

**BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Brookfield Public Schools**  
**BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**  
**REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Dr. Wendy Youngblood called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**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, Director of Instruction Deb Farias, Director of Technology Eric Conklin, BHS Principal Marc Balanda WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, and members of the staff and public.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT- CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Pearson from Candlewood Lake Elementary School gave a presentation on the Buddy program and brought two of her students.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andy Corea spoke about legal services

Erin Scalera spoke about the IEP Compliance position

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- AVA CANTONE**

Mrs. Devine read a list of happenings at BHS, provided by Ava Cantone who was absent.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

Colette Sturm wrote about Brookfield Cares

Andy Corea wrote three emails regarding legal services

Denise Rice wrote about legal services

Bob Belden wrote about legal services

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

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

Public Budget Roundtable- 1/3/2024

Regular Meeting- 1/3/2024

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Barile gave updates on the Human Resources Supervisor position, Kindergarten registration, Parent Square and the RFP for legal services. Mr. Roland gave an update on Special Education to include ESY, the Strategic Plan, professional learning and SEPTO. The Superintendent continued his report with additional updates on the BHS Athletic Program review, the religious holiday addendum to the 2024-2025 calendar as well as Board of Education initiatives which include another Board retreat, upcoming negotiations and the joint meeting with the Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 in the BHS Media Center at 6:30pm.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Special Finance- 1/2/2024 & Finance- 1/8/2024-** Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the budget questions document and the December financials. The subcommittee discussed the proposed 2024-2025 budget and voted unanimously to recommend the Superintendent’s proposed budget to the full Board for approval.

**CAPE- 1/10/2024-** Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee received a presentation from Andrew Hill on a new college algebra course at BHS. They also discussed the 2022 K-3 Reading CT Legislation and the Teaching & Learning presentation.

## **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**

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE**

The Board received an update on teaching and learning as presented by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and Director of Instruction Deb Farias.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S 2024-2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION-POSSIBLE MOTION**

The Board continued its discussion on the Superintendent’s 2024-2025 budget and approve submission of such to the First Selectman by January 31, 2024, as recommended by the Finance subcommittee.

After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, S. Sikora seconded, and the Board voted 5-2 to adopt a budget in the amount of \$53,624,635 to be submitted to the First Selectman by January 31, 2024.

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, H. Hourani, and R. Fischetto voted aye.  
J. Greenstein and Sarah Devine voted no.

S. Devine moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to add the discussion of legal services to the agenda.

S. Devine moved, J. Greenstein seconded to terminate the employment of our current legal services, hire interim legal services while we look for replacements.

After discussion, the Board voted 1-5-1 to terminate the employment of our current legal services, hire interim legal services while looking for replacements.

S. Devine voted aye

W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, H. Hourani, R. Fischetto voted no

J. Greenstein abstained

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andy Corea spoke about the CREC report.

## **3 MAIN POINTS**

1. Student Spotlight- CLES Buddy program
2. Adoption of the Board of Education budget
3. Teaching & Learning presentation

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Board listed upcoming events

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED**

S. Sikora moved, S. Devine seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent’s mid-year goal update at 10:02 pm.

Chairman Youngblood called the meeting to order at 10:09pm

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

Dr. John Barile was invited in at 10:10pm

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Wendy Youngblood, Rosa Fernandes, Stephanie Sikora, Joy Greenstein, Hala Hourani, Robert Fischetto and Sarah Devine exited executive session at 10:26pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objection, Chairman Youngblood adjourned the meeting at 10:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

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Stephanie Sikora, Secretary  
Brookfield Board of Education