

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Superintendent Dr. John Barile called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Joy Greenstein, Rosa Fernandes, Hala Hourani, Wendy Youngblood, Sarah Devine, Stephanie Sikora, Robert Fischetto, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Kasey Diotte, Director of Special Education Bill Roland, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, CLES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski and members of the staff & public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Special Chorus along with Choir Director John Lamendola and Band Director Stephen St. Georges had their students perform.

Dr. Barile spoke about the recent passing of Brookfield Public Schools custodian Barbara Fuller and asked for a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL- WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Barile congratulated and welcomed the newly elected Board members

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Barile made a motion to open the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman for the Brookfield Board of Education, seconded by Rosa Fernandes.

R. Fernandes nominated Dr. Wendy Youngblood for the position of Chairman.

S. Devine nominated Joy Greenstein for the position of Chairman.

By a 4-3 vote, Dr. Wendy Youngblood was elected as Chairperson for the Brookfield Board of Education.

R. Fernandes, H. Hourani, W. Youngblood, S. Sikora voted aye.

J. Greenstein, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted no.

Mrs. Greenstein was defeated by a 3-4 vote

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

J. Greenstein, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted aye.

Chairman Youngblood made a motion to open the floor for the position of Vice Chairman for the Brookfield Board of Education.

S. Sikora nominated Rosa Fernandes for the position of Vice Chairman.

J. Greenstein nominated herself for the position of Vice Chairman.

By a 4-3 vote, R. Fernandes was elected as the Vice Chairman for the Brookfield Board of Education.

R. Fernandes, H. Hourani, W. Youngblood, S. Sikora voted aye.

J. Greenstein, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted no.

Chairman Youngblood made a motion to open the floor for the position of Secretary for the Brookfield Board of Education.

Rosa Fernandes nominated Joy Greenstein for the position of Secretary.

Mrs. Greenstein did not accept the nomination.

Rosa Fernandes nominated Sarah Devine

Ms. Devine did not accept the nomination

Rosa Fernandes nominated Stephanie Sikora for the position of Secretary

By a 7-0 vote, Stephanie Sikora was elected as the Secretary for the Brookfield Board of Education.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

None

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting- 11/15/2023

Special Meeting- 11/20/2023

Special Meeting- 11/27/2023

Special Meeting- 12/2/2023

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Barile gave an update on district communications including Kindergarten registration, the winter weather letter and the Brookfield Broadcast as well as the BEF Gala. The Superintendent talked about the close out of the BHS Guidance Wing roof and HVAC project and provided an update on the status of the CLES classroom flags, parking/driveway, and playscapes. Mr. Roland gave an update on special education. Mr. Balanda gave an update on the CIAC program preview, and Dr. Mahon gave an update on equity, inclusion & belonging. Superintendent Barile gave a report on statewide leadership events that the administration are attending.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance- 11/13/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the October financial reports.

Discussion also included a six month food service contract with Whitsons, pay rate guidelines and capital requests.

Policy/Communications- 11/15/2023- Dr. Barile said the subcommittee discussed one policy that was approved at the 11/15/2023 Board of Education meeting. Communications discussion was discussed earlier in the Superintendent's report.

Personnel & Negotiations- 11/29/2023- Dr. Youngblood said the Personnel & Negotiations meeting was held in executive session.

Security Task Force- 11/30/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said two representatives from the Iroquios Pipeline Operating Company attended the task force meeting to discuss the Iroquios expansion project.

CONSENT AGENDA

W. Youngblood moved, R. Fernandes 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, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES- JAN-JUNE 2024

W. Youngblood moved, R. Fernandes seconded to discuss and approve its subcommittee structure and other Board representation (Magnet School, BEF, Education Advance, Brookfield Cares, RBAC, MBC) from January-June, 2024.

The Board discussed the structure of their subcommittee meetings. After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, S. Sikora seconded, and the Board voted 7-0, that two members of the Finance subcommittee be Rosa Fernandes and Wendy Youngblood.

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

The Board unanimously tabled the approval of the subcommittee meeting dates from January-June 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT'S 2024-2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Board received the 2024-2025 budget proposal as presented by Superintendent Dr. John W. Barile.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3 MAIN POINTS

1. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget
2. Student Representative Ava Cantone's report
3. Winter Concerts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Barile mentioned the winter concerts, budget roundtable and Board meeting at CLES on 12/20/2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

W. Youngblood moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining at 9:01pm.

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

Chairman Youngblood called the executive session was called to order at 9:11pm and Dr. Barile, Mr. Rowland, Dr. Mahon, Mrs. Diotte were invited in.

Mr. Rowland exited executive session at 9:24pm

The Board exited executive session at 9:43pm

S. Sikora moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to eliminate the vacant CLES school counselor and CLES lunch monitors (1.5 FTE) positions and reallocate the funding for these positions to partially create four new special education paraeducator positions for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted aye.

S. Sikora moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to eliminate the HR Specialist position and create the HR Supervisor position.
W. Youngblood, R. Fernandes, S. Sikora, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani, S. Devine and R. Fischetto voted aye.

Without objection, Chairman Youngblood adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Stephanie Sikora, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education