

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

PRESENT:

Bob Belden, Joy Greenstein, Amy Foster, Rosa Fernandes Debbie Brooks, Jen Laden, Mike 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, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Melissa Labrosciano, CES Principal Mary Rose Dymond and members of the staff and public.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Tatiana Preston wrote regarding a Brookfield Craft Center class.

Deborah Cacace and Joyce Boucino wrote regarding Covid tests and quarantine.

Marni McNiff wrote regarding a climate counseling meeting.

Elena Lopez wrote regarding an HHES library book.

Nick Schmidt wrote with questions for Chairman Belden.

Joyce Boucino wrote regarding in person learning.

Vin Racjula wrote regarding books.

Donna Jordan wrote regarding adjustments for Covid.

Maria Alessandro wrote regarding test kits and masks.

Christina Zimmerman wrote regarding current Covid quarantine guidelines.

Debra Ann wrote regarding the 12/15 minutes.

Irene Corea wrote regarding the 12/1 minutes.

Andy Corea wrote regarding Board and Administration competency and integrity concerns and concerns with the 12/21 Board retreat.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Regular Meeting- 12/15/2021

After discussion, B. Belden moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the minutes to add the text “while under review” to the title of that section of the minutes, and to add the word “temporary” before removal in the text of that section.

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

The Superintendent thanked Mrs. Labrosciano for her services to the district as the HHES Principal and wished her luck. He gave an update on the HHES Principal position, the winterization of the WMS wall as well as the bid for the transportation contract. Dr. Barile gave the Board an update on Covid. He congratulated Eric Conklin on being named the News Times Unsung Hero. Dr. Barile spoke about attending PTO meetings to discuss the new school and budget.

Mr. Belden talked about the public budget hearing that was on the budget calendar, scheduled for 1/5/2022.

After discussion, the Board decided to schedule the hearing for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30pm

Dr. Barile explained the decision making process regarding the 2 hour delay/closing of school on 1/5/2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance- 12/13/2021- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the financial reports. They reviewed a new document titled “Emerging Issues”, which will highlight significant items that may impact the budget in either direction. They discussed the winterization of the WMS wall, bus RFP and continued discussion on the 2022-2023 budget. The subcommittee talked about the ARP ESSER Grant. Mrs. Greenstein said the WMS wall is almost complete. Mrs. Fernandes said the special finance subcommittee was canceled on 12/20/21 due to a lack of quorum.

Policy/Communications- 12/15/2021- Mrs. Brooks said the subcommittee discussed a request from a local Girl Scout Troop looking to have use of buildings fees waived. They discussed the CAFE Policy audit and will start working on missing mandated policies. The subcommittee discussed Policy #6563 which will be discussed later in this meeting.

Special Finance- 12/20/2021- Meeting canceled.

Board Retreat- 12/21/2021- B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes for the Board retreat on 12/21/21 as recommended.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF POLICY #6563- SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

A Foster moved, D. Brooks seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Policy #6563, School Library Media, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPE AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to continue its discussion and approve the CAPE and Finance subcommittee meeting dates as discussed and tabled at the 12/15/2021 BOE meeting.

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE

A Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and after discussion the Board voted 7-0 to approve the membership (B. Belden, D. Brooks and J. Greenstein will be the members, M. Murphy will be the alternate) of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee as discussed at the 12/15/2021 Board of Education meeting.

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

REVIEW OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET

The Board continued its review and discuss the 2022-2023 proposed budget as presented by Superintendent Dr. John W. Barile. Director of Technology Eric Conklin gave a presentation on the Technology budget.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board received an update on the Candlewood Lake Elementary School building project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Lopez spoke about the HHES library book.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Covid Update
2. Library Media Policy
3. Budget-Technology Presentation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chairman Belden adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education