

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Aimee Genna, Chair
Joan Trivella, Vice Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary

Mae Lyons
Nathan Richards
Melissa Perkins-Banas

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 its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Mrs. Trivella and Mr. Atchinson were absent. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, Mrs. Tamsin, BMS Principal, Mr. Torchia, BMS Assistant Principal, were also present. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

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

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Stella Atchinson and Davis Simpson, Peer Helpers

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting February 27, 2019

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting February 27, 2019

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2019
(Richards/Lyons)
Unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Brooklyn Board of Education Appreciation

March is Board of Education Recognition Month and Mrs. Buell wanted to show how much the board is appreciated. Mrs. Buell presented each Board member with a certificate and for the second year in a row the 5th grade students wrote thank you notes to the Board members.

b. Brooklyn Middle School Buddies Recognition

Mrs. Buell shared the work Ms. Malone has done with the Peer Helper program for the past 25 years with the 7th and 8th grade students being paired up with buddies/students in the elementary school. Mrs. Buell wanted to thank the buddies and gave each of the students and Ms. Malone a certificate.

A few students shared their stories about being a Peer Helper and what they do with their buddies.

Ms. Malone wanted to thank the Peer Helpers for giving up their time to help others.

Ms. Genna made a motion to move the New Business item 11a. section up at this time.
Motion to approve
(Richards/Lyons)
Unanimous vote to approve

11a. Woodstock Academy Presentation

Representatives from Woodstock Academy gave a presentation on what the Academy has to offer for Brooklyn students such as Woodstock Academy's Academic Highlights, College acceptance, Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered, Early College Experience (ECE) courses. They also reported on Honor Roll and SAT scores on how Brooklyn students are scoring compared to other Woodstock Academy students and on the state level as well.

5. Correspondence and Communication (continued)

c. Thank you to Danielson Elks

Mrs. Buell shared that The Danielson Elks donated \$1,000 to purchase books for the BMS Library. Mrs. Buell thanked Lenore Auger, Exalted Ruler, and Mike Wimmer, Leading Knight for their donation. She also thanked Mrs. Wimmer, fifth grade teacher and also a member of The Danielson Elks, for being a very

strong advocate for the Brooklyn Public Schools. Mrs. Buell sent a thank you letter to the members of The Danielson Elks.

d. Thank you to Beagary Charitable Trust

Mrs. Buell shared that the Brooklyn Public Schools received a \$5,000 check from the Beagary Charitable Trust and that this is the second year of three years receiving this donation. The donation goes towards field trips, helping students attend field trips, or having outside resources coming into the schools (ex. Storytellers, etc.)

e. Thank you to Jewett City Savings Bank

Mrs. Buell shared this was the first year that Jewett City Savings Bank came to the Brooklyn Elementary School for a Peace Assembly and also presented the first grade with a donation. In the past, first graders would go to Jewett City Savings Bank in December singing carols and decorating the tree with ornaments students had made.

6. Brooklyn's Best

BES

1. We had a very successful Invention Convention. Three third grade students have qualified for the state competition.

Grade level winners:

Kindergarten - Colton Wood (Door Lock Sign)

First grade - Lochlan Curran (Fruit Cupper)

Second grade - AJ Santos (Cookie Slider)

Third grade - Harper Simoneau (Stink Sac)

Fourth grade - Paul Carpenter (Candle Wax Remover)

Top Scorers going to the state competition at UConn on May 4th:

Third grade - Harper Simoneau (Stink Sac)

Third grade - Lilian Frechette (Rice Bags)

Third grade - Melanie DiPippo (No Trip Slips)

Other awards:

Kids' Choice Award - AJ Santos (Cookie Slider)

Best Presenter - Melanie DiPippo (No Trip Slips)

Best Log Book - Evelyn Thayer (Tired Hand 3000)

2. The 2nd grade math club is proving to build quite a bit of excitement around math. Staff have volunteered their time to provide additional supports to the students.

3. Some kindergarten teachers and a grade 1 teacher went to a workshop on the Phonics Units of Study. They are energized about starting the program in fall. Additionally, the PTO purchased the program mascots for each teacher in grade 1 and kindergarten.

BMS

1. Girls Basketball representatives did a great job on WINY radio!
2. Successful 6th grade Invention Convention, thank you to students for their hard work, parents for their support and teachers for teaching students about the process and for inspiring tomorrow's inventors.
3. We are gearing up for Track, Baseball and Softball season.
4. Congratulations to our cast and crew of an amazing production of Into the Woods. Thank you to Amy Landis, Crista Russell, Susan Thompson, Michelle Parmeter for all of their assistance to the Drama Club in collecting donations and assisting the Drama Club to raise funds for the current and future shows.
5. Thank you to Theresa Demers and her husband who did a lot with lights and stage aspects of our Drama Production! This will impact the drama club as well as other events that are held in the auditorium.

7. Administrative Reports

a. Current budget balance

Mrs. Buell reviewed the current budget balance and stated that the consulting accountants are continuing to work on reconciliation as well as new procedures and protocols. Mrs. Buell doesn't expect to have a negative balance once the reconciliation is complete.

b. Current Grant Report

Grant Report is still on track

c. High school Tuition

Reports are updated; no changes

d. Enrollment Report

Reports are updated; no major changes

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to Report

9. Board Representatives to other Committees

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Building Committee met last week as well as tonight, just before the Board of Education Meeting. She reported that they are moving forward.

Mrs. Genna stated that Mrs. Buell presented the Board of Education Budget to the Board of Finance last week, March 20, 2019. They are still waiting to hear if the budget has been accepted. The Board of Finance will not be accepting budgets until all committees have presented their budgets. Mr. Otto stated the school probably won't hear anything until the beginning to mid May.

10. Old Business

a. Hiring status of vacant positions

Business Office - Mrs. Buell stated that she and Mr. Ives will be conducting interviews tomorrow for the HR/Executive position as well as the Business Manager for both the town and school. The Assistant Financial Secretary interviews will probably start next week.

Teaching Positions: posted to CT REAP, Applitrack

11. New Business

a. Woodstock Academy Presentation - Reported earlier

b. Share Child and Nutrition Program Review

Mrs. Buell stated the review went very well. She also stated that the Board may need to look at/review the Food Policy in the near future.

c. Review of Capital Requests

The Capital Committee is meeting tomorrow, March 28, 2019. Mrs. Buell stated they should wait until after the the capital committee meets before reviewing capital requests.

d. Update on Accountants working to develop procedures

Mrs. Buell stated that they are still working on developing new procedures and Protocols.

e. School Security Considerations

Mrs. Buell stated she would like to hold off on discussing school security considerations until Mr. Atchinson is present.

f. Funds to support the cost of Project Management, zrecs

The cost of the zrecs to be purchased from Greenskies was done through the electricity account. We will have saved approximately \$40,000 due to the lights being changed to LED bulbs last year by our custodial team. This has enabled us to cover the cost for the zrecs, \$3,472.60 for each building or a total of \$6,945.20. The building committee has requested that we determine if we can cover the first 20% of the cost of the project manager which funds will need to be appropriated through a Town Meeting. This cost would be: \$7,750. This could also come out of the electricity line item of the budget.

Motion to approve \$7,750 to be used from the BOE electricity line item to cover 10% of the cost of the project manager.

(Lyons/Richards)

Unanimous vote to approve

g. Last day of 2018-19 School Year

Currently the last day of school is scheduled for June 14, 2019, the 182nd day of school. Eighth grade promotion ceremony is scheduled for the 181st day of school, which will be on June 13, 2019.

12. Other

13. Public Comment

Mr. Kerouac had some questions and concerns in regards to the building committee meetings on solar. Where are the minutes posted? How many people did the walk through and the bidding? How many people applied/who applied? Who was selected?

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk