

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** November 17, 2021

**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

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### ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	John R. Prins, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon, Incoming Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Marie Watson	Board of Education
Y	Sushant Kunwar	Student Representative
Y	Grahm Reynolds	Student Representative
Y	Abbygail Shaw	Student Representative
Y	Veronica Smith	Student Representative
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Michael Losasso, Antinozzi Associates Principal

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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#### CALL TO ORDER

**01** Meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by BOE Chair, John Prins.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following BOE members were nominated and elected; Peter Berdon, Chair; Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair and Meredith Gaffney, Secretary.

Approved Unanimously

#### PRESENTATION

Peter Berdon, presented John Prins with a resolution thanking him for his dedication and devotion.

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Peter Bedon announced the following BOE Committee appointments:

A. Teaching & Learning Committee: Ellen Michaels, Chair; Meaghan DeLucia, Dawn Perrotti, and John Prins.

B. Personnel & Finance Committee: Dawn Perrotti, Chair; Tim Raynor, Ellen Michaels and Laura Troidle.

C. Policy and Board Governance Committee: Tim Raynor, Chair; Meredith Gaffney, Laura Troidle and Marie Watson.

D. Communication Committee: Meredith Gaffney, Chair; Meaghan DeLucia, John Prins and Marie Watson.

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### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, congratulated Peter Berdon on his BOE Chair appointment and thanked John Prins for his service. Mr. Jerolman also spoke about withdrawing all of his FOIA requests, new District leadership, revising the Superintendent's 2021 review, a District audit, identifying a possible interim Superintendent, the East Shore District Health Department line item expenses, administrator's salaries, and a org. chart.

Stephanie Ducharme, District parent, spoke about having teams mingle more at recess and lunch (primarily at Walsh), Screen and Stay, vaccinated students vs. unvaccinated students, figuring out a system to hold teachers accountable and teacher conferences.

Marta Kenney, District parent, congratulated Peter Berdon and the new Board members. Ms. Kenney also spoke about quarantines, Screen and Stay, mask breaks, speaking with teachers as to where children were sitting in their classes, withholding school and extracurricular activities and limiting quarantines.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Peter Berdon spoke about emails that he received regarding Screen and Stay, Dance Team travel and the agenda.

### AGENDA CHANGES

- 02** MOTION (Raynor/Michaels) to move Antinozzi Associates Athletic Fields Report to before the Superintendent's Report.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- 03** MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to move future agenda items in front of the executive session.  
APPROVE UNANIMOUSLY

### APPROVE MINUTES

- 04** MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes for the September 29, 2021 BOE Retreat Meeting.  
APPROVED
- 05** MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to approve the minutes as amended from the October 6, 2021 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED
- 06** MOTION (Michaels/Gaffney) to approve the minutes for the October 20, 2021 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED
- 07** MOTION (Michaels/Prins) to approve the minutes as amended from the October 27, 2021 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED
- 08** MOTION (Prins/Raynor) to approve the minutes as amended from the October 29, 2021 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED
- 09** MOTION (Prins/Michaels) to approve the minutes as amended from the November 10, 2021 Full Special BOE Meeting.  
APPROVED (Perrotti abstained)

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**BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

The student representatives discussed; Hive Time, the BHS schedule change, returning to school after COVID from a student standpoint and BHS sports and events.

**PRESENTATION**

**A. Antinozzi Associates Athletic Fields Report**

Michael Losasso facilitated a presentation on the Districts athletic fields.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT/WIS PROJECT UPDATE**

In his report, Superintendent Hernandez discussed; the pediatric vaccination clinics (Griffin Hospital), Screen and Stay, going before the Education Committee on November 22 to discuss the Administrator contract, the full RTM meeting is November 29, developing a timeline to vacate 1111 Main Street (September/October 2022), the possibility of moving the District Pre-K to Indian Neck School, a save the date for the second round of Superintendent check-in meetings (budget considerations), Communication Specialist interviews (this week), and Director of Technology interviews (between Thanksgiving and the winter break) and BHS morning traffic delays (new traffic pattern implemented).

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**10 A. Out of State Field Trips**

MOTION (Prins/Perrotti) to approve the scheduled field trips.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**11 B. 2022 BOE Meeting Schedule Options**

MOTION (Perrotti/Michaels) to approve BOE meeting schedule Option 4.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS**

Jennifer Orlando, District parent, spoke about vaccination clinics and district basketball courts usage, bus issues, the report on the District fields and PTA meetings.

Celia Toche, District parent, congratulated the new officers and thanked the outgoing officers. Ms. Toche spoke about the vaccination schedule, making vaccines available and accessible to families, traditional grade 8 field trips and Branford Families gatherings.

Gregg Jerolman, Branford residents, spoke about paraprofessionals and wage disparity.

Megan Paluzzi, District employee, thanked the Board for their support of the dance team.

Jason Simmons, District parents, spoke about vaccinations, COVID positive and quarantine and his experience with the District's Pre-K program.

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Communication Committee (Meredith Gaffney, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: December 8, 2021, 6:30 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.
- B. Personnel & Finance Committee (Dawn Perrotti, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: December 8, 2021, 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.
- C. Teaching & Learning Committee (Ellen Michaels, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: December 8, 2021, 7:00 PM, Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.
- D. Policy Committee (Tim Raynor, Chair).  
Next scheduled meeting: December 15, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria.

### BOARD REPORTS

- A. ACES – Ellen Michaels stated that because of Veterans Day there was no meeting this month.
- B. BECC – Meredith Gaffney reported that the interim is still in place and the Board is working on its strategic planning.
- C. CABE – John Prins discussed the Delegate Assembly, the legislative agenda, items that were passed, elearning, snow day policies and the upcoming new board member orientation.

### FUTURE ITEMS

- A. Consider having travel BOE meetings.
- B. BOE members attending PTA meetings.
- C. Revisit survey data.
- D. A breakdown of testing (academics).

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12 MOTION (Perrotti/Michaels) to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Contract terms. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting into Executive Session at 9:27 PM. All BOE Members present for this evening's meeting adjourned into Executive Session.

### RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- 13 Mr. Berdon returned the meeting to Regular Session at 10:13 PM with no action taken.

### ADJOURN

- 14 MOTION (Michaels/Gaffney) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Gaffney  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich