

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
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 Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium and virtually on February 22, 2023 via Zoom webinar. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Ms. Burgess, Mr. Ives and Mr. Sostre. Also in attendance were Patricia Buell, Superintendent, and Charles Carey, Business Manager.

The Brooklyn Board of Education will hold multiple budget workshops to determine the needs and priorities for the 2023-2024 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.

Budget workshops for the 2023-2024 school year are scheduled for:

January 18, 2023	5:00-7:00 PM	March 22, 2023	6:00-7:00 PM
January 25, 2023	6:00-7:00 PM	April 26, 2023	6:00-7:00 PM
February 22, 2023	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, Justin Phaiah, Rick Ives, Mr. Sostre and herself, Mae Lyons, were present.

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell reviewed the Board of Education Proposed Estimate of Expenditures. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 school year is \$21,740,892, which is \$1,200,116 or a 5.84% increase over the 2022-2023 school year. The budget drivers are salary increases, insurance increases, high school tuition and technology hardware, software, and supplies being in the local budget.

Mrs. Buell discussed a few adjustments that were made to the budget from the last Budget Workshop on January 18, 2023. There is an increase to the secretarial overtime line due to there not being any funds for secretarial overtime. There is an increase to the overtime custodial line due to already exceeding the overtime allocated for this year already. There is an increase to the teacher salary line for longevity payments. There is an increase to the para line for longevity payments. There is an increase to the high school tuition. Mrs. Buell stated that the tuition constantly changes due to students being accepted to one school and then changing to go to another school and tuition is calculated differently for different schools. She stated that Woodstock Academy's tuition rate is based on this past October 1, 2022 enrollment numbers. Killingly High School's tuition rate is based on this coming October 1, 2023 enrollment numbers. These increases brought the budget to 5.98% increase. There is a decrease to the medical advisor line due to contracting with a different advisor. The excess cost, money received as reimbursement for students with high needs and cost a lot to educate, is going from 65% to 70%. There is a correction to the Finance Director salary offset by ARP ESSER funding for one more year. The chromebook cases were reduced. Mrs. Buell stated that she locked in fuel heating oil \$2.9997 versus \$3.25 and also locked in \$3.0774 versus 3.2402 for diesel fuel, which the Town utilizes and the School bills the Town for the diesel. The health insurance reduced to 7%. There is also a teacher retiring from a salary of MA Step 11 and being filled with a MA Step 7. Mrs. Buell stated that with these adjustments, the Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year is now \$21,557,600, which is a 4.95% increase of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mrs. Buell stated that the new math curriculum, once it is adopted for the elementary school, will be grant funded. The middle school's math program will be grant funded as well. The ARP ESSER funding can be used to purchase instructional materials for the next five years, which is approximately \$160,000.00.

Aaron Soucy asked what the Brooklyn Board of Education's Budget increase was for last year. Ms. Burgess stated that last year's adopted budget was a 4.7% increase.

Mrs. Buell stated that she was notified that 21 students were accepted into Ellis Technical High School and she has been looking at those students' second choice high school for an approximate tuition amount.

The Board had a discussion in regards to the size of the 6th grade classrooms for the next school year and the possibility of adding a teacher to reduce the class size. If the Board adds a teacher for 6th grade, the salary and insurance would be approximately \$78,000.00

and this would bring the budget to a 5.33% increase. The Board agreed to add a teacher into the budget for the next school year.

The Board of Education is ready to vote on the budget this evening with the additional changes that Mrs. Buell discussed as well as adding the additional teacher.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to adopt the Superintendent's Proposed Budget with the additional teacher for the 2023-2024 school year for \$21,635,600 or 5.33% increase over the 2022-2023 school year.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

Vote: 5 in favor; 1 abstention

Mrs. Lyons: Yes

Dr. Perkins-Banas: Yes

Mr. Phaiah: Yes

Mrs. Burgess: Yes

Mr. Ives: Yes

Mr. Sostre: Abstention

Mrs. Buell stated that she will update the budget documents with the changes discussed this evening and all budget documents will be posted on the Brooklyn Schools website at www.brooklynschools.org.

Mrs. Buell asked Mr. Soucy when the Board of Finance is scheduling budget presentations. Mr. Soucy stated that the Board of Finance set the dates and will forward the dates via email.

Mrs. Buell stated that the Board of Education budget meetings will end this evening. She stated that she will bring the capital budget information to the next Board of Education's regular meeting, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.

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