

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Communication Committee Minutes**

**DATE:** November 20, 2024  
**LOCATION:** Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112,  
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT  
**SUBJECT:** Communication Committee Meeting

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**ATTENDANCE**

HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	Laura Troidle, Committee Chair	Board of Education
Y	Judith Barron	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
Y	Meaghan DeLucia	Board of Education
Y	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels (Virtual)	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
Y	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent (Virtual)	Central Office
Y	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present:

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

**CALL**

- 01** Meeting was called to order 6:05 PM by Laura Troidle.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made this evening.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

- 02** MOTION (Barron/Greenberg) to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2024, Communication Committee Meeting.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- 03** **Community Updates**  
In his report this evening, Superintendent Tranberg discussed the dates for upcoming flu clinics being held at the East Shore District Health Department.
- 04** **2025 BOE Meeting Schedule**  
MOTION (Barron/Greenberg) to move the 2025 BOE Meeting Schedule to the full Board as amended.  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- 05** **Cell Phone Usage**  
Superintendent Tranberg began by reminding the community that collectively the Board read and has been discussing the book *The Anxious Generation* at its last two meetings (September and October).

Continued...

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**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

**05 Cell Phone Usage**

Dr. Tranberg reported that the conversations have gone in many different directions so this is an attempt to synthesize his recommended next steps and since not everyone is in the same place with this it is open to discussion. For December Dr. Tranberg is recommending hosting a book club and give guiding questions and then host a discussion in January in partnership with the Town libraries, in February we would have some parent, student and staff focus groups to get some school specific data on the topic. Dr. Tranberg continued by saying that he was suggesting two different community presentations with experts coming in on the topics of social media and the dopamine release, then in April have a community presentation on the rise of the cell phones and what we can do about it. The facilitators are to be determined but those are the two major themes based on our conversations that will give us what we need to do to potentially make a policy recommendation and then based on all of that there will be a presentation to the Board and that policy can be visited in May and in June if we would like something to move forward by the end of the year. Dr. Tranberg concluded by saying that he would recommend this as a starting point for this evening's conversation.

Collectively the Board discussed the Community Book Club, including the Elementary Schools in the parent/student/staff feedback, definitely including all ages of kids and not just parents as much as possible, empowering parents when adopting things like this, a discussion session at CAFE and what another group was doing by quoting *The Anxious Generation* and how do we teach kids to use it properly as well, the information on social media that is available and parents who are contributing to some of the problem (i.e., texting a child while in class), reaching out to the First Selectman and Town Hall and finding it helpful to involve the two libraries.

Superintendent Tranberg stated that he wanted to be put on the record as stating that the book, *The Anxious Generation*, is not to provide a common source for us. Jonathan Haidt is a person with a perspective who did research and wrote about it, it resonated with him when he read it, that's why he recommended it to the Board and because of this conversation. It asks us a lot of questions about a lot of very pressing issues right now that has many ranges and the book just doesn't end with good luck everybody, it gives actual ideas and specific recommendations for us to respond to.

**ADJOURN**

**06 MOTION (Greenberg/Barron) to adjourn.**  
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Troidle adjourned the meeting at 6:27 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on  
December 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112

Respectfully submitted,  
Meaghan DeLucia  
Secretary

Prepared by,  
Kerry Eyrich