

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Debbie Brooks, and Dr. Mike Murphy, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Ken Post, Director of Business Operations Kasey Diotte, Director of Special Education Bill Roland, Director of Technology Eric Conklin, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, and members of the staff & public.

Rosa Fernandes arrived at 7:22pm

INTRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBERS

The Board was introduced to the new staff for the 2023-2024 school year and were given a report on the opening of school by the BHS, WMS & CLES Principals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Aga Stepniak spoke about the Board vacancy
Austin Monteiro spoke about the Board vacancy
Anna Prendi spoke about her husbands employment

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- WELCOME AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Aga Stepniak wrote regarding the digital locker
Andy Corea and Robert Scalera wrote regarding the Director of Business and Operations proposed hire.
Irene Corea wrote regarding the BHS main entrance.
Melissa Yager wrote with questions about CLES construction and food service.
Peter Gerardi wrote regarding the budget for CLES
Denise Rice wrote regarding concerns at CLES, a student concussion at CLES, work being done at CLES and an incident report
Elizabeth Prior and Jeanne Jaquith wrote regarding the demolition of Huckleberry
Andrew and Jennifer Baum, Laura Glen and Jennifer Bierlin wrote regarding bus routes
Kristyn Desousa wrote regarding opening of CLES concerns
Nick Schmidt wrote regarding CLES
Jessica Hansen wrote regarding CLES opening and arrival and dismissal
Tanesha Hutchins wrote a letter of concern
Elena Lopez wrote regarding a BPS fb post
Alanna Kavanaugh, Elena Lopez and Chris Dickinson wrote regarding the Board vacancy
Andy Corea wrote thanking Sharon Butow for her service on the Board.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting- 8/16/2023

Special Meeting- 8/21/2023

Special Meeting- 9/14/2023

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Barile reported that Center Elementary School is being turned over to the Town this week. The Superintendent gave updates on a meeting with the Health Department (planning for upticks in COVID, Flu and RSV), Security Task Force Committee and Parent Engagement (SPEACS). Mr. Balanda spoke about the timeline for the BHS library book “Fun Home”. Mr. Rowland gave an update on the Special Education Strategic Plan & Special Program/Outplacement Program review. Dr. Mahon gave an update on inclusion work.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT- DESSA

Dr. Mahon gave a report and Powerpoint presentation to the Board regarding DESSA.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance- 8/14/2023 & 9/11/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the 2022-2023 year end update and the 2023-2024 preliminary outlook. Discussion also included the year end audit.

Personnel & Negotiations- 8/14/2023- Mr. Belden said the committee met in executive session and therefore, nothing to report.

Policy- 8/16/2023- Mrs. Brooks said the subcommittee continued its discussion on Policy #6563, School Library Media and Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students. The subcommittee also discussed current school year communications.

Facilities- 9/6/2023- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee discussed the building condition study and the BHS Guidance wing roof. The subcommittee also received an update on several capital projects. Mrs. Greenstein gave an update on the A/C at BHS and also reported that CES is now vacant and has been turned over to the Town. Discussion also included the Youth Commission and their grant, waiting for timeline for removal of prttables at WMS and CLES playscapes should be arriving shortly.

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, D. Brooks and M. Murphy voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

The Board announced the vacancy for the Board of Education position left by the resignation of Sharon Butow. Mr. Belden gave an overview of the process going forward.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

The Board received a report on summer/fall athletics as presented by Athletic Director Steve Baldwin.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The Board received an update on technology as presented by Director of Technology Eric Conklin.

SETTING OF THE CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION DATE

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and after brief discussion, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the setting of the graduation date for the Class of 2024, as Saturday, June 15, 2024, as recommended by BHS Principal Marc Balanda.

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

2024-2025 BUDGET PLANNING CALENDAR

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the 2024-2025 budget planning calendar as presented by Director of Business Operations Kasey Diotte.

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

AUTHORIZATION FOR SIGNATURE CHANGE- CSDE

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve Director of Business Operations, Kasey Diotte, as the designated representative authorized to sign the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and to sign claims for reimbursement for the Connecticut State Department of Education, School Health, Nutrition and Family Services.

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

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Board received the DRAFT copy of the 2024-2025 school calendar as recommended by Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Opening of Schools Report
2. DESSA Presentation
3. Athletics Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chairman Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education