

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
(ZOOM) REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

(Present via Zoom): Rosa Fernandes, Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Jen Laden, Michel Murphy, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maureen Ruby, Director of Business & Operations Ken Post, Director of Special Services Gina Wygonik, Director of Instruction Deb Farias, Director of Technology Eric Conklin, Director of Human Resources Terri Kavanagh, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Melissa Labrosciano, CES Principal Mary Rose Dymond, and members of the faculty, staff and administration.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Chairman Rosa Fernandes, on behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education, read a proclamation designating the week of May 3rd to May 7th 2021 as “Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week”. BEA Union President Dennis Petrino was present on behalf of the union.

Chairman Rosa Fernandes, on behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education, read a proclamation designating May 6th as “School Nurses Day”. Brookfield Nurses Union President Beth O’Connor was present on behalf of the union.

The Board and Superintendent recognized the students who participated in the 14th Annual HRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority) annual poster contest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Jenna Schettino wrote praising her children’s teachers and the district’s work in SEL.

Cathy Lasser wrote regarding an asbestos issue.

Amy Blatt wrote regarding the displaced ball fields at Huckleberry Hill.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting- 4/7/2021

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, J. Greenstein, D. Brooks, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Superintendent Barile gave an update on COVID. Vaccines were available to BHS students on May 1st. It is possible that the vaccines will be made available to children at 12-15 years old. Brookfield will partner with New Milford’s Health Department to coordinate a clinic when that comes available.

Dr. Barile spoke about positivity rates are trending down and wearing masks indoor and outdoor. The Superintendent gave an update on the Special Education Department's Parent Engagement Webinars which included Assessment, Training, and Programming for Students with Special Needs: Participating in the Transition Process and Working in Collaboration with SEPTO- Family Health Night-Talk to a Therapist. Teacher and Staff members of the Year selections are currently ongoing. Dr. Barile also gave an update on the ESSER III Grant as well as Executive #11 regarding extending temporary changes to open meeting procedures.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities- 4/7/2021- Mrs. Greenstein gave an update on WMS water regarding hooking up Aquarion's water line, custodial staff update, capital projects and an update on the WMS wall. New business included the ESSER III grant, security grant funds, BHS cafeteria kitchen exhaust hood installation and the HHES parking lot/play area.

Equity & Inclusion- 4/8/2021- Mrs. Foster said the subcommittee reviewed their finalized charter as well as the BOE vision, committee objectives, priorities and goals. They discussed the 5 committee objectives and a summary/timeline and next steps.

Finance - 4/19/2021- Mr. Belden said the subcommittee discussed the March financial reports and the 2021-2022 operating budget. New business discussion included ESSER grants and the WMS wall project.

Special Facilities- 4/28/2021- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee discussed the BHS Locker Room project.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, J. Greenstein, D. Brooks, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LOCKER ROOM PROJECT BID APPROVAL

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded to approve the Brookfield High School Boys Locker Room Project base bid and bid alternates as recommended by the Facilities subcommittee.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the recommended motion and that the Board approve going out to bid for the BHS Boys Locker Room project, including base bid and bid alternates as recommended by the Facilities subcommittee.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, J. Greenstein, D. Brooks, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

The amended motion was approved unanimously.

REMOTE LEARNING

A Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that the Board move that consistent with the Interim Guidance for Remote Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year as issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education, effective with the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year, the Brookfield Board of Education (“Board”) shall discontinue offering remote learning opportunities for students associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The District shall no longer provide students with voluntary access to remote learning at the unilateral request of students/families. The Board authorizes its Superintendent of Schools to take such actions necessary to implement this change. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent to take any emergent steps necessary relating to remote student programming associated with the COVID-19 pandemic or other emergencies as may be needed, subject to the Board's subsequent approval.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, J. Greenstein, D. Brooks, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION’S BUDGET ESTIMATE 2021-2022

The Board continued its discussion on the Board of Education’s 2021-2022 adopted budget estimate.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board received an update on the new school building project.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Budget Referendum
2. Ending Remote Learning
3. BHS Locker Room Project

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining and unaffiliated salaries at 8:10 pm.

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the meeting to order at 8:13 pm.

Present: Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Jen Laden and Mike Murphy.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile was invited in at 8:13 pm.

The Board entered into executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining and unaffiliated salaries.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile exited at 8:35 pm.

Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Jen Laden and Mike Murphy exited out of executive session at 9:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chairman Rosa Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education