

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 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, Rosa Fernandes, Dr. Mike Murphy, Debbie Brooks, Sharon Butow, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Ken Post, Director of Technology Eric Conklin, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Dr. Dave Pepsoski, CES Principal Deb Farias and members of the staff & public.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Chairman Bob Belden, on behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education, read a proclamation designating the week of May 8th to May 12th 2023 as “Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week”. Tara Nygaard represented the BEA.

Chairman Bob Belden, on behalf of the Brookfield Board of Education, read a proclamation designating May 10th 2023 as “School Nurses Day”. Beth O’Connor represented the Nurses.

The Board and Superintendent recognized the students who participated in the 16th Annual HRRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority) annual poster contest.

R. Fernandes moved, D. Brooks seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to move item VI, Student Representative Report, to this part of the agenda.

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Kaitlyn Zezza gave an update on the happenings at BHS

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to move up item VI, Student Spotlight, to this part of the agenda.

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

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT- WHISCONIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

WMS staff and students spoke about the French Exchange Students who visited Brookfield

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Corea spoke about something he saw in the press reading special ed article.

Jeremy Farrell spoke about LGBT books

Shannon Riley spoke about policy and book banning

Andy Corea spoke about Policy #1120, Public Participation

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Andy Corea wrote with concerns of how capital requests are handled and regarding an outplacement agreement violating a code of ethics.

Dawn DeCosta wrote regarding mosaics at HHES.

Jamie Klavans wrote regarding academic issues at the high school.

Deb Cacace wrote regarding a PPT.

Shari Styranovski wrote regarding the BPS website.

Christina Zimmerman wrote regarding school start times and athletics next year.

Marni McNiff wrote regarding a policy.

Krystie Rondini wrote concerning a social media post.

Erin Scalera wrote regarding a professional development slide

Irene Corea wrote regarding policies 6146 and 6146.1, bylaw 9325 and class rank

The following wrote supporting the removal of books from the BHS library- Tara Carr, The Brookfield Children’s Advocacy council, Kathleen Jowdy, Jennifer Ackerly, Debbie Pizzo, Rachel Alagna, Joyce Woodfield, Jim Fisher, Elizabeth Shaker, Austin Monteiro, Nick Schmidt

The following wrote opposing the removal of books from the BHS library - Leslie Ruggiero, Sean Hathorn, Michelle Sands, Ray Distephan, Laura Orban, Phoebe Holmes, Shannon Riley, Ronald Orban, Kathy Van Duzee, Aaron Zimmer, Jillian Doherty

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- 4/5/2023

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Barile asked BHS Principal Marc Balanda, BHS teacher Jonathan Neuhausel, and 2 BHS student to talk about the BHS International Science and Engineering Fair. The Superintendent updated the Board on recent communications. Mr. Post spoke about the School Security Reimbursement grant. Dr. Barile gave an update on Kindergarten enrollment, spring standardized testing and the Panorama survey.

Mr. Balanda gave an update regarding the BHS Library Book Recondiseration.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities- 4/5/2023- Mrs. Greenstein said the subcommittee discussed School Dude reports and received an update on the BHS Guidance Wing Roof and Maintenance Vehicle funding. The capital project update discussion included HVAC control project, BHS Boy’s Locker Room project, WMS Electrical Service, Paving at the high and middle schools, WMS Cafeteria flooring, Seminar Room seating and security items. The subcommittee discussed the Building Condition Study and received an update on the BHS Media Center A/C. The committee took a tour of the BHS Boy’s Locker Room after they adjourned.

Policy/Communications- 4/19/2023- Mrs. Brooks said the subcommittee discussed Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon and BHS Principal Marc Balanda were at the meeting to discuss policies Policy #6146.1, Grading/Assessment Systems, Weighted Grades Policy #6141.52, Challenging Curriculum (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students, Policy #6141.51, Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment and Policy #6146, Graduation Requirements. The subcommittee discussed Policy & Regulation #1120, Public Participation and Bylaw #9325, Meeting Conduct. Communications discussion included the budget flyer and the State of the District.

CAPE- 4/20/2023- Dr. Murphy said the subcommittee discussed a new K-8 Math tool called “Illustrative Math” and they received a presentation from Dr. Mahon, Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Jewett. Subcommittee updates included PDEC, CSDE K-3 Reading, and State testing. The meeting ended with a Strategic Plan discussion exercise.

Finance- 4/24/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee discussed the March financial reports and pay rate guidelines for substitutes.

Equity & Inclusion- 4/27/2023- Mrs. Foster said the members of the Equity & Inclusion core team met and received an introduction and background information from previous districts and received a brief history of the committee. They reviewed presentations from 2020-2022 and discussed the purpose and direction of the committee. The committee will meet again in June to discuss the future and direction of the Equity & Inclusion committee.

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, M. Murphy, D. Brooks and Sharon Butow voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

2023-2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded to approve the 2023-2024 Board of Education meeting dates.

After discussion, A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion to remove the October 4, 2023 meeting date and add the date of May 22, 2024 to the September 2023-August, 2024 list of Board of Education meeting dates, and approve the 2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Dates, as amended.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE/JULY-DECEMBER 2023

A. Foster moved, seconded, R. Fernandes seconded to approve the subcommittee meeting schedule from July- December 2023.

After discussion, A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion to change the October, 2023 Facilities meeting date from October 4, 2023 to October 11, 2023, and approve the Subcommittee Meeting Schedule from July-December, 2023, as amended.

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

POLICIES

POLICY 6146.1- GRADING/ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS/WEIGHTED GRADES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve new required Policy #6146.1, Grading, Assessment Systems, Weighted Grades, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

POLICY #6141.52, CHALLENGING CURRICULUM, (CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE GRADE 8, 9 STUDENTS)

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve new required Policy #6141.52, Challenging Curriculum, (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students), for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

POLICY #6141.51, ADVANCED COURSES OR PROGRAMS, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve new required Policy #6141.51, Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

POLICY #6146, GRADUATION

A Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the deletion of Brookfield’s Policy and Regulation #6146, Graduation, and adopt CAFE’s version of Policy #6146, Graduation (Required), as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

POLICY/REGULATION #1120, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the revisions to Policy and Regulation #1120, Public Participation, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

BYLAW #9325, MEETING CONDUCT

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the deletion of Brookfield’s Bylaw #9325, Meeting Conduct, and adopt CAFE’s version of Bylaw #9325, Meeting Conduct, for a first reading, as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

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

APPROVAL OF CURRICULAR TOOL- “ILLUSTRATIVE MATH”

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded to approve the recommended curricular tool titled, “Illustrative Math” as the new K-8 curricular tool for math instruction being phased in beginning in the 2023- 2024 school year as recommended by the CAPE subcommittee and Dr. Anna Mahon.

After discussion, this item was tabled without objection.

SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and after a brief overview by Mr. Post, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the substitute pay rates as recommended by the Finance subcommittee, effective immediately.
B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, D. Brooks and Sharon Butow voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

POLICIES

POLICY/REGULATION #5125- FERPA

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve to replace Brookfield’s Policy #5125, FERPA with CABA’s version and approve the edits to Regulation #5125- FERPA for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on March 15th.

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

POLICY # 5131.911- BULLYING

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve to replace Brookfield’s existing Policy #5131.911- Bullying with CABA’s version and approve edits to Regulation#5131.911, Bullying, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on March 15th.

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

POLICY #5144.1- RESTRAINT & SECLUSION

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve to delete current Policy #5144.1 -Restraint and Seclusion and accept an updated version based on language adopted by Wallingford Public Schools as well as the regulation based on CABA language, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on March 15th.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION’S BUDGET ESTIMATE 2023-2024

The Board had brief discussion on the Board of Education’s 2023-2024 adopted budget.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board received an update on the Candlewood Lake Elementary School building project which included a slideshow of the latest building progress.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3 MAIN POINTS

1. WMS French Exchange Students and the 2 BHS International Science and Engineering Fair Students
2. New Substitute Rate Structure
3. CLES Update

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s goals/evaluation, unaffiliated salaries & contracts at 9:48pm.
B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, M. Murphy, D. Brooks and Sharon Butow voted aye.

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 9:52 pm.

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

Superintendent Dr. John Barile was invited in at 9:52 pm.

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s evaluation/goals, unaffiliated salaries and contracts.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile exited executive session at 10:18 pm.

Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks Sharon Butow, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein and Mike Murphy exited executive session at 10:42 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection Chairman Bob Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education