

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 a meeting in the Central Office Community Room and virtually on April 26, 2023 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, and Mr. Ives and Mr. Sostre. 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 a Quorum has been established. Board members that were present: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Rick Ives, Isaias Sostre and herself, Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Aimee Genna, Meadowbrook Drive, wanted to thank the Board of Education. She stated she was at the Board of Finance meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023, and the Board of Education budget was accepted without question due to transparency and documentation that had been provided. She wanted to say thank you to everyone that participated.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. March 22, 2023 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2023.
(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. CAPPS Award Winners

Mrs. Buell wanted to recognize the Brooklyn students that are the CAPPS Award Winners and introduced the four students in attendance tonight, Elliana Faucher (4th Grade), Vincent Genna (4th Grade), Finley Hamilton (8th Grade) and Tomas Gutierrez (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. Important Upcoming Events

Mrs. Buell discussed the following important upcoming events:

- May 8, 2023 - May 12, 2023: Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week

Mrs. Buell stated that May 8, 2023 starts staff/teacher appreciation week. She stated on behalf of the Brooklyn Board of Education, she will recognize each employee and thank them for their service and hard work.

- May 10, 2023: 5:00 PM Informational Meeting for families regarding the reunification protocol that would be used if there was ever a need

Mrs. Buell stated that May 10, 2023 is a parent event to discuss and provide information about the reunification procedures at the Brooklyn Public Schools. She stated if there is a crisis in the school and we need to reunify, she wants parents to understand that the schools have a team that have been working hard and there are procedures and plans in place.

- May 10, 2023: 7:00 PM *Tentative* Town Hearing to discuss the Town's Budget

Mrs. Buell stated that the tentative Town Hearing is scheduled for May 10, 2023. She stated that each department will present to share their budgets and to respond to any questions the community may have.

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Town Hearing is where the community comments count.

Ms. Burgess asked if line item changes can be made at the Town Hearing. Mrs. Buell stated that line item changes cannot be made with the Board of

Education budget. They can request that the Board of Education reduce their budget by a certain amount of money.

Mr. Ives stated that line item changes can be made on the Town's budget.

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Board of Finance will meet after the Town Hearing to discuss the comments and then changes can then be made.

- May 18, 2023: BES and BMS Art Shows
- May 21, 2023: PTO Golf Tournament
- May 24, 2023: 7:00 PM *Tentative* Town Meeting (Consider changing BOE Meeting time)

Mrs. Buell stated that the Board of Education meeting is scheduled for the same time as the Town Meeting on May 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM. She asked the Board to consider changing the time of the Board meeting to either 6:00 PM or 7:30PM. After discussion, the Board agreed to change the meeting time to 6:00 PM.

Ms. Burgess made a motion to change the Board of Education Meeting time to 6:00 PM on May 24, 2023 due to the Town Meeting.

(Burgess/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell will notify the Town Clerk of the change and the Board of Education meeting will become a Special Board of Education meeting.

- May 29, 2023: Memorial Day, Brooklyn Parade at 9:00 AM
- May 31, 2023: Chorus Concert
- June 8, 2023: BMS Music Trip
- June 12, 2023: BES Field Day (rain date June 14, 2023)
- June 13, 2023: BMS Field Day
- June 15, 2023: 8th Grade Promotion (Tentative)
- June 16, 2023: 4th Grade Promotion (Tentative)
- June 16, 2023: Last Day of School, Early Release (Tentative)

Mr. Ives made a motion to set the 8th Grade Promotion date of June 15, 2023 and the 4th Grade Promotion date of June 16, 2023.

(Ives/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

6. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. Brooklyn Elementary School had no changes. Brooklyn Middle School went up by 2. The high school enrollment went down by 2. There is one additional Out of District student. The total enrollment is minus one student.

b. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. Buell discussed the financial reports. She stated that she will be requesting a budget transfer request due to not doing smaller requests throughout the year. Mrs. Buell discussed the line item for salaries being over budget; the total benefits line item and total professional services are under budget; the total contracted services line is over budget. She stated she is confident that they will remain on budget and end the year in the black.

c. BOE Transfer Request

Mrs. Buell discussed the budget transfer request to transfer funds from the high school tuition and the unemployment line to the building maintenance and teacher salaries line items for the amount of \$197,420.31. She would like the Board to approve to transfer \$197,420.31 to offset the deficits.

Ms. Burgess made a motion to transfer \$197,420.31 from the two lines identified in the transfer report to cover the over expenditures.

(Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

d. Brooklyn's Best

BES

- Grade levels met with the intervention team to discuss student data. The teams worked hard to develop groupings to meet the needs of all of the children.
- Mr. March worked with the Arts for Learning Connecticut to bring some wonderful assemblies to our students. The Arts for Learning Connecticut is a statewide nonprofit providing creative, cultural, curricular-aligned arts programming in schools across CT.
- Congratulations to Ms. Gardner for passing all of her TEAM requirements! Well done!

BMS

- Good Cookie March 2023:
Grade 5: King/DS/Desabota: Avery Dumas

Carson/Nault: Madyson Schuck

Grade 6: Christopher Speranza, Sophia Nelson

Grade 7: Ian Thayer, Nina Purcell

Grade 8: Cora Hefner, Edward Purcell

- Planning a whole school Field Day
- Thank you to the PTO for supporting our Community Fitness Course by purchasing meals for teachers on conference night!
- We have had a smooth start to Spring sports.
- Little Mermaid was a huge success! The students did an amazing job! Thank you to Mrs. Dehls for a job well done supporting our students.
- Grade levels are planning end-of-year field trips.
- We had community volunteers that came in to speak to our 7th-grade students regarding their immigration experiences. The students learned a lot and were well-prepared for the panel.
- 4th Quarter after-school activities have started this week and we have over 40 students participating in addition to our athletes.

7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to report

8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Mr. Ives stated that the mill rate is going up by 1.123. He stated that the Board of Finance had changed the Fire Department budgets slightly and at tonight's meeting, the Board of Finance set the May 10th and 24th for Town Meeting nights. Mr. Ives stated that the Board of Finance is trying to get a 10% surplus in a reserve account, similar to a rainy day fund such as an unexpected problem. He stated that this account had gotten very low and if this budget passes it will be at 7.8%.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

a. Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-2024

Mrs Buell stated the Annual Healthy Food Certification statement is for the reimbursement for meals and the Board of Education needs to make motions to approve.

Motion 1:

Ms. Burgess made a motion: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Brooklyn Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted for the

Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 5 in favor; 1 abstention

Mrs. Lyons: Yes

Dr. Perkins-Banas: Yes

Mr. Phaiah: Yes

Mrs. Burgess: Yes

Mr. Ives: Yes

Mr. Sostre: Abstention

Motion Granted: Yes

Motion 2:

Mr. Ives made a motion: The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1.) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2.) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3.) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, school rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

(Ives/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 5 in favor, 1 abstention

Mrs. Lyons: Yes

Dr. Perkins-Banas: Yes

Mr. Phaiah: Yes

Mrs. Burgess: Yes

Mr. Ives: Yes

Mr. Sostre: Abstention

Motion Granted: Yes

- b. First Reading: Policy 9110

Mrs Buell stated Policy 9110, Bylaws of the Board of Education, is a first read for the Board. She would like to have a few adjustments made to this policy once the Board has time to review.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:44 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

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date