

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
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, Sharon Butow, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Ken Post, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski and members of the staff & public.

ABSENT

Debbie Brooks

B. Belden moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to remove, from executive session, the Superintendent's evaluation and contract discussion and move the old business item of Illustrative Math to new business, after the CREC review.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

The Board recognized the following Teachers of the Year and presented them with a gift:

Center Elementary School- Renee Richardson
Huckleberry Hill School- Meredith McGlynn
Whisconier Middle School- Jessica Recce
Brookfield High School- Laurie Lazorchak

The Superintendent announced that Laurie Lazorchak from Brookfield High School has been selected as the District Teacher of the Year.

The Board recognized the following Staff Members of the Year and presented them with a gift:

BHS, Jen Gioglio, WMS, Diane Cerasoli, HHES, Kristen Sheehan, CES, Natalie Martin and TSO, Ken Post

The Board recognized the following Top 10 graduating seniors from Brookfield High School, Class of 2023 for their academic achievements:

Adeethya Shankar (*Brown University*), Rachel Tang (*Duke University*), Matthew Esneault (*University of Southern CA*), Ethan Mettler (*University of Connecticut*), Omkar Maralappanavar (*University of Connecticut*), Ayeisha Gener (*Northeastern University*), Elisa Eddy (*Syracuse University*), Katerina Anikeev (*University of Connecticut*), Nathan Schmitt (*Vassar College*), Kyle Dattner (*Cornell University*)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Board and Superintendent thanked Kaitlyn Zezza for her service to the Board of Education as the student representative and presented her with a gift.

BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION UPDATE

The Board received an update from BHS Principal Marc Balanda regarding the format of the Class of 2023 graduation ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Rice spoke about the CREC Report

Andy Corea spoke about the CREC Report and executive session

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Andy Corea wrote regarding an FOI regarding a vehicle purchase, executive session, the CREC Report and the Superintendent's contract

Marc Casey wrote regarding softball at the middle school

Amanda Marshall wrote a thank you to the Board for the opportunity to sit on an interview committee

Dennis Petrino wrote thanking the Board, the community, Dr. Barile and Dr. Mahon on behalf of the teachers of Brookfield

Shari Stryanovski wrote regarding concerns at BHS and the budget

Erin Scalera wrote regarding an FOI for protective gear and a legal matter

Irene Corea wrote regarding meeting minutes

Monique Matthews and Aga Stepniak wrote regarding a legal matter

Nick Schmidt wrote regarding an FOI and library books

The Brookfield Children's Advocacy Council wrote requesting a policy change for a removal of library books

Lisa Schang wrote regarding her story

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Special Meeting- 5/3/2023

Regular Meeting- 5/3/2023

Special Meeting- 5/22/2023

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

K-3 reading update- Dr. Barile reported that the CSDE has granted a one-year extension. Mr. Balanda gave a book reconsideration update. The Superintendent gave a Kindergarten enrollment update. The administration will be putting a proposal together for the Board to consider a trip for BHS students to travel to France in 2024. Dr. Barile stated that around 100 people attended the Memory Walk on June 1st. The first round of Special Education Director interviews will begin on June 8th.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities- 5/3/2023- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee discussed the School Dude reports and received updates on the BHS guidance wing roof and maintenance vehicle and capital projects. The subcommittee discussed the building condition study and received additional updates on the BHS media Center A/C and custodial staffing. New business included discussion on the water notice for WMS regarding elevated levels of Chlorides and miscellaneous discussion included the maintenance vehicle, the swings at CES and notifying Park and Rec about the fence around the front field at WMS.

Finance- 5/8/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the check registers and the April financial reports.

CAPE- 5/10/2023- Dr. Murphy said the subcommittee discussed the proposal for the new K-3 universal screener for reading and math. Dr. Mahon provided a brief update on the plan for teacher and administrative evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year. The subcommittee received updates on screener and diagnostic testing adjustments, middle school adjustments based on “right sizing”, vision for PD for 2023-2024 and expectations for DESSA information. The subcommittee received a follow up presentation and had discussion on illustrative math.

Policy/Communications- 5/17/2023- Mrs. Foster said the subcommittee discussed the Grading policy, Challenging Curriculum policy, Advanced Courses and Graduation with BHS Principal Marc Balanda and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon. These policies are before the Board for a final reading later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

CREC REPORT

The Board received a report from Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) regarding the Special Education Review, presented by Dana Corriveau, Ph.D.

APPROVAL OF CURRICULAR TOOL- “ILLUSTRATIVE MATH”

A. Foster moved R. Fernandes seconded, and after a presentation by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and Math Instructional Coaches Andrew Hill, Mark Jewett, Jim Fitzpatrick and Tiffany Johnson, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the recommended curricular tool titled, “Illustrative Math” as the new K-8 curricular tool for math instruction being phased in beginning in the 2023- 2024 school year as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee and Dr. Anna Mahon, and as discussed at the May 3, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

UNIVERSAL READING ASSESSMENT

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and after a brief presentation by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, the Board voted 6-0 to approve mClass Dibels to become the universal screening assessment for K-3 reading and math for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

APPROVAL OF IDEA GRANT APPLICATION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the annual submission of the district IDEA Grant as required by State law.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

FLEXIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CT GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATOR EVALUATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation for the 2023-2024 School Year as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the attached list of field trips for the 2023-2024 school year as requested by BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS FOR SPORTS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the attached list of sports field trips for the 2023-2024 school year as requested by Athletic Director Steve Baldwin.

POLICY 6146.1- GRADING/ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS/WEIGHTED GRADES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to delete Brookfield’s version of Policy #6146.1, Grading, Assessment Systems, Weighted Grades and adopt CAFE’s version, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

POLICY #6141.52, CHALLENGING CURRICULUM, (CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE GRADE 8, 9 STUDENTS)

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve new required Policy #6141.52, Challenging Curriculum, (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students), for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

POLICY #6141.51, ADVANCED COURSES OR PROGRAMS, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve new required Policy #6141.51, Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

POLICY #6146, GRADUATION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the deletion of Brookfield’s Policy and Regulation #6146, Graduation, and adopt CAFE’s version of Policy #6146, Graduation, for a final reading, as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

POLICY/REGULATION #1120, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve the revisions to Policy and Regulation #1120, Public Participation, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to add the language, “per speaker”, to the policy after the language, “after a period of three minutes”.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

The Board voted unanimously to approve Policy #1120, Public Participation, as amended.

BYLAW #9325, MEETING CONDUCT

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the deletion of Brookfield’s Bylaw #9325, Meeting Conduct, and adopt CABE’s version of Bylaw #9325, Meeting Conduct, for a final reading, as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on May 3, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION’S BUDGET ESTIMATE 2023-2024

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the reduction adjustments to the 2023-2024 budget, in the amount of \$126,275 as recommended by the Finance subcommittee, and that the Board adopt its budget in the amount of \$50,384,287, a 3.53% increase over the current budget, as voted on at the May 30, 2023 Town budget referendum.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board received an update on the Candlewood Lake Elementary school building project and a power point of recent pictures presented by Rosa Fernandes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING LOCATION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to authorize the Superintendent to move the location of the regular Board of Education meetings to Candlewood Lake Elementary School, starting with July, 2023 depending upon facility availability.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Corea spoke about the CREC report

Austin Monteiro spoke about book reconsideration and the book banning crisis

3 MAIN POINTS

1. CREC
2. Student and Staff Recognition
3. Budget

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of finalizing the Superintendent’s evaluation and contract, Assistant Superintendent’s contract, Director of Business Operations contract, unaffiliated salaries and strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining at 11:03pm.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 11:07 pm.

Present: Bob Belden, Sharon Butow, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein and Mike Murphy
Absent: Debbie Brooks

Superintendent Dr. John Barile was invited in at 11:07 pm.

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of finalizing the Assistant Superintendent’s contract, the Director of Business and Operations contract, unaffiliated salaries and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile exited executive session at 11:24 pm.

Bob Belden, Sharon Butow, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein and Mike Murphy exited executive session at 11:32 pm.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to authorize Chairman Belden to execute MOAs regarding the Dean of Students position at WMS, the custodial reallocation for CLES and the administration for CLES.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to increase all unaffiliated salaries by 3% for the 2023-2024 academic year.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to increase the Director of Technology’s salary by 4% for the 2023-2024 academic year.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to increase the Director of Business and Operations salary by 3% and extend his contract by 3 months to September 30, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to extend the Assistant Superintendent’s contract by one year through June 30, 2026, to increase her salary by 3%, and other terms and conditions as discussed in executive session.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded and the Board voted 6-0 to authorize Chairman Belden to execute any contract consistent with these motions.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, and S. Butow voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection Chairman Bob Belden adjourned the meeting at 11:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education