



Brookfield Public Schools

"Create Your Tomorrow"



Statement Regarding the July 22, 2020 Board of Education Special Meeting

During the Wednesday, July, 22, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education, there was an unfortunate disruption to the meeting. An unidentified person(s) used inappropriate, vulgar language and shared a lewd video. The meeting was halted and later resumed. We apologize for any embarrassment or personal affront that this may have caused for any viewer. Your inclusion, participation, and safety are of great importance to the District.

In accordance with Executive Order Number 7B regarding municipal public meetings, open municipal public meetings were suspended to enable meetings to occur remotely as a result of public health concerns associated with COVID 19.

The Board of Education, in its efforts to fully comply with the conditions of Executive Order 7B, has used a digital platform that allows all members of the public to openly attend meetings without restriction, similar to our regular on-the-ground open meetings. All attendees were provided access to the posted link to the meeting in compliance with Executive Order 7B.

The District has been using Zoom as our platform for online meetings for all participants, Board members, staff, and the public. Zoom meeting attendance does not require a participant to have an individual Zoom account. Similar to other town meetings, efforts to be openly inclusive precluded the use of restrictive Zoom control tools.

In order to mitigate the future occurrence of a disturbance similar to the situation that occurred last evening, we consulted with counsel. Resultantly, we will be changing our method of conducting meetings, which will continue to ensure that we remain in compliance with Executive Order 7B.

The new process for conducting BOE and subcommittee meetings remotely will be as follows:

- Public Comment will now be conducted through email. Emails must be sent to the email address provided with the meeting notice, contained in the agenda, and posted on the District website prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.
- Emailed public comment will be read aloud or otherwise summarized during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- BOE meetings, including subcommittee meetings, will be live-streamed on YouTube on the District YouTube channel. The link to the meetings will be shared publicly on the District website. YouTube will be the official option for public viewing of remote BOE and subcommittee meetings. Videos of meetings will continue to be posted on the Board's website in compliance with Executive Order 7B.

Some concern has been expressed regarding the use of the Zoom platform in our educational setting for instruction. While the district does use multiple platforms, including Google Meet and Google Hangouts, it is important to know that our instructional use of Zoom operates differently than our prior public meeting use of Zoom.

We selected Zoom for instructional purposes during the spring because of the teaching/instructional components available for safely and efficiently managing instruction as compared to the features that were available on other platforms at that time. Importantly, we had no incidents in District during distance learning this spring associated with the use of Zoom. Teachers using Zoom implemented the safety features of Zoom. We provided multiple training opportunities for teachers in the district.

The free version of Google Meet and Google Hangouts available to the district does not offer the same tools and safety controls for classroom management that Zoom does, including participant waiting rooms, admission approval, breakout rooms, annotations, microphone control, and participant removal.

Additionally, videos for staff and families regarding Zoom usage were made widely available on our Distance Learning webpage.

We are continuing to explore upgrades to available platforms that impact the utility, safety, and financial/budget concerns of the District.

The sole reason for the existence of our profession is the student