

# The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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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 January 23, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Trivella, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also in attendance. 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 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting December 18, 2018

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting December 18, 2018

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2018  
(Trivella/Lyons)  
Unanimous vote to approve

## 5. Correspondence and Communication

Mrs. Buell shared that 8 students from Eastern Connecticut State University will be participating in student teaching opportunity or a clinical experience with the Brooklyn Schools.

## 6. Brooklyn's Best

### **BES**

1. Invention Convention- is being offered this year to BES students. They have about 50 students participating. Mr. Coderre held a webinar for parents on the PTO Facebook page.
2. Universal screens, STAR Assessments and other teacher administered assessments are underway and we are seeing a lot of progress.
3. Dental van and Lion's Club vision Screening has occurred.

### **BMS**

1. Students are working hard on their production of Into the Woods. **Save the date: March 22nd and 23rd!**
2. ELA teachers observed workshop model lessons in grade 5. They are excited about continued collaboration with teachers.
3. Brooklyn Cheerleaders: Thank you to an excellent group of students who cheer on the home team!
4. Girls Basketball: another great season! Girls are currently 9-0, 7-0 in the division!
5. Boys Basketball: also another great season! Boys are currently 8-1!

## 7. Administrative Reports:

### a. Current budget balance

Mrs. Buell reviewed the current budget status. With there being a change in staff both on the school and town, the budget report may not be as current as it should be. She will get back to the members with answers to any questions they have.

### b. Current Grant Report

Mrs. Buell stated that the Federal Grants are on track.

c. High School Tuition Report

No changes from 12/2018

d. Enrollment Report

No changes from 12/2018

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

a. Transportation Committee Meeting summary to discuss traffic flow around BES/BMS

Mrs. Lyons shared some of the proposals for the new traffic flow for BES/BMS to try and alleviate traffic on Louise Berry Drive. Mrs. Buell stated that she has been in contact with an Engineer with NECCOG that has previously done a study on the Brooklyn Schools property and traffic pattern that is willing to share his plans or ideas to be considered as well.

9. Board Representatives to other Committees

Board of Finance met last week discussing budget, and audits.

EASTCONN met last night and Adult Education has been awarded a \$500,00 grant from Walmart which will help underemployed people working several jobs to get the skills they need to get better paying jobs. EASTCONN is also working with others around the state to share services with all districts.

Woodstock Academy has been discussing budget as well as at the retreat in December.

There was a Budget Workshop with the Brooklyn Board of Education today. Administration from BES, BMS, and Special Education Director presented information regarding their budgets. Mrs. Buell will post all the documents to the school website and she will send out notification to parents on budget questions, as she had done last year. Next Budget Workshop is set for February 6th at 5:30 pm.

Technology has not met.

10. Old Business

a. Review of the 2019-20 School Calendar

current

Mrs. Buell presented the 2019-2020 school calendar, which is similar to the calendar. There was discussion about making a few minor changes.

Motion to approve the School 2019-20 calendar as presented with slight modifications.

(Trivella/Richards)

Unanimous vote to approve

#### 11. New Business

##### a. Ratification of BEA Contract 2019-2022

Motion to accept the ratified BEA Contract  
(Lyons/Trivella)

Unanimous vote to approve

##### b. Grade 8 Class Trip Information

Mrs. Buell shared information on the Grade 8 Trip to Washington, DC.

#### 12. Other

CABE - Mrs. Trivella shared that today the Brooklyn Schools hosted the Legislative Breakfast at Brooklyn Middle School. She was very pleased with the representation that participated, which included 2 Senators and 4 State Representatives.

#### 13. Public Comment

None

#### 14. Executive Session

##### a. The Board of Education will enter into executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged communication

Discussion concerning an attorney client communication regarding steps for commissioning a financial audit. Possible action concerning an attorney client communication regarding steps for commissioning a financial audit.

Mrs. Buell was invited into the executive session

Motion to go into executive session at 8:19 pm  
(Trivella/Perkins-Banas)  
Unanimous vote to approve

Motion: The Board hereby authorizes Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, in consultation with the Board Chair and the Superintendent of Schools, to engage a forensic auditor for recommendations on best practices related to financial protocols and procedures.  
(Trivella/Richards)  
Unanimous vote to approve

Out of executive session at 9:15 pm

#### 15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:18 pm.  
(Lyons/Perkins-Banas)  
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna L. DiBenedetto***

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Board Clerk