

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

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

PRESENT:

Bob Belden, Joy Greenstein Amy Foster, Rosa Fernandes, Debbie Brooks, Dr. Mike Murphy, Sharon Butow Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business & Operations Ken Post, Director of Special Education Amy DeNicola-Hickman, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, CES Principal Deb Farias, and members of the staff & public.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT- CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Deb Farias and Julie Vaughn from Center School shared a power point presentation regarding their spotlight on First Grade Opinion Writers: Advocating for Change.

YOUTH COMMISSION UPDATE ON THE BHS CAREER FAIR

Current and former students Katerina Anikeev, Vanessa Greenstein and Ben Bogues gave a power point presentation to the Board on the BHS Career Fair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Irene Corea spoke about the Program of Studies
Andy Corea spoke about the SPED/ARP Fund

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- KAITLYN ZEZZA

Kaitlyn Zezza gave an update on the happenings at BHS

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Monique Matthews wrote regarding a special education administrator incident at CES.
Marni McNiff wrote regarding academic support and a meeting request.
Melissa Yager wrote regarding an ABA para at WMS and the ESY program.
Claire Abate wrote regarding RFP language and Dattco meeting.
Andy Corea wrote regarding the Superintendent's Zeal Education Group Work & Affiliation and the credibility of the Chair's response.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Public Budget Hearing- 1/4/2023
Regular Meeting- 1/4/2023
Expulsion Hearing- 1/12/2023

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Barile gave an update on the Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for 1/23/2023 as well as the implementation of the Sandy Hook Promise Anonymous Reporting System with training on February 7th, and a roll out by mid-March. The Superintendent said the MBC voted to approve the development of the CLES All Hazards Safety and Security Plan. Free lunch will no longer be offered for all students as of 2/1/2023. Dr. Barile gave a brief overview of the social emotional baseline assessment (DESSA). The CIAC will be working with Mr. Balanda and Mr. Baldwin to perform a third party program review of the BHS Athletic Program. Two BCBA’s that were approved by the Board will be starting in February. Mr. Belden asked about a push in Hartford to secure funding to continue the free lunch program. Mr. Post has not heard anything from the State but will reach out to State Senator Steve Harding regarding the program.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Special Finance- 1/3/2023 & Finance- 1/9/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the BCBA’s and discontinuing the use of EdAdvance for these services for this current year. They continued discussion on the 2023-2024 operating budget and reviewed the December financials. Mr. Belden commented on the positive collaboration between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

Facilities- 1/4/2023- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee received an update on the School Dude reports and capital projects. Mr. Caldwell gave the subcommittee a follow up report on water testing and references are still being checked for the building condition study. Miscellaneous discussion included the sprinkler pipe that burst in the BHS main office on Christmas day.

CAPE- 1/11/2023- Dr. Murphy said the subcommittee received a presentation from Marc Balanda regarding the revisions to the Program of Studies. Dr. Mahon gave the subcommittee an update on the K-3 reading assessment and program requirements.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes 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

ARP IDEA GRANT UPDATE/POSSIBLE MOTION

The Board received a recommendation regarding the utilization of funds from the ARP IDEA Grant to conduct a comprehensive PreK-12 Special Education Program Review as recommended by Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

Mrs. Butow will be on the selection committee for the PreK-12 Special Education Program Review.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the utilization of funds from the ARP IDEA Grant to conduct a comprehensive PreK-12 Special Education Program Review as recommended by Superintendent Dr. John Barile, up to \$100,000. If it is to exceed that, they should come back to the Board.

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

SETTING OF THE CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION DATE

After a brief overview from BHS Principal Marc Balanda, A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to set the graduation date for the Brookfield High School Class of 2023 to be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 as recommended by BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion to include the date of Saturday, June 17, 2023 in the text of the motion.

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

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the original motion as amended.

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAM OF STUDIES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve the proposed revisions to the Program of Studies, as presented by BHS Marc Balanda, and as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that, recognizing that the Boards policies are out of date, the Board waives Policy #6146, Graduation, and Policy #6146.1, Grading, for the purpose of updating the Program of Studies, and directs the Policy/Communications subcommittee to move on getting them updated.

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

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the revisions to the Program of Studies.

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

OLD BUSINESS

SUPERINTENDENT’S 2023-2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION-POSSIBLE MOTION

The Board continued its discussion on the Superintendent’s 2023-2024 budget and approve submission of such to the First Selectman by January 31, 2023.

After discussion and overview by Director of Business Operations Ken Post, and a presentation on the proposed Dean of Students position from WMS Principal Deane Renda, B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve the budget as presented, in the amount of \$50,802,562 to be carried forward to the Town as the Board of Education’s budget.

J. Greenstein moved, S. Butow seconded to adjust the budget with the deletion of the Dean of Students role to the budget. The vote was 2-4-1 to reduce the budget proposal as a proposed amendment by \$90,000.

J. Greenstein and S. Butow voted aye.

B. Belden, A. Foster, R. Fernandes and D. Brooks voted no.

M. Murphy abstained.

The Board voted 6-1 to approve the budget as presented in the amount of \$50,802,562 as the Board’s approved budget.

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

J. Greenstein voted no.

Mr. Belden gave an overview regarding the next steps of the budget process.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

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

Dr. Pepsoski announced that the CLES mascot would be named the CLES Cubs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Corea spoke about the sign-up sheet for public comment, the January 11th Board of Finance Committee meeting and Board conduct.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Special Education Program Review
2. Budget and presentations
3. CLES Update

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 to discuss the Superintendent’s mid-year goals at 9:44pm.

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

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 9:51 pm.

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

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and Director of Pupil Services Mrs. Amy DeNicola-Hickman were invited in at 9:52 pm.

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s mid-year goals.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and Director of Pupil Services Mrs. Amy DeNicola-Hickman exited executive session at 10:41 pm.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Sharon Butow, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein and Mike Murphy exited executive session at 10:55 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection Chairman Bob Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:55

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education