

# 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  
Rick Ives

**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 Central Office Community Room and virtually on March 23, 2022 via Zoom webinar. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Ives, and Mr. Sostre. Also in attendance was Mrs. 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](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).

The 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

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell stated that all budget documents have been 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.

Mrs. Buell stated the Superintendent's Proposed Budget was presented to the Board on January 12, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Buell has made adjustments to the budget since the first Budget Workshop. The current Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 school year is \$20,706,479 or 5.49%, which is a \$1,077,105 increase over the 2021-2022 school year,

Mrs. Buell discussed a few adjustments that were made to the budget from the last budget workshop on February 23, 2022. There was an adjustment made to the Financial Assistant's line due to the town discussing picking up half of a position, which the School and the Town would each fund 1.5 Financial Assistants. The Finance Director/Business Manager line has an adjustment due to part of the salary being funded by a grant. She also adjusted the O&M contracted services line for the Solar project. High School tuition numbers are as of March 14, 2022 and eleven (11) students were accepted to Ellis Technical High School, which can still change. The custodial OT coverage line has been adjusted as well due to the additional custodian position being put into the budget.

Mr. Ives asked if the Board of Finance weighed in at all? Mrs. Buell stated that she heard them discuss at the Board of Finance meeting that they are interested in having shared services, not separate services. There would be some collaboration between both Directors and Financial Assistants, there will always be cross-training. If someone happens to be out, someone else can cover the positions. She stated that she believes the Town understands there is a need for two Directors, which will still be shared and the Finance Office will continue being at the Central Office of Brooklyn Public Schools. The Building Repairs line has also been reduced due to the boilers being replaced.

Mrs. Buell stated that these changes would bring the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 school year to an increase of \$20,575,634 or 4.82%, which is a \$946,260 increase over the 2021-2022 school year for the Board to consider.

Mrs. Buell discussed a few additional adjustments for the Board to consider that would reduce the budget further. These reductions would bring the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 school year to an increase of \$20,552,570 or 4.70%, which is a \$923,196 increase over the 2021-2022 school year for the Board to consider.

Mrs. Buell stated that there was a Special Board of Finance meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022, and budget presentations are being scheduled for April 5, 2022 and April 28, 2022. She has not received confirmation or a request to commit to either date. Mrs. Buell stated that if it is April 5, 2022, the Board would need to take action on the budget.

Mrs. Buell explained the budget process. Once the Board approves the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, it becomes the Board of Education's Budget, which then is presented to

the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance receives the budget from the Superintendent presenting it, listens to all department's budgets and the Board of Finance makes a decision on what they will bring to the voters. There will be a Public Hearing and then there will be a vote at a Town Meeting.

The Board of Education is ready to vote on a budget this evening with the additional reductions Mrs. Buell discussed.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 school year for \$20,552,570 or 4.70%, which is a \$923,196 increase over the 2021-2022 school year.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 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