

## BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** December 18, 2025  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Board of Education Meeting

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### ATTENDANCE

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Peter Berdon, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia, Secretary	Board of Education
N	Judith Barron	Board of Education
N	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Marie McNamara ( <u>Virtual</u> )	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha ( <u>Virtual</u> )	Board of Education
Y	Shawn Tiernan	Board of Education
Y	Laura Troidle	Board of Education
Y	Carson Jarvis	Student Representative
Y	Grace Grammatico	Student Representative
N	Nneoma Obi	Student Representative
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

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### BUSINESS ITEMS

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

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#### CALL TO ORDER

**01** Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by BOE Chair, Peter Berdon.

#### AGENDA CHANGES

This evenings Executive Session was cancelled.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Berdon reported that the Board received thank you notes from the family of Aura Wilson and BPS Central Office staff members.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, thanked Mr. Berdon for his time to chat about the upcoming budget process. Mr. Jerolman also spoke about changes for guidelines for public speaking, offering suggestions, using CABE as a vehicle, reflecting back and an effort to reign in the Board.

#### RECOGNITION

##### **A. Alex Paluzzi, Jr.**

This evening the Board and Superintendent Tranberg recognized Alex Palluzzi, Jr. with a resolution and a gift to thank him for his years of service as a community partner to the Branford BOE. Mr. Palluzzi is retiring at the end of the month from his position as the Director of Branford Parks and Recreation.

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### BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Among the items that the BOE Student Representatives discussed this evening were; a fundraiser for Ms. Raz who is a BHS teacher that was recently diagnosed with cancer, upcoming band, orchestra and choir concerts, the recent PJ Day fundraiser (\$1 donation for children with cancer), the start of winter sports (ice hockey, basketball, wrestling and indoor track), mid-term assessments (begin after Christmas break) proceeded by the end of the quarter, due to the planned Main Street construction project graduation will be held on the BHS Athletic Complex, if approved this evening several new courses will be in the 2025/2026 Course of Studies, the new community service resources (branfordvolunteers.org) has been pushed out to the students (students need 40 hours community service as a graduation requirement) and the community service fair has been rescheduled to January.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Among the items that Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; the District has been awarded a 6.3 million dollar federal grant through the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency for the Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles Program (grants were awarded in 27 states, Branford was the only district in Connecticut to be awarded), the grant will help fund 21 zero emissions electric buses and we are looking at quarter two for delivery, the district will be partnering with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage Foundation on their annual MLK Breakfast (January 20), this year's guest speaker at the MLK event is Jeffrey C. Stewart (Pulitzer Prize winner), students from BHS Class Act Culinary Program will be catering and BHS Music Makers will be performing, guest sign-in procedures will be updated starting in January, inclement weather notifications can be changed through Infinite Campus, the process that we go through to make weather closing determinations, WIS turf fields have been laid ( feel free to take a look, but it is still a construction zone please do not enter) and Central Office's recent professional development using Will Guidara's book *Unreasonable Hospitality*. Dr. Tranberg ended his report by wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

### PRESENTATION

#### A. School Resource Officer

Dr. Tranberg began his presentation this evening by recapping the Districts Mission and Global Learning Competencies (especially Citizenship and Civic Responsibilities), Strategic Coherence Plan (including a specific goal to engage more of our stakeholders) and Deep Learning (the four pillars - feedback, content, context and community). Among the items Dr. Tranberg discussed this evening were; a community partnership between the Branford BOE and the Branford Police Department, Maslow's Hierarchy (connection to something greater than self, self-actualization, esteem, belonging, safety and physiology), SRO Program Pillars -

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### PRESENTATION (Continued)

safety & security, student well-being, education and community partnership, student feedback, parent/guardian feedback, faculty/staff feedback, and the Timeline (Initial Approval by BOE & BPD and Development of Memorandum of Agreement - December 2024, Training of SRO - Winter 2025, Program Initiation - March 2025, Board Updates - Biannually and Program Evaluation – June 2026).

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**02** MOTION (Tiernan/Troidle) to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024 Full Regular BOE meeting as amended.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**A. Teaching & Learning Committee 59:01**

Ms. Michaels reported that last week Committee heard about eight proposed courses for the high school that the Board will be voting on this evening for adoption, a pre-school presentation on ideas regarding consolidating all programs into one facility at Indian Neck.

**B. Personnel & Finance Committee**

Ms. DeLucia stated that at their last meeting the Committee had a presentation of their normal finances (year-to-date) as well as a Capital Budget presentation.

**C. Policy Committee**

Mr. Tiernan stated that the last Committee meeting was very compact and efficient meeting, because they were reviewing changes in three policies that were genuinely technical and were just slightly modified to satisfy the changes that the legislature had created.

**D. Communication Committee**

Ms. Troidle stated that the Committee just met and they discussed rules governing public comment and altering some language, they continued the discussion on plans to get *The Anxious Generation* discussion out to the public with a segway into the Master Facilities Plan and Dr. Tranberg presented very detailed steps to increase community engagement.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 03** **A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the Second Reading of policies:**
- a. 5300 – Administration of Medications
  - b. 5750 – FAFSA Completion Rate
  - c. 5800 – Student Discipline Criteria

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### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Continued)

**B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the following proposed new courses as discussed at the December Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting:**

- a. Biology Honors
- b. ECE Introduction to Allied Health Professions (UCONN)
- c. ECE Medical Terminology (UCONN)
- d. Robotics Foundations
- e. Residential Construction
- f. ECE Kinesiology: Exercise and Wellness for Everyone (UCONN)
- g. ECE Intermediate Spanish Composition (UCONN)
- h. Art and Culture

MOTION (Tiernan/Michaels) to approve this evening's Consent Agenda Items.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**04 A. To consider and if appropriate, vote to approve the First Reading of policies:**

- a. 5700 - Graduation Requirements
- b. 5010 - Admission to Public Schools at or Before Age 5
- c. 5350 - Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

MOTION (Tiernan/McNamara) to approve the First Reading of policies 5700, 5010 and 5350.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

**05 B. To consider and if appropriate, vote to accept the WIS Project Completion**

MOTION (DeLucia/Michaels) to accept the WIS Project Completion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

### BOARD REPORTS

ACES - Ms. Michaels stated that the meeting was last Thursday and there was a presentation by the students who do the artwork for ACES cards including a Branford student who was recognized with an award and also at the meeting contraction updates were discussed.

CABE - Mr. Tiernan stated there was nothing new this month to discuss.

### PTA REPORTS

There were no PTA reports given this evening.

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**ADJOURN**

- 06** MOTION (Troidle/DeLucia) to adjourn.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (by all BOE members attending in person and virtually)

Mr. Berdon adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan DeLucia  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich

**UPCOMING BOE MEETINGS**

(All meetings will take place in the  
WIS Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112 unless otherwise specified)

Teaching & Learning Committee	January 8, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Personnel & Finance Committee	January 8, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Policy Committee	January 8, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Communication Committee	January 15, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Full BOE Meetings	January 15, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Superintendent's Budget Presentation	January 22, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Legislative Breakfast	January 24, 2025 @ 8:00 AM
Budget Workshop	January 27, 2025 @ 6:00 PM