

BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 18, 2017

LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center
185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting

Page 1 of 4

ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Michael Krause, CIC, Chair	Board of Education
Y	John O'Connor, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Betsy Regan, Secretary	Board of Education
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
N	Maria Ehrhardt	Board of Education
Y	Judith Hotz	Board of Education
N	Kate Marsland	Board of Education
Y	John R. Prins	Board of Education
Y	Shannen Sharkey	Board of Education
N	Kiersten Bjork	Student Representative
N	Emily Borst	Student Representative
N	Madison Daniels	Student Representative
N	Carol Frye	Student Representative
N	HyunJin Lim	Student Representative
Y	Jack Nelson	Student Representative
N	Daniel Shamas	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Dr. Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office

Others present: Paul Dzialo, ERACE Director, Gary Gravina, Wendy Nylan and Jen Miller, BHS Horizons Teachers

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

01 Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Chairman, Michael Krause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

02 MOTION (Prins/Hotz) to approve the December 21, 2016 Full BOE Meeting Minutes.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY with revision

RECOGNITIONS

A. BHS Horizons Students – Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) Auxiliary Toy Closet Volunteers

The Board of Education members and Superintendent Hernandez recognized the Horizons students for their recent volunteer work for the YNHH Auxiliary Toy Closet.

B. ERACE Program Award

The ERACE Program was presented with a plaque and a \$200 donation from Tara O'Hara on behalf of Michele Hespeler, the founder of Beat Parkinson's Today. Ms. O'Hara thanked ERACE for providing them the space and time to facilitate an exercise program for people with Parkinson's Disease.

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Page 2 of 4

PRESENTATIONS

A. Branford Families Organization

District parents, Celia Toche' and Kim Zolvek, gave an overview of the Branford Families Organization and handed out their brochure to Board Members. They discussed the work that they have done over the past year, the population that they would like to target, as well as topics that they would like to cover in future meetings.

BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Jack Nelson, BOE Student Representative, stated that midterms were held last week and new classes were starting this week. Jack stated that he liked the way the school year calendar was set for this year as this allowed for a successful consistency. He also stated that rehearsals for the BHS play Titanic have started and that many of the students involved in the play were attending gyms in the area to help them improve their breath support for retaining notes, winter sports were going well. Jack finished his report by stated that the second semester is an exciting period of time for senior students as this was their "last hurrah."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Hernandez reported that the District's Director of Technology attending a meeting at the State in preparation of the Smarter Balanced testing. This meeting was held to inform Districts of what was new. A letter will be sent home to parents with a timeline. A Climate Survey will also be provided, although this survey is required by the State, the District will be expanding the survey beyond the State's requirements. Last year's survey we received a good response, it is the District's hope to improve the number of responses.

WALSH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEXT GENERATION UPDATE

Superintendent Hernandez stated that a meeting is being planned for February 6th that will provide an update on the WIS Next Generation progress to the Community. After this meeting is held it is anticipated that the website will begin to be populated. At least two more public meetings will be held to discuss preparing for construction. Recently Superintendent Hernandez met with the Delegate Assembly consisting of Senator Kennedy, Representatives Lonnie Reed and Sean Scanlon, to discuss where the District is in the process and to keep everyone involved informed. With the recent announcements of State budget cuts there is no reason to believe that this project would be derailed.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 03 A. **2017/2018 School Year Calendar**
MOTION (O'Connor/Prins) to approve Option I of the 2017/18 School Year Calendar, with the only change to this option being a 180 day school year instead of 181 days.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- B. **ERACE Program Donation**
MOTION (Prins/Marsland) to approve the \$200 donation from Beat Parkinson's Today presented earlier in the evening to the ERACE Program.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Continued...

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Page 3 of 4

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

B. BPS Graduate Attributes

MOTION (Prins/Marsland) to the BPS Graduate Attributes as presented.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Celia Toche' suggested that since the school year would finish so early, community resources such as the Park Rec. and the public libraries should be contacted so that parents can make their child care plans in advance.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, commented on the sensitivity toward Italian American community members regarding not having Columbus Day off in the 2017/18 school year. He stated that the calendar needs to be mindful to racial balances. Mr. Jerolman then stated that he received an email pertaining to an incident regarding a Jewish student. He asked several questions regarding whether or not the State was investigating the incident and if the District had hired legal counsel.

Mr. Jerolman was thanked by Chairman Krause for his comments but was reminded that there would not be a conversation with Board Members as this section of the evening was for public comments only.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communication Committee (Joanne Borrus, Chair). Next scheduled meeting: **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.**

B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Judy Hotz, Chair) . Next scheduled meeting: **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:30 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.**

C. Teaching & Learning Committee (John Prins, Chair) Next scheduled meeting: **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 P.M., at Branford High School, Lower Media Center.**

D. Policy Committee (Kate Marsland & John O'Connor, Co-Chairs). Next scheduled meeting: **Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 6:00 P.M., Branford High School Lower Media Center.**

BOARD REPORTS:

ACES – Judy Hotz reported that at the last meeting ACES met with the Commission on Education to discuss legislative changes, discussed the 2016/17 financials and at this time tentatively has a budget for the 2017/18 school year.

CABE – John Prins stated that tomorrow is the Annual CABE Retreat in New Haven. It is at this meeting that CABE will plan for next year, have a conversation to recommend members to the State Board. Mr. Prins finished his report by reminding members that CABE Day on the Hill will be held on March 8th.

BECC – Kate Marsland stated that there were no new updates for BECC since the last meeting.

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Page 4 of 4

PTA MEETINGS

BHS - John O' Connor & John Prins. Scheduled Meetings: No set meeting schedule

WIS – Michael Krause, Joanne Borrus & Betsy Regan. Scheduled Meetings: No meetings scheduled at this time.

Sliney – Maria Ehrhardt & Shannen Sharkey. Scheduled Meetings:, March 1, 2017, May 3, 2017. All meeting will be held in the Sliney Library at 7:00 pm.

Tisko – Judy Hotz & Betsy Regan. Scheduled Meetings: May 8, 2017. All meetings will be held in the Tisko Cafeteria at 6:00 pm.

Murphy – Kate Marsland & John Prins. Scheduled Meeting: March 2017. Currently the time and location is to be determined.

04 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Krause moved the meeting into Executive Session at 8:25 PM to discuss the Superintendent's Midterm Review. All Board Members present at tonight's meeting including Superintendent Hernandez were present during this session.

05 ADJOURN

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:54 PM. Chairman Krause adjourned the meeting 8:55 PM with no action taken.

The Superintendent's Budget Presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the BHS F-Wing Lecture Hall.

The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Branford High School, Lower Media Center.

PLEASE NOTE: Parking for Board Meetings held at Branford High School Lower Media Center is in Lot C. Access to meetings is through the F3 library doors.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Regan
Secretary

Prepared by
Kerry Eyrich