

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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 26, 2022 via Zoom webinar. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mrs. Burgess, and Mr. Phaiah (arrived at 6:45 p.m.). Mr. Sostre was absent. Also in attendance was Patricia Buell, Superintendent.

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. 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.

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: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Kayla Burgess and herself were present.

Quorum has not been established and there will be no votes until there is a quorum.
Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell reviewed the Board of Education Proposed Estimate of Expenditures. The Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year is \$20,890,071, which is \$1,260,697 or a 6.42 % increase over the 2021-2022 school year. The budget drivers are salary increases, insurance increases, high school tuition and technology hardware, software, and supplies being in the local budget.

Dr. Perkins-Banas commented that it makes the Board's job difficult when salaries, insurance and tuition is driving the cost of the budget, which are items that are not in the Boards control.

Mrs. Burgess asked Mrs. Buell what are some of the major changes in the proposed budget that are not contracted? Mrs. Buell stated that the new math program and adopting a new curriculum needs to have money set aside for it and \$60,000 is in the budget for the new math curriculum. She stated that diesel and fuel increase in costs are included in the budget. The Technology Director is a shared position with the school and the town and has a market adjustment. Mrs. Buell explained that his salary was listed under a grant and has been moved to the local budget since the grant is only for two years and will run out. She stated that there is an additional custodian in the budget and there are no other new positions.

Mrs. Buell stated that there may be savings in insurance, high school tuition if students choose to go to Ellis Tech versus Killingly High School. Also, the new boilers will bring savings as well.

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. Burgess asked Mrs. Buell what the difference is between the Woodstock Academy contract and the Killingly contract. Mrs. Buell stated that Brooklyn Schools pays Killingly based on the enrollment on October 1, 2022, which means we are estimating how many students will be attending Killingly, not an actual number. She stated that Brooklyn Schools pays Woodstock Academy based on the enrollment that was there on October 1, 2021. The Woodstock Academy number will not be changing.

Next Budget Workshop is February 23, 2022 at 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Mr. Phaiah arrived at 6:45 p.m

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.
(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date