

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

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT

Bob Belden, Joy Greenstein, Amy Foster, Rosa Fernandes, Debbie Brooks, Dr. Mike Murphy, Hala Hourani, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Kasey Diotte, Director of Business, Director of Special Education Bill Roland, Director of Instruction Deb Farias, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, and members of the staff & public.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chairman Belden thanked Sharon Butow for her service to the Board of Education, and introduced Mrs. Hala Hourani as the newest member of the Board of Education, replacing Mrs. Butow.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT- CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Dee Pearson from Candlewood Lake Elementary School showcased the book buddy program and the collaboration between the upper school and the lower schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Omar Nassar Spoke about adding Muslim holidays to the school calendar
Mariam Azeez spoke about adding Muslim holidays to the school calendar

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Chris Dickinson and Melissa Yager wrote regarding the Board vacancy.
Anna Prendi wrote regarding a concern.
Shannon Riley wrote regarding parent communication.
Greg Prendi wrote regarding grievances.
Austin Monteiro wrote regarding a petition and the vacancy process.
Andy Corea wrote regarding process concerns and advice on filling the vacancy and an FOIA request.
Deborah Cacace wrote regarding sports transportation issues.
Christina Zimmerman wrote regarding school start times.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting- 9/20/2023
Special Meeting- 10/5/2023
Special Meeting- 10/12/2023

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Barile said the Security Task Force will be meeting on October 26th. The Brookfield All Hazards Plan is complete and will be submitted to the State. Dr. Barile attended an emergency planning scenario meeting with first responders, police and others earlier in the day. The district wide PTO is being revitalized and will meet in early November with the Superintendent and the principals. Mr. Roland and Superintendent Barile attended the Brookfield CARES forum where the asset inventory results from the asset survey were discussed. Mr. Roland came to the podium to give an update on strategic plan work and progress on recommendations from the initial CREC report. Mr. Balanda came to the podium to discuss the book challenge decision regarding, Fun Home, A Family Tragicomic. The Superintendent gave an update on CLES which included paving, playscapes and ribbon-cutting. Dr. Barile talked about preparation for the new Board members coming on board after the election.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPE- 9/18/2023 & CAPE- 10/11/2023- Dr. Murphy said the subcommittee met on 9/18/2023 and discussion included the DESSA results from the inaugural administration during spring, 2023. The subcommittee also reviewed summer curriculum projects. Discussion at the 10/11/2023 meeting included a student achievement presentation by Dr. Mahon and Mrs. Farias regarding SBA, NGSS and SAT student achievement. The subcommittee received an update on curriculum, instruction and asset practices, as well as a report on professional development learning sessions on 10/9/2023.

Policy/Communications - 9/20/2023- Mrs. Brooks said the subcommittee discussed three policies that are coming before the Board later in the meeting, as well as a communications discussion regarding ribbon cutting at CLES and enhancing communication and public engagement.

Facilities- 10/11/2023- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee received an update on the BHS Guidance wing roof, the BHS Media Center air conditioning, capital projects and keys and all documents pertaining to Center School have been turned over to the Town. New business discussion included the 2024-2025 capital request and 10-year capital plan.

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 H. Hourani voted aye.

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the agenda to move up item 13A, **2024-2025 School Calendar Approval**, to this part of the agenda, and item 13B, **approval of Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students**, as the last item under new business.

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

NEW BUSINESS

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as recommended by Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to table the approval of the 2024-2025 school calendar, pending comebacks from the Board’s discussion.

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

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT REPORT

The Board received a district enrollment report from Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

SPECIAL SERVICES CASELOAD REPORT

The Board received an update on the Special Services caseload as presented by Director of Special Education Bill Roland.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Board received a report from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and the building principals regarding the School Improvement Plan.

GRANTS APPROVAL

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the list of grants as recommended by the Director of Business & Operations Kasey Diotte.

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

2024-2025 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Board received the 2024-2025 Budget Assumptions and Priorities as presented by Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

Without objection, Chairman Belden deferred the discussion on the Superintendent’s goals until its next meeting on November 15, 2023 in executive session.

PRIORITIZED 2024-2025 AND UPDATED 10-YEAR PRIORITIZED CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the 2024-2025 and updated 10-year Prioritized Capital Projects List as recommended by the Facilities subcommittee and as presented by Director of Business and Operations Kasey Diotte.

APPROVAL OF NEW POLICY #5112, AGES OF ATTENDANCE

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve new Policy #5112, Ages of Attendance, as recommended by the Policy/Communication subcommittee.

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

B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion on the table to add the language, “first reading” to the approval of Policy #5112, Ages of Attendance.

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

After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously to approve Policy #5112, Ages of Attendance for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

APPROVAL OF REGULATION#6563, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Regulation#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 H. Hourani voted aye.

POLICY #6162.51, SURVEY OF STUDENTS

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Special Education report
2. Presentation of Dr. Mahon’s Update on Progress
3. Capital Projects

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chairman Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education