

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 Central Office Community Room Auditorium and virtually on April 27, 2022 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess. Mr. Sostre, and Mr. Ives were absent. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, was also present.

To support public participation the documents will be posted on the Town of Brooklyn Website as well as the Brooklyn Public Schools Website. You are encouraged to send questions or comments to buell@brooklynschools.org prior to the meeting.

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

Mrs. Lyons stated that four Board members were present: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, and herself, Mae Lyons.

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. March 23, 2022 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2022.
(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

Vote Count: 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

- a. 2021 CAPPS Award Winners: Nina Garcia, Henry Snyder, Benjamin Arters & Olivia Tracy

Mrs. Buell wanted to recognize the Brooklyn students that are the 2021 CAPPS Award Winners and introduced the four students in attendance tonight, Nina Garcia (4th Grade), Henry Snyder (4th Grade), Benjamin Arters (8th Grade), and Olivia Tracy (8th Grade). Mrs. Buell read what the teachers had written about each of the students and took a photo of the students with the Board.

- b. Woodstock Academy/Killingly High school Presentation

Holly Singleton, Associate Head of School, and Karin Hughes, Dean of Student Affairs, from Woodstock Academy gave a presentation on Health services at the Woodstock Academy, which included:

- Staffing for Health Services
- Training and Certification
- Health Offices on Each Campus
- Website Reporting Feature
- Athletic Training and Physical Therapy
- School-Based Counseling
- Community Partnerships
- Additional Supports

Mrs. Lyons stated that they mentioned health insurance, are the services they mentioned being provided without insurance? They stated the health insurance is needed just for Silver Linings; all other services do not require insurance.

Elise Geary, Administrator Principal, at Killingly High school gave a presentation on what Killingly High School has to offer Brooklyn students, which included:

- Academics
 - Career Pathways
 - Schedule
- Athletic Accomplishments
- Music Department
- Clubs
- Killingly Regional Agricultural Education Center (AG Program)
 - Facility
 - We're Not Just Cows and Plows
 - The Three-Ring Model
 - Killingly FFA Chapter
 - Awards, Accolades & Achievements
 - Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

Mrs. Buell asked Ms. Geary if she could provide an update or what information they could provide with health services at Killingly High School. Mrs. Geary stated a lot has been happening and what people are reading is most likely

accurate and what she could provide at this time. She stated it is on the Board Agenda this evening. She stated they have a lot of support at the State and Local level and their goal is to have a school based health center at the high school. Ms. Geary stated the high school had one previously and dwindled due to the pandemic and being unable to be in the building. There were also changes with Board members and a Superintendent change. The need of having a school based health center started to come back up last year and they started to investigate on bringing it back. They have the space and a great partnership with Generations. She stated that Killingly has seven school counselors, a psychologist and a social worker and from what they have been seeing from the pandemic, this is not enough. Additional counseling was provided and are hoping to see this move in the right direction. Mrs. Geary stated she is hoping the Board will recognize this is an important measure to support Killingly students.

Ms. Burgess stated she didn't realize there was a health center put in a few years ago before the pandemic. She asked if what is being proposed now is different from what they had before? Mrs. Geary stated it is not different; it is the same thing.

c. Thank You - The Ice Box

Mrs. Buell stated she sent a thank you letter to the Nemeth Family, The Ice Box, for their very generous donation to Brooklyn Elementary School of \$1,000 for the BES Reading Intervention Program, which will make an impact with the program and with the students.

d. Resignation - Candace Anderson

Mrs. Buell stated she received a letter of resignation from Candace Anderson, School Psychologist, for the Brooklyn Public Schools, effective June 14, 2022. Mrs. Buell and the Board wish her well.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment

Mrs. Buell discussed the March enrollment report. She stated that there were no major changes in enrollment. The total enrollment changed by a decrease of three.

b. FY22 Financial Reports

Mrs. Buell shared the expenditure report. She stated that 97.43% of the budget has been encumbered, 0.76% of the budget is remaining. She continues to work with the Director of Finance to monitor the budget. The budget is very tight. They are watching and monitoring it carefully.

Mrs. Buell stated she will be presenting the Board of Education Budget and the Capital Budget tomorrow, Thursday, April 28, 2022 to the Board of Finance. Mrs. Lyons asked when the Town Meeting will be? Mrs. Buell stated if the Board of Finance approves moving forward with using unspent solar funds to the boiler project, those funds could be used right now and it is an acceptable expense according to counsel. It needs to be approved by the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen have to go to a Town Meeting. She stated if that recommendation is made and a motion is approved, in conversation with Mr. Tanner, he would like to move it ahead, sooner than later. A special town meeting still needs to be scheduled as soon as possible, hopefully mid May.

c. Budget Transfer

Mrs. Buell discussed the budget transfer request to transfer funds in the salary line item for athletics staff in the amount of \$2,427.00. She would like the Board to approve to move \$2,427.00 from the Salary-Athletics Staff line item to the Coach/Referees-Student Sports line item to offset the deficit.

Motion to approve the transfer of \$2,427.00 as detailed in the transfer request.
(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

d. March Data Dashboard

Mrs. Buell discussed the Data Dashboard for March with the Board. She stated the data has not changed by much due to a short cycle. Mrs. Buell stated that attendance is improving due to fewer students and teachers being sick with Covid.

Brooklyn Elementary School Data for the month of March:

- Assessment completed on time: 100%
- At or above expectations: NA
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 62; 11.48%
- % of students in intervention Tier III: 80; 14.81%
- Observations reviewed: 9
- Instructional pacing on track: 89.00%
- Learning objectives: 89.00%

Brooklyn Middle School Data for the month of March:

- Assessment completed on time: 100.00%
- At or above expectations: Math - 29%; ELA - 55%
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 125; 36%
- Student intervention Tier III: 49; 14.12%
- Observations reviewed: 4

- Instructional pacing on track: 75.00%
- Learning objectives: 75.00%

District Attendance for the month of March:

- BES student attendance: 544 ; 91.09%
- BES staff attendance: 88; full day - 95.95%; partial day - 95.60%
- BMS student attendance: 349 - 93.49%
- BMS staff attendance: 64; full day - 96.20%; partial day - 96.40%

e. Brooklyn's Best

BES

- We received word that we passed our NAEYC Accreditation evaluation. This was a tremendous undertaking for our staff and we are honored to hold our accreditation for another 5 years.
- We have completed another round of data meetings. Staff discussed the needs of our students and made adjustments to intervention groupings based on the data collected.
- Ms. McAvoy completed TEAM.
- We have 8 staff members that signed up to attend a Science of Reading Book Club. This club meets after school hours with other teachers across the State.
- Grade 3 students will share their Research Projects to their parents on Thursday night.
- We have observed more students supporting and encouraging one another. This is a credit to the social emotional learning activities teachers have incorporated into their day.

BMS

- Joyelle Caron, Shannon Russo and Heather Iannone have successfully completed TEAM. Additional appreciation to their dedicated mentors that supported them with the process: Stacey Cheney, Natalie Geeza and Rachel Mackewicz
- Shrek The Musical performances are currently scheduled for May 13th and 14th.
- Our 3 stations for the Community Fitness Course are due to be delivered in late May.
- Math team has been successfully piloting the math programs. Most teachers have worked with 2 out of the 3 programs and seem to be moving in a similar direction with their preferences.
- Student Council is planning a social for Grade 5 and 6 students in May.
- Quarter 4 after school activities are beginning this week including the following clubs:

- Newspaper
- Diversity Alliance
- Volleyball
- Art
- The entire school was involved in a virtual author's visit with Gordon Korman on April 13th. This event was a celebration of the hard work that students put in for our Reading Challenge. Grade 6 students received a copy of his new book, Linked. We also received a number of copies that are available in the library and teachers' classroom libraries.
- Thank you to the families that contributed to the meals provided to staff on the evening of conferences. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by staff!
- Second Quarter 2021 2022 Lions Club Award Recipients:
 - **5th: Ioannis Kotsalidis**
 - **6th: Lillian Frechette**
 - **7th: Mitchell Mazzucco**
 - **8th: Cadence Nichols**
- Good Cookie February 2022:
 - Grade 5:** King/DS: Lillian Dumond
Carson/Nault: Jalen Catano
 - Grade 6:** Carlita Herrera, Peyton Loeber
 - Grade 7:** Elijah Poh, Gabby Lessey
 - Grade 8:** Dylan Lacasse, Gabby Payne

6. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to Report

7. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to Report

8. Old Business

a. FY23 Budget Update

Mrs. Buell stated that the Board of Education approved the Superintendent's Proposed Budget at the last Budget Workshop on March 23, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year..

Mrs. Buell stated that she has made a minor change to the budget. The new Superintendent's Proposed Budget is \$20,540,776 or 4.64%, which is a \$911,402 increase over the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Buell is requesting the Board to

approve the new budget. This budget will be presented to the Board of Finance tomorrow, April 28, 2022, if the Board approves.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to adopt the amended budget.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

Vote Count: 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

9. New Business

a. Accreditation Report

Mrs. Buell stated the Brooklyn Early Childhood Program has achieved a new five-year term of accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

b. Update to the Middle School Math Pilot

Mrs. Buell shared an update to the Middle School Math Pilot for Mrs. Tamsin. There are three math programs that were being considered by the Math Committee:

- Envisions (K-8)
 - Identified pros and cons with this program
 - Program was not liked by teachers and students
 - Older and a more traditional program
- CPM (6-8) Nonprofit
 - Identified pros and cons with this program
 - Was not a favorite with teachers and students
- Illustrative Mathematics (IM) (K-8)
 - Identified pros and no cons so far with this program
 - State is working on a Model Curriculum using materials from IM
 - Aligns to the standards
 - Family connection piece

The Math Committee has eliminated Envisions due to the limited student collaboration and engagement. All teachers have piloted the Illustrative Mathematics (IM). It seems the teachers are leaning towards a recommendation towards Illustrative Mathematics. They will continue to meet as a math team for final input on their recommendations.

Mrs. Lyons asked how this program is different from what they are currently using. Mrs. Buell stated that it is a more guided program, more user friendly, and more updated than EngageNY. She stated it is more up to date with the standards. There will be more updates next month.

c. Special Education prevalence rates over last five years and State comparison

Mrs. Buell stated that a Board member requested Special Education prevalence rates at the last meeting and she had asked Mrs. Toth, Special Education Director, to provide the information for the Board. Mrs. Buell discussed the Special Education prevalence rates for students with disabilities over the last five years and the State comparison to the District. She stated that the Brooklyn and the State identification rates have increased each year for the last five years and are very close.

The Special Education Prevalence Rate - 5 years old to 21 years old:

- District Rate:
 - 2017 - 2018: 13.20%
 - 2018 - 2019: 14.50%
 - 2019 - 2020: 13.92%
 - 2020 - 2021: Not Available (COVID)
 - 2021 - 2022: 16.20%
- State Rate:
 - 2017 - 2018: 14.50%
 - 2018 - 2019: 15.00%
 - 2019 - 2020: 15.60%
 - 2020 - 2021: Not Available (COVID)
 - 2021 - 2022: 16.30%

During 2020-21 there were fewer referrals. During this time the learning models fluctuated between hybrid, in person and remote.

During 2021-22 we have had numerous referrals. There are some students who have gaps in their instruction due to the inability to change between various learning models. Some of the challenges we are seeing are related to interrupted instruction or lost instruction and may not be due to a disability but a lack of instruction. Some students do have a disability and may have been identified earlier, but due to the pandemic they were not referred.

Other Factors: There are definitely students who have been impacted by social and emotional factors before, during and after the pandemic. Some children had more dramatic experiences during the pandemic. This has resulted in an increase in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) for many which can result in developmental, behavioral and health impacts. Students who have traumatic adverse experiences have greater difficulty with emotional regulation need additional support to develop resilience, adaptive skills and ability to self-regulate. These must be addressed in order for a student to be ready to learn.

SRBI: Through the increased monitoring and assessment, we are able to identify students who may be presenting with a disability quicker. We are currently faced

with numerous referrals. Our special education teacher caseloads have grown and the additional special education staff funded with ESSER funds is definitely needed.

d. Anticipated last day and 8th grade promotion

Mrs. Buell discussed the anticipated last day and 8th grade promotion dates:

- 8th Grade Promotion: June 16, 2022
- Last Day: June 17, 2022 for Grades PK -7th with Early Dismissal
- 4th Grade Promotion: June 17, 2022

Other end of the year events:

- Staff Appreciation: May 3, 2022
- Drama Club Performance of Shrek: May 13th and 14th
- PTO Golf Tournament: May 22, 2022
- 8th Grade Trip: June 1-3, 2022 to Nature's Classroom, Yarmouth Port, MA
- Music Trip: June 10, 2022

e. Policies - 1st Reading

Mrs. Buell stated the following policies are a first reading for the Board of Education.

i. Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Mrs. Buell stated that this Policy is a first read. The updated policy is the first three pages, next 20 pages or more is administrative regulations. The regulations have changed. She stated it would replace Policy 5145.5. Mrs. Buell recommends the Board read the policy and will discuss it again next month

ii. Policy 4215 - Supervision and Evaluation

Mrs. Buell stated Policy 4215 - Supervision and Evaluation is a first read. She is recommending an edit to eliminate the first version and keep only the second "another version." The Board is ready to make a motion.

Ms. Burgess made a motion to eliminate the first version and keep only the second "another version."

(Burgess/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

iii. Policy 3440 - Inventory

Mrs. Buell stated Policy 3440 - Inventory is a first read. She stated that the Town's threshold is \$5,000 for equipment, \$10,000 for vehicles, \$15,000 Heavy Equipment. Currently the Board of Education has \$200 and she suggests the Board choose a higher threshold number. She also stated that the Finance Office has a fixed asset software. There are items that probably should not be included and the Finance Office is working on cleaning this up.

Mrs. Lyons stated we should mirror what the Town is doing. Mrs. Buell stated for the Fixed Assets, yes; for the property tags, Mr. Bryant, IT Director, is currently putting property tags on the chromebooks for tracking purposes.

Mrs. Buell stated she can come back with a change of the difference between Fixed Assets and tracking property for the next meeting.

Mrs. Lyons asked what we would use the depreciation schedule for? Mrs. Buell stated it is for the auditors. Mrs. Lyons asked if it has anything to do with taxes? Mrs. Buell stated it is more for value purposes.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

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