

# The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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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 October 25, 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](mailto: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, Isaias Sostre, Richard Ives and herself, Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Denise Nault, Brooklyn Middle School teacher and Brooklyn Education Association President, stated she would like the Board to take into consideration all the social emotional learning that the students in the BMS have been learning through the District Advancement Plan. School sports have been a way for the district to implement social emotional learning. The teachers are there to see the students who do not make the team and work with the students on their social emotional learning. School sports are different from outside sports because the School has pep rallies and jersey day. The homeschooled students would not be a part of the team in this way because they are not in school with their teammates. Coaches are worried about accountability, disciplinary and academics and what that looks like. This area has so many opportunities for sport programs outside of the district. Mrs. Nault stated she would like the Board to think about the kids in the

system and the students who are not making the teams but still working on their social emotional learning.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

September 27, 2023 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Burgess made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2023.

(Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve.

#### 5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank you letter to Beagary Charitable Trust

b. Upcoming events

- October 25th at 3:00: QVJC Cross Country Championship at Plainfield High School (Rain date: 10/26)
- October 25th at 3:00: Playoffs - Girls Soccer at BMS v. Plainfield
- October 25th at 3:00: QVJC Cross Country Championship at Plainfield High School (Rain date: 10/26)
- October 25th at 3:00: Playoffs - Girls Soccer at BMS v. Plainfield
- October 26th at 3:00: Playoffs - Boys Soccer at BMS v. Woodstock
- October 27th at 3:00: Girls Soccer Championship at BMS (if we win on 10/25)
- October 30th at 3:00: Boys Soccer Championship at BMS (if we win on 10/26)

#### 6. Administrative Reports

a. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. DiBenedetto stated the budget has not changed since last month. She did state that the audit that was scheduled for next week has been postponed.

Mrs. Buell did state that there will be an expense coming for the Middle School HVAC unit due to it being nonfunctional.

b. Enrollment Report

- i. Mrs. Buell stated the overall decrease is 7 students.

c. Brooklyn's Best

i. Brooklyn Elementary School:

- Ms. Nicholson started a Reading Response Padlet with her students. Her students are writing thoughtful responses about their fiction texts and receive responses from Ms. Nicholson.
- Elementary students enjoyed biodiversity performances. Shout out to Mr. March for organizing these assemblies.
- Kindergarten students had a wonderful time touring the different emergency vehicles and learning about fire safety. Thank you to the East Brooklyn Fire Department and the Mortlake Fire Company for spending time with our students.
- Grade 2 held a successful Curriculum Night. Families came and learned about the different programs that are being implemented in the classroom. They also learned strategies to practice at home with their children.

ii. Brooklyn Middle School:

- Good Cookie September 2023:
  - 5th - Kaleb Tucker & Brynn St. Jean
  - 6th - Liam Devolve & Lily Taylor
  - 7th - Emelia Langevin & John Ogozalek
  - 8th - Jayden Tucker & Mishti Patel-Gandhi
- Congratulations to both our Girls and Boys soccer teams for a perfect 10-0 season and a first-place ranking going into the championships next week.
- Congratulations to our Cross Country team here are some points of celebration:
  - Seventh grader Emeila Langevin has finished in first place for every girls race this season with her teammate fifth grader Corrin McVeigh finishing in second place for each race.
  - The girls team is currently undefeated.
  - The boys finished the regular season 4-3.
  - Eighth-grader, Gage Long, has won one race this year and has been our top performer for the boys team.
  - Felix Ramos and AJ Malone have been consistently finishing in the top 5 of the races this season.
- After-school activities have over 50 students participating in 9 offerings.
- Tryouts for Lion King, Jr. have begun. We are looking forward to another amazing performance.

7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to report

8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to report

9. Old Business

a. Board Attorney Proposals:

- Shipman & Goodwin, LLP.
- Kainen, Escalera & McHale, PC
- Pullman & Comley
- Bercham Moses, PC
- Deborah G. Stevenson Law Firm

The board reviewed all proposals. The Board agreed to rule out Deborah G. Stevenson Law Firm, Kainen, Esclera & McHale, PC. and Bercham Moses, PC. The Board will review the remaining firms.

b. Review of Policy 6172.3 and 6145.2 for Homeschooling & Sports

Mr. Phaiah made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the privileged information. The Board would like to invite the superintendent, Mrs. Buell. (Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Ives made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:31 p.m. (Ives/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Sostre proposed a motion to revised the current sport policy to allow homeschooled student to participate in school sports

None to second

10. New Business

a. Proposed Brooklyn Board of Education 2024 Meeting Dates:

- January 24, 2024 at 6:30PM
- February 28, 2024 at 6:30PM
- March 27, 2024 at 6:30PM
- April 24, 2024 at 6:30PM

- May 22, 2024 at 6:30PM
- June 26, 2024 at 6:30PM
- July 24, 2024 at 6:30PM
- August 28, 2024 at 6:30PM
- September 25, 2024 at 6:30PM
- October 23, 2024 at 6:30PM
- November 20, 2024 at 6:30PM (3rd Wednesday due to Thanksgiving)
- December 18, 2024 at 6:30PM (3rd Wednesday due to Christmas)

All meetings will be held in the Brooklyn Public Schools Community Room

- b. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Workshop Dates District 2024-2025
  - January 10, 2024 at 4:30-6:30PM
  - January 24, 2024 at 5:30-6:30PM (prior to BOE Meeting)
  - February 28, 2024 at 5:30-6:30PM (prior to BOE Meeting)
  - March 27, 2024 at 5:30-6:30PM (prior to BOE Meeting)
  - April 24, 2024 at 5:30-6:30PM (prior to BOE Meeting)
- c. Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar
- d. NESDEC Update

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to appoint the Brooklyn Board of Education and Mrs. Buell as the search committee for a new superintendent.  
 (Perkins-Banas/Sostre)  
 Vote Count: 6, 0  
 Unanimous vote to approve

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Mr. Phaiah made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.  
 (Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)  
 No Discussion  
**Vote Count:** 6, 0  
 Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laura R. Cota*

Laura R. Cota

Board Clerk

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Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

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Date