

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
SPECIAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Bob Belden, Joy Greenstein Amy Foster, Rosa Fernandes, Dr. Mike Murphy, Debbie Brooks, Sharon Butow, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, and members of the staff & public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke about the book, “This Book Is Gay”:

Aaron Zimmer, Joann Petrini, Aga Stepniak, Kerri Columbo, Kathleen VanDuzee, Linda Davies, Kathleen Carter, Austin Monteiro and Howard Lasser.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF THE BOOK “THIS BOOK IS GAY” RECONSIDERATION/POSSIBLE MOTION

The Board received a report from BHS Principal Marc Balanda and recommendation of the BHS special subcommittee regarding the book, “This Book is Gay”.

After Board discussion, B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 5-2 that, Pursuant to Board policy 6563 Addendum, the Brookfield Board of Education recognizes the right of an individual parent/guardian to request his/her child’s library selection be limited. In addition, residents shall not have the right to determine library materials for students other than their own. Therefore, the Board moves to maintain access to the e-book “This Book is Gay” (available through the Connecticut State Library) in the Brookfield High School library catalog, as recommended by the BHS Special Review Committee. Furthermore, the Board directs the Superintendent to develop processes to support parental rights regarding their individual children’s library selections and report back to the Board with his findings, to be implemented in coming school year.

B. Belden, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks and S. Butow voted aye.

J. Greenstein and M. Murphy voted no.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection Chairman Bob Belden adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education