

**BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Brookfield Public Schools**  
**SPECIAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017**  
**BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Present:** Bob Belden, Paul Checco, Colette Sturm, Tara Lerner, Steve Harding and Eve Sturdevant

**Absent:** Harry Shaker

**Also Present:** Superintendent John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Maureen Ruby, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Mary Rose Dymond, CES Principal Dr. Krys Salon and members of the staff and public.

Mr. Belden opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and for writing to the Board. He gave a brief history on how the Board got here on this matter. Chairman Belden stated the Board is behind a strong World Language Program and assured the people in the audience that no action, if any, would be taken by the Board until everyone who would like to speak has been heard.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED ON THIS MATTER**

Mrs. Sturm listed the following people who wrote to the Board regarding the World Language Program:

Christina Zimmerman  
Laura Orban  
Heather Buckley  
Cynthia Capizzi  
Megan Henderson  
Marie Williams  
Olimpia Fata  
Jane Miller  
Michele Vaccaro  
Jeff Praissman  
Jennifer Garbus  
Denise Noto and Francisco Sinta  
Bradley and Eileen Koch  
Julia Mullan  
Christina Cumberton  
Leslie Ruggiero  
Irene Corea  
Lisa Carrozza  
Meredith O'Connor  
Laura and Michael Pizzirusso  
Christine Hand  
Mikki Durkin  
Katarzyna Heronimek  
Wendy Campbell  
Ellen and Shawn DeMar

Silke Bogart and Michael Dattner  
Jamie Falvo and Ben Thompson  
Ron Orban  
Amy Foster  
Jeanne Jaquith  
Andrea Urvina  
Kristine Kenefick  
Dani Gelfand  
Kathleen Court  
Clarixy Batista  
Shana Bergonzelli-Graham  
Maria Alessandro  
Meghan and Erik Hovdestad  
Melissa Yager  
Tim Jaquith  
Debra Nobes  
Lauren Teixeira  
Kerri Colombo  
Sean Hathorn  
Dana Colla  
Amy D'Alessandro  
Anna Sullivan  
Thomas and Eileen Titolo  
Melissa McFarland  
Victoria Lenner  
Stacy Faruol  
Engelbert Herrera  
Kim McCarthy  
Anna Prendi  
Marya Neary  
Heather Loftus  
Jessica Hathorn  
Jeffery Neary  
Marlene Coombs  
Shanaz Moudud  
Kevin Durkin  
Logan Sullender  
Jamie Klavans  
David and Margaret McQueen  
Dolly and David Pinto

Written Correspondence regarding the meeting format

Ray DiStephan  
Laura Orban  
Christina Zimmerman

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **STAFFING CONCERNS AT CENTER SCHOOL REGARDING WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER**

The Board discussed the CAPE recommendations regarding the current hiring process for 2016-17 and planning for 2017-18 World Language Program. Mr. Barile said that he will be putting the K-2 Spanish position back into his 2017-2018 proposed budget. He explained the challenges in finding a K-2 Spanish teacher. Dr. Ruby explained instructional time to the Board and public. Mrs. Lerner asked if we could “think outside the box” in finding a way to implement Spanish exposure to the K-2 students. The Board talked about lobbying with CAFE or Universities to get better and more qualified teachers to apply. Mr. Harding will look into certification laws.

### **PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM IN 5<sup>th</sup> AND 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

The Board discussed the current program structure and recommendation to increase/restore instructional time in Social Studies, rebalancing of instructional time and the impact on Grade 5 and 6 World Language and proposed vision for 7th and 8th grade World Language programs. Dr. Ruby gave a detailed explanation of restoring Social Studies in Grades 5 and 6 to full core subject status. BHS Department Head Liz Spencer presented the World Language Program overview. She explained the grades that language is implemented in DRG B. Mrs. Spencer and WMS Principal Deane Renda gave a detailed report on World Language/Social Studies K-8 instructional hours and provided the Board and public with three different models regarding scheduling options. The Board asked for a report at the next Board meeting on the top performing schools in the state in Grades 5-8 to see how they balance the instructional time and how many minutes of instructional time their students have.

### **PRESENTATION FOR PLAN ON RESTRUCTURING 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE MODEL AND SCHEDULE**

The Board discussed the plan for restructuring the 5<sup>th</sup> grade model and schedule. Director of Special Services Charlie Manos and WMS Principal Deane Renda spoke about the transition to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and its challenges. They provided the Board and public with a suggested model.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT WITH THE BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

The following people spoke about World Language, Social Studies Curriculum in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and restructuring 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Model and Schedule:

Mike Zacchea  
Denise Noto  
Jeffrey Neary  
Mikki Durkin  
Francisco Sinta  
Wendy Youngblood  
Anna Prendi  
Ray DiStephan  
Scott McCarthy  
Cheryl Abelson  
Renee Santiago  
Clarixy Batista  
Kim Donnelly  
Sue Slater  
Victor Katz  
Linda Frame  
Anna Prendi

**PUBLIC COMMENT WITH THE BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION- continued**

Jane Miller

Debbie Brooks

**DISCUSSION WITH THE BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION/MOTION**

The Board did not take any action or make any motions regarding these matters.

Mr. Checco thanked Superintendent Barile and Dr. Ruby for the work they have done regarding these matters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, Chairman Belden adjourned the Special Board of Education meeting at 10:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

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Colette Sturm, Secretary  
Brookfield Board of Education