

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Also Present: 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, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Melissa Labrosciano, CES Principal Mary Rose Dymond, and members of the 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 4th to May 8, 2020 as “Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week”. Elisa Larsen was present on behalf of the Brookfield Education Association.

Chairman Rosa Fernandes, on behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education read a proclamation designating May 6th as “School Nurses Day”. Anna LaForgia was present on behalf of the Brookfield Nurses.

The Board and Superintendent recognized the students who participated in the 13th Annual HRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority) annual poster contest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Dana Colla wrote regarding Spring Break.

Ron Jaffe shared multiple timely and informative articles.

Joseph Vesey wrote regarding distance learning

Glenn Rooney wrote regarding information on substitutes and a teacher survey.

Elijah Huling wrote regarding compensation for coaches of spring sports.

Arthur Pilson wrote regarding investing in our schools.

Monique Matthews wrote regarding reimbursement for the Washington DC trip.

Linda Kaalman wrote regarding the grading changes at BHS.

Ed Butt wrote regarding spring coaches stipends.

Victor Lopes, Rich Saluga, Laura Orban, Gillian Verrastro, Leslie Ruggiero, Lisa Temple, Mary Cappiello, Irene Corea, Wendy Campbell, Kerri Colombo, Jamie Klavans, Jessica Juska, Robin Meehan, Shannon Riley, Lisa Carrozza, Bunny Tessier, Kelly Lofaso, Ron Jaffe, Scott McCarthy, Meredith O'Connor, Tricia Freeman, Danielle Lingo wrote regarding the budget.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting- 4/1/2020

Special BOE Meeting 4/29/2020

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Barile thanked everyone for their support during the COVID19 pandemic. The Teacher and Staff member of the year process is ongoing. BHS was ranked nationally for the second year in a row from US News and World Report from 38 to 31. WMS was ranked the number one middle school Unified Sports program in the State. Mr. Balanda and the BHS team are planning for graduation. He gave an update on Distance Learning with school being closed for in person learning for the remainder of the 19-20 school year and Strategic Planning with regards to reopening. Dr. Barile spoke about the importance of recognizing the need to celebrate end of year transitions for students, registration and technology. The Superintendent shared that 87% of Special Education parents have agreed to electronic transmission of student records. Training and webinar work is ongoing for all staff. Dr. Ruby thanked everyone doing curriculum work.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Healthy School Start Time- 4/7/2020- Mrs. Laden said Dr. Barile looked into busing tiers and options and associated costs. The committee will look at more options at its next meeting. The committee is looking into the best ways to communicating its findings.

Special Finance Subcommittee- 4/15/2020- Mr. Belden reported on the financial impacts this year with the closure of school and discussed what next year will look like. They continue to work with the Board of Finance.

Regular Finance Subcommittee- 4/20/2020- Mr. Belden said the committee discussed financial reports, special education costs and the school lunch fund.

CAPE- 4/21/2020- Mrs. Laden said the committee discussed a proposal from BHS Principal Marc Balanda regarding an individualized learning block and Grading.

Personnel & Negotiations- 4/29/2020-The committee entered into executive session to discuss unaffiliated salaries, strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining and the Superintendent’s evaluation.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED 2020-2021 BHS SCHEDULE CHANGES

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and after discussion, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the changes to the proposed 2020-2021 BHS schedule as recommended by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maureen Ruby, BHS Principal Marc Balanda and the CAPE subcommittee.

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

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION’S BUDGET ESTIMATE 2020-2021

The Board continued its discussion on the Board of Education’s 2020-2021 adopted budget estimate.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

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

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Recycling Poster Contest
2. Teacher Appreciation/Nurses Day
3. Budget

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

moved, seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's goals, unaffiliated salaries and security procedures at 10:38pm.

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

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the meeting to order at 10:40 pm.

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

Superintendent Dr. John Barile and Director of Business & Operations Ken Post were invited in at 10:42 pm.

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's goals, unaffiliated salaries and security procedures. Director of Business & Operations Ken Post exited at 10:48pm.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Rosa Fernandes, Bob Belden, Jen Laden, Joy Greenstein, Debbie Brooks, Mike Murphy and Amy Foster exited out of executive session at 11:21 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, Chairman Rosa Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 11:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education