus Dollars

a. Amount

b. Usage

Superintendent Hernandez and COO Don Neel presented a detailed report of the Federal Stimulus Dollars and the BOE usage to date. See table below.

FUND / USAGE

<i>Carona Relief</i>	<i>ESSER I</i>	<i>ESSER II</i>	<i>ESSER III</i>
Enhanced cleaning	Catholic Schools \$15k	Summer School \$666K	
Masks	Chromebooks (students, para professionals)	Address learning loss \$1.4 million	

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	Summer School	Family outreach \$419K	
	Desk Dividers	Build safe and healthy schools \$1.5 million	
	\$288k for the above three items	Social / emotional Well being \$61k	
\$77,000	\$303,000	\$1.5 millin	\$3.4 million

Note: ESSER II and ESSER III dollars used for same details

Respectfully submitted,
 Ed Prete, Chair
 November 23, 2021