

## The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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Mae Lyons, Board Chair  
Justin Phaiah, Secretary  
Isaias Sostre

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair  
Kayla Burgess

**Mission:** The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

The Brooklyn Board of Education held their monthly meeting in the Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium and virtually on January 12, 2022 via Zoom webinar. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Ms. Burgess, and Mr. Sostre (arrived at 5:04).

Also in attendance were Patricia Buell, Superintendent, Barbara-Jean Toth, Special Education Director, James Graef, Director of Facilities, Heather Tamsin, BMS Principal, Josh Torchia, BMS Assistant Principal, Paula Graef, BES Principal, and Mark Weaver, BES Assistant Principal.

The Brooklyn Board of Education will hold multiple budget workshops to determine the needs and priorities for the 2022-2023 school year. There will be as many meetings as necessary to agree to a budget to be shared with the Board of Finance. Each budget workshop will be held in the BMS Auditorium and the public is welcome to attend.

We will not be able to respond to questions live, but welcome comments or questions at [budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org](mailto:budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org). Budget questions and answers will be posted on the Brooklyn Public Schools website at [www.brooklynschools.org](http://www.brooklynschools.org).

This budget will be passed by the Board of Education once they have finished discussing the budget.

Budget workshops for the 2022-2023 school year are scheduled for:

January 12, 2022	5:00-7:00 PM	March 23, 2022	6:00-7:00 PM
January 26, 2022	6:00-7:00 PM	April 27, 2022	6:00-7:00 PM
February 23, 2022	6:00-7:00 PM		

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

Mrs. Lyons began with roll call: Kayla Burgess is online, Justin Phaiah, Melissa Perkins-Banas, and herself were present.

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Sostre arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

## 2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell stated that this is the beginning of the budget process. She stated that staff are present to discuss the Budget Priorities and Decision Making Process, which includes Successes, Challenges, and Budget Planning.

Mrs. Tamsin and Mr. Torchia presented information regarding the Brooklyn Middle School's budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Budget drivers that impact student outcomes:

- Maintaining 1:1 chromebooks in the Middle School
- Replacement of classroom furniture to allow for flexible grouping options, within the classroom environment
- After school programming continuing
- Intervention supports
- Continuing to update library materials
- Professional development:
  - Continued work on curriculum
  - Pacing guides
  - Assessments

Areas of need:

- Purchase of math program

Mrs. Graef and Mr. Weaver presented information regarding the Brooklyn Elementary School's budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Budget drivers that impact student outcomes:

- Replacement of library furniture and shelving to create an updated collaborative learning center, which is a 2 year plan
- Library fiction and nonfiction books
- Staff development:
  - Paraprofessional
  - Related Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Pacing Guides
  - PBIS

Areas of Need:

- Mathematics universal screen and progress monitoring assessments
- Mathematic program review

Mrs. Toth presented the Special Education budget for Brooklyn Middle School, Brooklyn

Elementary School and High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Budget drivers that impact student outcomes:

- Increase need for social emotional supports for High School students
- Students transferring into district
- Speech services: unable to hire additional staff, contracted services for Speech Assistant
- Expanded out ESY program to support more students
- ARP and ESSER grant funding is being utilized based grant guidelines

Areas of need:

- New State IEP document
- New state data system CT-SEDS

Mr. Bryant, IT Director, discussed how the Technology budget has moved from the capital budget to the local budget. He stated that he made a five year plan, which includes:

- 4 year Chromebook replacement cycle
- 5 year Windows and Apple replacement cycle
- 8 year network infrastructure replacement cycle
- 4 year ipad replacement cycle
- 5 to 7 year Smartboard replacement cycle

Mr. Bryant also discussed the projected replacement plan based on typical enrollment and the projected network infrastructure refresh plan.

Mr. Graef discussed the Facilities budget for Brooklyn Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Budget drivers facilities:

- Utilities
  - Increase in oil pricing and increase in electricity rates
  - Energy savings based on power generated
  - ZREC: Solar credits go to Town
  - Increase in water rates
  - Increase in property insurance
- Staffing: 1.0 Full Time Custodian
  - Achieve maintenance and daily cleaning goals
  - Alleviate staff shortage for vacation time, personal time, sick time, and injury (workers compensation)
  - Greatly minimize overtime
  - Larger areas to be cleaned
- Capital Project: Boiler replacement

Mrs. Buell asked Mrs. Graef or Mr. Weaver to PBIS. Mr. Weaver stated that PBIS is a school-wide Tier I program, Positive Behavior Intervention Support. They want students to behave in a positive manner around adults and all the language of school rules are in a positive manner. The expectations are consistently being taught to the students and positive incentives are being used.

Dr. Perkins-Banas asked for a sneak preview of the math programs that are being considered. Mrs. Graef stated that she has not looked at anything as of yet, it will be for the next budget year. Mrs. Tamsin stated that they met with math teachers and they are looking at neighboring districts on what they are utilizing. Illustrated Math is one that they are looking at. She stated that Killingly recently adopted and Pomfret has been using Illustrated Math, which could be a potential collaboration with area districts. Mrs. Tamsin stated that they are also looking at CPM, College Preparatory Math, which she has experience in as a Math teacher at a middle school. EnVisions Math is another one that they are considering, which is a little more traditional text kind of math.

The Board members did not have any additional questions for the Administration at this time. The Board members and Mrs. Buell thanked the Administration and staff for their time and effort in putting together their presentations.

Mrs. Buell stated that all budget documents will be posted on the Brooklyn Schools website at [www.brooklynschools.org](http://www.brooklynschools.org). Anyone that has comments or questions about the budget to email [budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org](mailto:budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org). Budget questions and answers will be posted to the Brooklyn Schools website as well.

Next Budget Workshop is January 26, 2021 at 6:00-7:00 p.m.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:48 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna L. DiBenedetto*

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Board Clerk

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Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

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Date