

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Communication Committee Minutes**

DATE: October 18, 20204
LOCATION: Walsh Intermediate School, Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112,
185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT
SUBJECT: Communication Committee Meeting

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
N	Adam Greenberg	Board of Education
N	Ellen Michaels	Board of Education
Y	Ram Shrestha	Board of Education
N	Marie McNamara	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Christopher Tranberg, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Allison Moran, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
N	Blaize Levitan, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office
Y	Kimberly Castoro, Director of Business Services	Central Office

Others present:

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joanne Viglione, District parent/guardian, spoke about teenagers riding bikes and their experience, police involvement, cell phone usage in schools, her grandson's experience at BHS and appropriate behavior.

APPROVE MINUTES

- 02** MOTION (Barron/McNamara) to approve the minutes from the September 18, 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 in the community.

04 **Cell Phone Usage**

In continuation to last month's discussion of cellphone usage and the group reading of the book, *The Anxious Generation*, Superintendent Tranberg and the Committee members discussed the following; the questions that Dr. Tranberg posed, Yondr pouches (what are we thinking, the cost and having a policy), the Superintendent's recent meeting with the Library Directors and what having community education

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DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

would look like, needing additional information before there is a sweeping change, what Dr. Tranberg has learned (Boards have approached in two different ways - what we are doing now - educating ourselves and gathering information from the Community, deciding whether or not it warrants policy change and what other Boards without any community input have said, the finding that Boards that have spent the time getting community input have had a less bumpy ride getting there), more information regarding students interacting with each other, sharing experts from the Anxious Generation book, an anecdote regarding Yondr pouches (not having access during school), how to go about engaging the community in a discussion, getting community support, asking ourselves the question if this is a distraction distracting students from learning, looking at survey results, having trouble with the thought of taking a lot of time to police it, getting support from parents/guardians, a mental health crisis (associated with social media and having devices put away is critical), having them away in younger grades may work but may not at higher grades (hard to enforce), having policy address not only cell phones but other personal use items as part of it (Apple watches, Mac Books, etc.), presenting the circumstance and deciding it as a whole, coming up with something straight across the board, problems will not go away overnight, dealing with it as we go (anything that contributes to it – we should address), what fits and works would be justifiable to the community, controlling what happens during school hours, as Board we look at what enhancing education experience of kids, not solving the problem but working on part of the problem (a whole spectrum of things, here to make school the best it can be), a lot more to it than just the cell phone (having free play, finding common ground to grow, setting the example – having freedom from phones), next steps and conversations in the community, having a basic understanding of the actual science behind this, having focus groups further on in the year, work we have to do and providing a balance, having a more formal presentation next month, encouraging interactions that help children grow and teaching social skills.

ADJOURN

05 MOTION (Barron/McNamara) to adjourn.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Troidle adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

The next Communication Committee Meeting will be held on
November 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Walsh Intermediate School Collaboration & Innovation Center, Room 112

Respectfully submitted,
Meaghan DeLucia
Secretary

Prepared by,
Kerry Eyrich