

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 27, 2021 via Zoom Webinar. In attendance were Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Atchinson, Mr. Phaiah, and Mrs. Hackbarth. Also in attendance was Mrs. Buell, Superintendent. Mrs. Lyons and Mrs. Jolley were absent.

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.

Budget questions and answers will be posted on the Brooklyn Public Schools website at www.brooklynschools.org.

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

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

Quorum established. Dr. Perkins-Banas called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell reviewed the Board of Education Proposed Estimate of Expenditures. The Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year is \$19,980,834, which is \$806,842 or a 4.21 % increase over the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Mrs. Buell discussed the budget drivers as well as a few changes that were made to the budget from the last budget workshop on January 13, 2021. The possible changes would bring the budget to \$19,788,652 or 3.21% increase for the Board to consider.

Mr. Atchinson asked about the insurance increase, what is driving the over \$300,000 increase? The past couple of years, he does not recall it being that high. Is it a normal increase? Mrs. Buell stated that last year's increase started at a 19% increase and was able to get it decreased a little. The insurance representatives did discuss with the Board some of the high claims and increased costs to insurance at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Atchinson had a question in regards to technology. He stated there have been challenges at the middle school in 7th grade with the network, is there money in the budget for technology improvements in case we are still needing to be in distance learning for next year? Mrs. Buell stated that APEX Technology has recommended that the access points be updated and is currently in process of completion. The new Technology Director will be starting next week and will help in troubleshooting some of the issues. Mrs. Buell stated that some of the software and hardware expenditures are part of the capital requests.

The Board did not have any questions at this time in regards to the budget. The next Budget Workshop is February 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

(Phaiah/Hackbarth)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk