

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Aimee Genna, Chair
Joan Trivella, Vice Chair
Keith Atchison, Secretary

Mae Lyons
Nathan Richards

September 26, 2018

The Brooklyn Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on September 26, 2018 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Atchison and Mr. Richards. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance were also in attendance. Members of the administrative staff, teaching staff and public were in the audience.

1. Attendance, Establishment of a Quorum, Call to Order

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Brooklyn's Best:

- a. STEAM Presentation: Mr. Keagan Coderre and Mr. William Gabriel in the Brooklyn Elementary School, Room A5

Mr. Keagan Coderre, Brooklyn Elementary's STEAM teacher, introduced the STEAM program. The program includes all grades in the elementary school from pre-k through grade 4, and Mr. Coderre sees every elementary student in all grades for at least one period per week. He informed what concepts he is teaching, the hands on work that all of the students are doing and how the STEAM program relates to and enhances academic success.

Mr. William Gabriel, Brooklyn Middle School's computer technology teacher, explained the Z Space program that the STEAM students are using, as well as other programs being utilized at the middle school. The students involved in the STEAM program at the middle school level are on a voluntary / high interest basis. Students who are interested in the program complete an application and are able to participate.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Board of Education Regular meeting August 22, 2018

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 22, 2018

(Richards / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

6. Correspondence and Communication

- a. Thank you notes

Nothing to report at this time.

7. Brooklyn's Best:

BES:

1. Mr. Clark has completed TEAM
2. SRBI team has worked very hard to plan the professional development for our staff on October 5, 2018.
3. Very successful beginning of the year with a well attended open house.
4. Read, Run, Recycle has begun at BES again this year, grounds look good and students are reading.
5. Congratulations to Mr. Sean Maloney who was Brooklyn's Teacher of the Year and progressed to the top 14 candidates in CT.
6. Professional development has begun in readers workshop and with SRBI.

BMS:

1. Reader's Choice Award Winners: Mrs. Dumaine-Savage, BMS Teacher, won 1st place for Best Educator/Teacher; and Mrs. Rachel Hanley, BES Paraprofessional, won first place for Best Hairdresser.
2. Great participation for Grade 5 orientation; 5-8 Open House and High School Fair.
3. Excellent professional development has begun at all levels across all content areas.

Mrs. Buell thanked Amanda Brown, Director of Pupil Services, for spearheading the Orton Gillingham training which included teachers and paraprofessionals from both the elementary and middle school.

8. Administrative Reports:

- a. SBAC Report

Mrs. Tamsin, Mr. Torchia, Mr. Weaver and Mrs. Graef reviewed the SBAC testing data. They reviewed and compared State of Connecticut as well as district data. While the data does show growth in some of the testing areas, there is still some work to be done on closing some gaps. The school advancement plans for the curriculums are built around the needs and data shown in the areas of ELA and math.

b. School Climate Report

Mrs. Buell explained that the School Climate Survey was given through School Messenger this year which is different than years prior. Participation was not as high as she would like it to be. She reviewed the parent surveys for both the elementary school and the middle school which consisted of 38 questions each.

The staff surveys consisted of 68 questions. Administrators are aware of some of the concerns of the staff as well as the some of the areas of success. About half of the staff members took the survey which is not a good participation rate. Discussion ensued surrounding possible ways to encourage more participation.

c. Solar Panel Project Discussion

Mr. LeFleur presented comparisons for installing solar equipment and the savings associated with leasing or purchasing solar panels. He also reviewed the savings over time for utilizing solar power, and the longevity of the systems.

Motion to approve the Educational Specifications for the Brooklyn Elementary and Brooklyn Middle School Photovoltaic Array as presented on revision #3 (Trivella / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

d. Current budget balance: Local Funds, Grant Funds

Mrs. Buell reviewed the current budget status. 15% of the budget has been expended, 74% of the budget has been encumbered and 11% has not been encumbered at this time.

e. Enrollment Report

There are currently 548 students enrolled at the elementary school and 359 enrolled at the middle school. Mrs. Buell also reviewed the high school enrollment.

9. Board of Education Committee Reports

Mrs. Genna stated that negotiations have started with the BEA.

Mr. Atchinson informed that the first Tech Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 5th.

10. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Mrs. Trivella informed that the first Woodstock Academy meeting was a retreat to review their current financials.

EastConn put together a presentation of various data points on the various divisions within EastConn.

Mrs. Trivella encouraged the Board of Education members to attend the CABA Convention.

Mrs. Trivella invited the Board of Education members to attend the Legislative breakfast on January 23, 2019 (snow date January 25).

Mrs. Genna stated that the Board of Finance met last week.

11. Old Business

a. Status of projects

Energy Project - the wiring is complete at the elementary school, but is not yet complete at the middle school.

Generator Project - the grounds are getting prepared for the generator. Power will be shut off on the afternoon of November 5th to install the generator. Mrs. Buell is in the process of finalizing the time of day in which the power will be shut off. If Eversource is unable to accommodate the shut off time at the end of the school day, there may have to be an early dismissal on November 5th to allow Eversource to complete their work.

12. New Business

a. Discussion and possible appointment of new board member

Mrs. Louise Morrison was interviewed as a possible new member of the Board of Education. She stated her reasons for desiring a position on the board as well as her understanding of the importance of the Board of Education from a teacher's perspective.

Mr. Atchinson nominated Mrs. Perkins-Banas
Mrs. Lyons nominated Mrs. Morrison

Mr. Atchinson voted for Mrs. Perkins-Banas
Mrs. Genna voted for Mrs. Perkins-Banas
Mrs. Trivella voted for Mrs. Perkins-Banas
Mrs. Lyons voted for Mrs. Morrison
Mr. Richards voted for Mrs. Perkins-Banas

b. Approval of Policies

The policies will be discussed at next month's meeting.

c. Consideration of safety enhancements

Mrs. Buell informed the Board of Education members of some possible additional safety and security measures. Some additional safety measures include structural changes to the buildings as well as procedural safety measures.

13. Other

Mrs. Buell mentioned looking into costs for air conditioning in certain areas of the buildings. She also expressed her concerns about the potential dangers of the current traffic flow at times of parent drop-off and pick-up.

14. Public Comments

None

Mrs. Genna called a recess at 10:02 pm and came out of recess at 10:07 pm.

15. Executive Session

a. Superintendent's Evaluation 2018-19

The Board of Education members did not go into executive session. Mrs. Buell handed out her three goal areas for the members' review.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:08 pm
(Trivella / Richards)
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel
Recording Secretary

Keith Atchinson, Board of Education Secretary