

# The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

---

Mae Lyons, Board Chair  
Keith Atchinson, Secretary  
Tana Jolley

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair  
Justin Phaiah  
Carolyn Hackbarth

**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 a budget workshop virtually on January 13, 2021 via Zoom Webinar. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, and Mrs. Hackbarth. Mr. Atchinson and Mrs. Jolley were absent.

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

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Brooklyn Board of Education will conduct a virtual meeting in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B.

The Brooklyn Board of Education will hold multiple budget workshops to determine the needs and priorities for the 2021-2022 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 via Zoom 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 2021-2022 school year are scheduled for:

January 13, 2021	6:00-8:00 p.m.	March 24, 2021	6:00-7:00 p.m.
January 27, 2021	6:00-7:00 p.m.	April 28, 2021	6:00-7:00 p.m.
February 24, 2021	6:00-7:00 p.m.		

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

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

## 2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell discussed Education and COVID-19, Where we have been...where we are headed. She also discussed 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 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Graef and Mr. Weaver presented information regarding the Brooklyn Elementary School's budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Toth presented the Special Education Budget for Brooklyn Middle School, Brooklyn Elementary School and High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Graef discussed the cleaning of the schools being a challenge during COVID-19. He also discussed the challenges of repairs and ongoing repairs for both schools.

The Board members did not have questions for the Administration at this time.

The Board members and Mrs. Buell thanked the Administration 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 27, 2021 at 6:00-7:00 p.m.

## 3. Public Comment

None

## 4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.  
(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)  
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna L. DiBenedetto*

Donna L. DiBenedetto  
Board Clerk