

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING- BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
7:00 P.M.
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, WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

The following people sent emails to the Board of Education:

Andy Corea regarding: * Legal Services, Special Ed Counsel, Federal Discrimination Verdict and more, Joint Meeting BOS/BOF/BOE Operations Plan & Budget Meeting, Personnel Negotiations, and *Public Act 22-118

Austin Monteiro regarding: Public Comment at special BOE meeting, and Stonewall speaker's assembly FOIA

Todd Krajniak regarding a news article

Christina Zimmerman regarding Morgan's Message basketball game

Debbie Brooks regarding the Brookfield library hosting Brendon Slocumb

The following people wrote in support of the email sent by Mr. Balanda on Friday February 2nd:

Shannon Riley, Ray DiStephan, Laura Orban, Ron Swinger, Christina Zimmerman, Jennifer Kraemer, Andrea Urvina, Kerri Colombo, Michelle Sands, and Leslie Ruggiero

The following people have sent emails in support of the book appeal asking that Fun Home be removed from the BHS library:

Andrea Lopez, Agnes Dickinson, Rita Tuohy, Sarah Amaral, Patricia Bossio, Kevin Placella, Amelia Malanaphy, Joyce Boucino, Toni Sangallo, Riham Nassar, Jacklyn Fischetto, Jamie Placella, Sarah Coffey, Elena Lopez, Mary Einzig, Krisyn Ventresca, Laurie Parisi, Michael Parisi, Nicole Rogers, Robert Guarino

The following people have sent emails against the book appeal and have asked that Fun Home remain in the BHS library:

Laura Orban, Tara Peterson, Christina Zimmerman, Joanne Cafiero, Elizabeth Rey, Mike Lucia, Aaron Zimmer, Stacy Gall, Ellen O'Donnell, Eric and Tony, Joseph Sangeorge, Jean Harnett, John Pitt, Elizabeth Cornacchio, Phoebe Holmes, Brian McGovern, Jeanne Fernandes, Sarah- Jo Banks, Jillian Dyer, Monica McInerny, Debbie Brooks, Maria Siegel, Jessica Hathorn, Shannon Riley, Kerri Colombo

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting 1/17/2024

Joint Meeting-BOE, BOF, BOS-2/6/2024

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent congratulated the BHS Dance Team as they are SWC champs. He gave updates on the CSDE mandate to have a plan for diversity recruiting, Parent Square, SPEACS, the district wide PTO meeting held on 2/7/2024, as well as the joint meeting with the Boards of Education, Selectmen and finance on 2/6/2024. The Youth Commission Career Fair at Brookfield High School is scheduled for March 26, 2024. The RFP for legal services has been posted. Dr. Barile sent potential Board retreat dates to the Board. He gave a school security update and a brief update on the CCSU Leadership Program. The Superintendent spoke about the corporate membership given to employees from the YMCA. The last day of school is currently June 18th and the religious holidays for the 2024-2025 district calendar are on the website. Dr. Mahon gave a brief update on attendance materials, CSDE program.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy/Communications- 1/17/2024- Mrs. Hourani said Dr. Barile gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the committee as well as an overview of how the committee functions. The subcommittee discussed Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students. Dr. Barile gave an update on communications.

Facilities- 2/7/2024- Mr. Fischetto said he was elected to be the Chairman of the Facilities subcommittee. They discussed capital projects which included the guidance roof at BHS and the electrical service upgrade at WMS, as well as the BHS A/C project proposal and the condition of the WMS girl's locker room.

CAPE- 2/14/2024- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee received an update on the 2024-2025 Brookfield High School Program of Studies, including a discussion on a new course, creative writing. American Sign Language will not be offered next year. The subcommittee was given the history of Capstone and updates on PDEC as well as an update on what the instructional team is working on. They asked for a comeback on the data with regards to midterm exams.

Personnel & Negotiations- 2/15/2024- Dr. Youngblood reported that the committee met in executive session.

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

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

The Board received an update from Paul Checco, Chairman of the Municipal Building Committee, regarding Candlewood Lake Elementary School.

MID-YEAR UPDATE- SPECIAL EDUCATION CREC REPORTS

The Board received a mid-year update and power point presentation regarding the CREC reports from the Director of Special Education Bill Roland.

APPROVAL OF BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

W. Youngblood moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and after discussion, the Board voted 7-0 to establish College Algebra as a course offering in the Math Department, and Creative Writing II in the Humanities Department at Brookfield High School, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAM OF STUDIES

W. Youngblood moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and after discussion, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the proposed revisions to the Program of Studies, including any course updates, as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

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

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S ADOPTED BUDGET 2024-2025

The Board had brief discussion and an update from Mrs. Fernandes on the Board of Education's 2024-2025 adopted budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Corea spoke about integrity and competency for administrators and the Board.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. CLES/MBC
2. CREC Mid-Year Report
3. BHS Course Changes and Revisions

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Sikora listed upcoming events

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

W. Youngblood moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining at 9:19pm.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

Chairman Youngblood called the meeting to order at 9:25pm

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

Dr. John Barile, Dr. Anna Mahon and Mrs. Kasey Diotte were invited in at 9:26pm

Dr. John Barile, Dr. Anna Mahon and Mrs. Kasey Diotte exited executive session at 9:54pm

Dr. Wendy Youngblood, Rosa Fernandes, Stephanie Sikora, Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Robert Fischetto and Sarah Devine exited executive session at 9:55pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, Chairman Youngblood adjourned the meeting at 9:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Stephanie Sikora, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education