

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024
7:00 P.M.
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
MINUTES

Chairman Dr. Wendy Youngblood called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Present: Dr. Wendy Youngblood, Rosa Fernandes, Stephanie Sikora, Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Sarah Devine, Robert Fischetto, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business & Operations Kasey Diotte, Director of Special Education Bill Roland, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, Director of Technology Eric Conklin and members of the public.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Owen & Kayleigh spoke about school safety

Casey Clarkson spoke about school safety

Jeremy Farrell spoke about safety

Deborah Cacace spoke about agenda meeting minutes

Erin Scalera spoke about amending the minutes from the January 3rd meeting

Andy Corea spoke about the finance committee agenda

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Jessica Hansen regarding the March 20th meeting

Trina Capone regarding policy review

Ruth Deaguila and Alyssa Koenig regarding their BHS ASL class

Michelle Cornelison and Lisa Koenig with a request for ASL 2

Juan Alcocer regarding public comment

Todd Petterson - policy review

The Board of Education received emails from the following people regarding the Board's discussion, and decision made, at the February 27th special meeting:

Andy Corea, Irene Corea, Susan Iverson, Courtney Matteson, Lisa Temple, Erin and David Sweet, Elizabeth and David Rey, Gabriella DePinto, Gillian Beswick, Heather Buckley, Julie Oakley, Zoe DiPinto, Jeremy Farrell, Deborah Cacace, Andrea DiStephan, Aaron Zimmer, Saeeda Quaisar, Alison DiPinto, Michelle French, Sara Coffey, and the Connecticut Youth Political Advocacy Council

The Board of Education received emails from the following people regarding the threat to our schools, BOE, members of our administration, Superintendent and community, and the communication email sent on Friday March 8th:

Holli Carl, Jean Hartnett, Jennifer Ackerly, Ellen O'Donnell, Barbara Moore, Naheed Quaisar, Mary Cappiello, Brian McGovern, Masarrat Quaisar, Sue Slater, Joher Quaisar, Michelle Sands, Kerri Colombo, Paige Jimenez, Denise Noto, Francisco Sinta, Giovanni Sinta, Sofia Sinta, Casey Clarkson, Jessica Hansen, David Franklin, Laura Orban, Amy Foster, Joanne Cafiero, Artie Pilson, Kathy VanDuzee, Joseph Sangeorge, Anne Gardner, Mike and Erin Lucia, Gillian Verrastro, Rubin Wind, Cawley DeStephan, Monica McInerny, Elizabeth Breitsch

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Regular Meeting- 3/6/2024

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Barile spoke about the last day of school and the recent swatting threats. He gave an update on CLES to include an update on the parking lot, Read Across America and current kindergarten enrollment numbers. Dr. Barile spoke about the BHS Musical, Mamma Mia. The BBDI Hockey are SWC Champions, the cheer team took 3rd place in New England Regionals, the Swim team competed in the CIAC State Championship meet last week and BHS student Troy Matheny Qualified for the State open! WMS Unified Sports are national champs (this is the second time being ranked nationally. The State of the District will be sent out within the next 2 weeks and the budget flyer within the next month.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities- 3/6/2024- Mr. Fischetto said the subcommittee discussed the AC project and capital projects. Old business included discussion on an overage for 2 capital projects and a custodial new hire. Miscellaneous discussion included WMS water quality and CLES.

Personnel & Negotiations- 3/12/2024- Dr. Youngblood said the committee went into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining. Dr. Youngblood asked that the minutes be amended to reflect the attendance of Dr. Anna Mahon.

Finance - 3/12/2024- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee reported they had one public comment regarding access to financial statements. They discussed check registers- over \$1,000 and February financials. New business included budget transfers and the proposed 2024-2025 budget. The subcommittee also discussed the food service and legal RFP's.

CAPE- 3/13/2024- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee had a review of the BHS midterms and received updates on K-3 reading resources, instructional coaching and PDEC.

CONSENT AGENDA

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RESOURCES REORGANIZATION

The Board's discussion regarding the draft shared services agreement with the Town of Brookfield regarding the Technology Department and the draft reorganization chart regarding Human Resources will be discussed in executive session.

PARENT SQUARE PRESENTATION

The Board heard a presentation on Parent Square from Director of Technology Eric Conklin.

SECURITY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Rosa Fernandes and Stephanie Sikora as the new Board representatives for the Security Task Force.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

HEALTHY FOOD OPTION CERTIFICATION

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Brookfield Public Schools 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

HEALTHY FOOD-FOOD & BEVERAGE EXEMPTION

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that the Brookfield Public Schools 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.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

POLICY #6162.51- SURVEY OF STUDENTS

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, to approve Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

After discussion, the Board voted 4-3 to approve Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, H. Hourani, voted aye.

J. Greenstein, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted no.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CAPITAL FUNDING

S. Sikora moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that the Board of Education request additional funding from the Town in the amount of \$913 for capital project HS201 (BHS Control System) and \$8,000 for capital project HS 205 (BHS Guidance Wing Roof).

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET

The Board continued its discussion on the Board of Education's 2024-2025 adopted budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristyn Ventresca spoke about the climate in the Town.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Parent Square
2. 2024-2025 Budget
3. Security

EXECUTIVE SESSION

W. Youngblood moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining, draft shared services agreement with the Town of Brookfield regarding the Technology Department and the draft reorganization chart regarding Human Resources, and the Boards self-evaluation at 8:44pm.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

Dr. Youngblood called the executive session to order 8:56pm

Present: Dr. Wendy Youngblood, Rosa Fernandes, Stephanie Sikora, Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Sarah Devine, and Robert Fischetto.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business & Operations Kasey Diotte were invited in at 8:57pm

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business & Operations Kasey Diotte left at 9:38pm

The Board came out of executive session at 9:39pm and voted on the following two motions:

S. Sikora moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to authorize the Superintendent and Board Chair to negotiate and execute a share services agreement regarding technology leadership with the town of Brookfield.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

S. Sikora moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to eliminate the HR Coordinator and Health Benefits Coordinator positions and create a new HR/Benefits Coordinator position effective April 1, 2024.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto and S. Devine voted aye.

The Board went back into executive session. Dr. Youngblood called the executive session to order 9:40pm

Present: Dr. Wendy Youngblood, Rosa Fernandes, Stephanie Sikora, Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Sarah Devine, and Robert Fischetto

Without objection, Dr. Youngblood adjourned executive session at 10:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Stephanie Sikora, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education