

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Joan Trivella, Acting Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
May 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 April 24, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Absent was Mr. Atchinson. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also present. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

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

Mrs. Trivella called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Vote on Board Chair Vacancy

Mrs. Trivella stated that there has been a sudden board vacancy and instead of replacing the board chair twice in one year with her not running for re-election in November, Mrs. Trivella made a motion to nominate Nathan Richards as BOE Chair.

Motion to approve nomination for Nathan Richards as BOE Chair
(Trivella/Buell)

Paper vote was taken

Each vote unanimously stated Nathan Richards for BOE Chair

4. Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting April 24, 2019

- a. Board of Education Regular Meeting April 24, 2019

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2019
(Lyons/Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

6. Correspondence and Communication

- a. Thank you notes

Mrs. Buell wanted to thank the Girl Scouts for their donation of the gaga pit for the elementary school. All the children love the gaga pit. She handed each Girl Scout a thank you note and a group photo was taken with the BOE.

Mrs. Buell stated that another thank you note was sent to the Beagary Charitable Trust for additional donations of \$10,000 for four years for the one to one initiative for the middle school chromebooks and also a donation for instructional materials for the STEAM program in each school.

Mrs. Buell sent a thank you note to the Karro family for their continued support for making donations to the middle school for students attending the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

- b. Note from the Commissioner of Education

Mrs. Buell stated she received a letter from the Commissioner of Education for participating in the IEP Revision Stakeholder Advisory Group, which is assisting the Bureau of Special Education with developing a new IEP document that is easier to use and understand.

Mr. Richards made a motion to add agenda items 6c and 6d
(Lyons/Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

- c. Communication from employee

Mrs. Buell received a request from Ms. Gatlin to extend her maternity leave of absence following the completion of her FMLA.

Motion to approve the request from Ms. Gatlin to take unpaid leave of absence following the completion of her FMLA, not to extend beyond January 2, 2020.
(Lyons/Perkins-Banas)
Unanimous vote to approve

d. Award letter for two State Grants

Mrs. Brown applied for and received two state grants. The first grant is in the amount of \$6,000 toward improving outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The second grant is in the amount of \$6,000 toward assisting with increasing the quality of programs for young students ages 3, 4, and 5 with IEPs.

Motion to add agenda item 6 share from Crazy 8's Math Club
(Lyons/Trivella)

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs Brady, Mrs. Deary, Mrs. Bauch and Ms. Ackley explained what the Crazy 8's Math Club is all about by building things, making noise, and running with everything being provided for free. Students get to bring home items from every lesson such as a deck of cards, noisy things, dice, etc. The Crazy 8's Math Club is indirective learning to help build students confidence up and have fun with math. 16 students talked about their favorite activities for example building shapes out of glow sticks, pyramid card games (adding up to 13), toilet paper olympics (about measuring), catapults with marshmallows, get loud (decibal meter), spy game (dressing up like a detective). etc. The students think math is more educating and fun after being in the math club from learning all kinds of math by playing.

Mrs. Buell wanted to acknowledge the teachers that did this on their own time and that Brooklyn Schools have great teachers that go above and beyond. A group picture was taken with the students and the BOE.

7. Brooklyn's Best

BES

1. Lindsey Ackley and Nicole Duquette completed all TEAM modules, Great job!
2. K Orientation was a success.
3. Grade 1 interview team (Sarah Froehlich, Kristin Syversen, Charleen Barbour, and Aoife Heslip) interviewed great candidates.
4. Lillian Frechette 3rd Grade- Connecticut Invention Convention, received one Connecticut Safety Society, Boehringer Cares Foundation in Life Sciences, and Environmentally Friendly award. She also won her group level award for her age group. She is invited to speak at an upcoming forum for the environment in Connecticut.
5. The gaga pit in front of BES is a big hit! Students are using it before and after school as well as during recess!
6. Congratulations Lillian Frechette who will be attending the National Invention Convention in Dearborn, MI. There were others who qualified but Lillian and her family will travel to the Convention being held May 29-31.

BMS

1. 18 members of the track and field team met the qualifying standards for the CT Middle School Track and Field Championship.
2. Boys Baseball record 2-6
3. Girls Softball record 7-1 (qualified for championships)
4. Elizabeth Smith is a CHET Essay Contest winner.
5. Elks Poster Contest winners: Luke Landis, Emma Magistri, Baylee Rosinski, Camden Mercer
6. Elks Essay Contest winners: Abagayle Roberts, Kaylie Parmeter
7. Geography Fair May 29, 30 please visit and see the work of our students.
8. Quarter 3 Lions Club Award winners: Chase Stevenson, Camden Nason, Alex Morales, Nicholas Walters
9. 63 students and many staff were signed up to walk at the Relay for Life and raised money for cancer research. Thank you Mrs. Green and Mrs. Soquet for organizing this event.

Thank you to the many parent volunteers throughout the school year! Your contribution to our schools is appreciated! There are so many things that would not happen without the volunteers who make our school community special!

Important Dates:

May 22 BOE Meeting
May 23 BES Book Character Parade
May 23 Chorus Concert 7 pm
May 24 Artist Visit (Rob Surette) <http://www.amazingheroart.com/index.html>
May 29 Geography Fair BMS, 6:30PM
May 30 BES tour of BMS
May 29 7th Grade Geography Fair at 6:30 pm
May 28-30 8th Grade DC Field Trip
June 3 Town Meeting to vote on the Budget, 7:00PM
June 4 Honors Night/NJHS Induction at 6 pm
June 6 Band/Chorus Music Field Trip
June 8 8th Grade Graduation Dance 6:30pm-9:00pm
June 11 5th Grade Field Trip to Mystic Seaport
June 12 6th Grade Field Trip to Mystic Aquarium
June 13 8th grade students dismissed at 10:45 am
June 13 8th Grade Graduation (last day for 8th graders and PM Preschool students)
June 14 Last Day of School- Early Release
June 19, 20 Staff training on Restorative Practices

8. Administrative Reports

- a. Current Budget Balance

Mrs. Buell reviewed the current budget balance and stated the budget is still in progress and she is continuing to work with the accountants and they are making progress. Mrs. Buell also stated that iVisions will be training financial staff with procedures and protocols for the program to work efficiently.

b. High School Tuition Report

No major changes; Mrs. Buell did share the expected 9th grade student percentages of Brooklyn students that attend each sending high school.

c. Enrollment Report

Reports are updated; no major changes

9. Board of Education Committee Reports

Mr. Richards mentioned that they recently met with the school nurses to begin negotiating contracts for next year. A slight change has been made on how they are going to be addressing non-union employees. Instead of having a three year term contract as in the past, the benefits have been migrated with little to no modification over to a one year job offer. Mr Richards stated that they are hoping that the offers will be accepted.

Mrs. Buell spoke in regards to the building committee for the solar project. The application was denied the first time due to needing the town to vote on the solar project at a town meeting. Mr. Otto stated the Board of finance met tonight, May 22, 2019, and approved the two resolutions related to the installation of solar panels on both schools. Mrs. Buell will reapply after the town meeting, which is June 3, 2019. She is hoping to have an answer by the middle of June.

10. Board Representatives to other Committees

Mrs. Trivella stated that Eastconn met yesterday, May 21, 2019, for their annual meeting. Eastconn's biggest hit this year is the increase in health insurance.

Mrs. Trivella stated Woodstock Academy met yesterday, May 21, 2019. She liked the break down of the education bills and grants that gave a true synopsis. Mrs. Trivella shared Brooklyn Students achievements for an academic committee. She also shared a correspondence that was sent to the Brooklyn Board of Education on how Brooklyn Schools wanted Woodstock Academy to bill their tuition.

11. Old Business

Food service should be all set for offering the same summer programming at the Community Center, Carelot, and at Brooklyn schools servicing the park and rec students and students that require extended school year will participate in the lunch program.

12. New Business

a. Approve new total for 2019-2020 BOE Budget

Due to a reduction in insurance costs, the budget has been reduced by \$25,000. The Town Meeting to vote on the budget is June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brooklyn Middle School. The Budget documents can be found on the Brooklyn Public Schools' website; www.brooklynschools.org.

Motion to approve the revised Board of Education budget of \$18,662,768.

(Lyons/Trivella)

Unanimous vote to approve

b. Spanish Instruction changes at BMS

The purpose for the change was to address the instructional needs of students. As the schedule has been developed, it became clearer that the schedule would address the needs of students who want to try to complete the requirement of Spanish 1 during middle school as well as those who may need additional reading instruction before leaving middle school.

13. Public Comment

Mrs. Landis wanted to state her concerns with Spanish being decreased due to ELA scores being down and increasing ELA and reading instruction to having 2 whole class periods all year. Mrs. Landis feels there should be 2 full years of a foreign language for 7th and 8th graders. She also stated that Senor Gutierrez does a fantastic job teaching Spanish. She fears the amount of instruction loss, that eventually the program will be eliminated and thinks it'll be a huge disservice to our children. If students don't need additional reading instruction, she hopes they'll have the opportunity to have at least half a year of foreign language in Spanish instruction.

Mr. Otto stated that the United States has slipped 4 more points against other nations in the world in math capabilities. The quality of education being provided to students in the U.S. is getting poorer and poorer. Mr. Otto asked the board to focus on rigor and quality of education even if it means increasing the budget.

Mr. Kerouac wanted clarification about how the budget was presented with the paras, if there was a grade number next to the para, that means that para works in that grade and if no grade they're one to one? He is also concerned with the solar project being delayed for the town vote if it would affect the share of the cost being covered?. Mr. Kerouac was also wondering about the credits how they're purchased from the state, what is that fee?

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.
(Lyons/Trivella)
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Donna L. DiBenedetto
Board Clerk