

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
Tana Jolley

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Justin Phaiah
Nathan Richards

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 Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium and virtually on May 26, 2021 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mr. Richards, Mrs. Jolley, and Mr. Atchinson (left meeting at 8:35 p.m.). Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also present.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Brooklyn Board of Education will conduct a virtual meeting in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B.

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

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comment

a. Student Invention Convention Presentation

Mr. Coderre, STEAM teacher at BES, introduced students that created inventions for the Invention Convention and they presented their inventions to the Board.

Jackson Covington: 1st grade - The Roku Finder
Gabe Covington: 4th grade - The Cat Bunker
Damien Scotto: 4th grade - Dog Fast Food
Evolett Powell: 2nd grade - LU Shoe
Rocco Asermell: 3rd grade - The Rain Walker
Mary-Allegre and Mary-Alma Turay: 3rd grade - The Hydrophobic Board

3. Approval of Minutes

a. April 28, 2021 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2021.
(Perkins-Banas/Jolley)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

a. Resignation - Sherri Brady

Mrs. Buell stated that Sherri Brady is resigning from her teaching position at the Brooklyn Elementary School. Mrs. Buell stated they accept her resignation with regret and wish her well.

b. Retirement - Jane Hatzberger

Mrs. Buell Stated that Jane Hatzberger, 8th Grade U.S History teacher, is retiring. Mrs. Hatzberger has been teaching for 39 years and it will be a great loss. Mrs. Buell stated they accept her retirement with regret and wish her well.

c. Woodstock Academy - Academic Report from the Class of 2020

Mrs. Buell stated that she received the annual report from Woodstock Academy and she included it in with the packet of handouts and it has been posted to the Brooklyn Town's website.

d. Killingly High School - Brooklyn Honor Roll Students for the 3rd Quarter

The following Brooklyn students attending Killingly High School have achieved Honor Roll for the third quarter:

SENIORS

High Honors: Cole Lavigne, Julia Purcell, Sydney Rosen

First Honors: Grace Nichols, Hannah Reid, Jordan Rukstela, Nickolas Steele,
Bo Yaworski, Emily Zmayefski

Second Honors: Savannah Buisson, Colton Douglas, Grace Gilman,
Brooke Harrington, Zachary Lehtonen

JUNIORS

High Honors: Emma Carpenter, Makala Dube, Lily Gutierrez

First Honors: Shelby Bellows, William Carver, Khloe Crossman, Hannah Jarvis,
Felicity Surprenant

Second Honors: MaryGrace Dufault

SOPHOMORES

High Honors: Aila Gutierrez, Anthony Purcell, Joshua Torre

First Honors: Gabriel Dowd, Ethan Lackner, Anjolina Ortiz

Second Honors: Ryan Abdulloviski, Grace Colangelo, Hannah Donovan,
Cameron Loeber, Allison, Myrter, Alexander Potapskiy,
Abigail Therrien

FRESHMEN

High Honors: Julie Carver, Molly Crabtree, Sydney Crabtree, Deven Delaney,
Annina Desabota, Darin Exarhoulias, Devin Exarhoulias, Hannah
Grudzien, Sofia Morin, Sai Patel, Elizabeth Reynolds, Peyton
Rosen, Julia Young

First Honors: Anya Oliverson, Madilyn Provost, Zaiden Rukstela

Second Honors: Abigail Berube, Domenico Capuano, Isabella Graichen, Dillan
Neal, Calleigh O'Brien, Emma Seide

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn BOE Expenditure Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the expenditure report. She stated that we are on track to end the year in black. She does anticipate a surplus of approximately \$100,000 to be returned to the Town of Brooklyn.

b. Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. She stated that in-person learning has increased in both schools. There are approximately 15% of our students that are opting out for distance learning. As was discussed at last month's meeting, all students are to return for in-person learning for the next school year. There has been conversation that the State of Connecticut may be offering other options, but are not requiring districts to provide distance learning. Mrs. Buell also stated that 53 students are being homeschooled.

c. Brooklyn's Best

BES

- Mr. Moriarty completed Team
- SBAC is going well for 3rd and 4th Grade Students
- Mrs. Gatlin is Collecting artwork for the virtual art show
- Mrs. Webster's class studied various habitats
- Kindergarten teachers have worked hard to plan an informative Kindergarten Orientation Night for incoming parents (May 26th)
- Some students will share their Invention Convention Projects

BMS

- We are holding our annual Honor's Night celebration and 122 students are being recognized for earning Honors and High Honors this school year
- 3 students had their original songs played on the Little Kids Rock Songwriting Exhibition 2021 on Youtube, Owen H. received an honorary award for his song
- The 8th grade team is busy planning end-of-year activities for students currently including:
 - 8th Grade dance
 - Class t-shirt tie dying event
 - Class Picnic
- Currently having a Krispy Kreme Fundraiser in support of our Community Fitness Course

6. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to report

7. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Nothing to report

8. Old Business

a. Second Reading: Board Policy #4000

Mrs. Buell stated that Policy 4000 is an updated Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy.

Motion to approve policy# 4000 as presented with the following notes:

- On page 2 the employer option #4 should include **a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.**
- On page 5: Include the optional language for light duty. This will permit the superintendent to identify light duty if available.
- On page 6, the bracketed information is not part of the policy
- On page 7, include language for benefits: **"seniority, accrued sick, vacation or personal leave"**

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve

9. New Business

a. Brooklyn's Continuity of Services Plan

Mrs. Buell stated that The Brooklyn Public Schools has developed a DRAFT plan in accordance with the Connecticut State Department of Education's requirement

for use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. Mrs. Buell stated that this plan will be reviewed every six months. We plan to address the following priorities through ESSER and ARP funds:

1. Curriculum, Assessment and Acceleration
2. Instruction and Intervention
3. SRBI and Data Analysis
4. Social Emotional and Academic Learning
5. Technology and Access
6. Public Health Protocol

Mrs. Buell discussed the plan with the Board.

Mrs. Lyons stated that in other towns when there is a positive covid case on a bus, the student sitting next to, in front and in back of the student that had covid is quarantined, not a whole bus. Mrs. Buell stated that she has been able to do that at times. It depends where the student is on the bus and how long they've been on the bus. If students have not been exposed for more than 15 minutes, they do not need to quarantine. She has seating charts from the bus company that they use for contact tracing.

Mr. Phaiah asked about being vaccinated and having to be quarantined if exposed. Mrs. Buell stated that we are following the CDC guidelines that states if you are fully vaccinated and you are exposed, you do not need to quarantine as long as you are not showing symptoms. Mrs. Buell stated that she has spoken with Mr. Ives and he has signed up to have a mobile vaccination clinic in the Brooklyn School's parking lot in June after school is finished. She stated that families may feel more comfortable coming to the school to be vaccinated than going somewhere else. There will be communication sent out to families once all the details of the vaccination clinic are finalized.

b. Substitute Pay Increases

Mrs. Buell stated that the minimum wage is increasing and she recommends increasing the substitute pay.

Motion to increase the substitute pay due to the minimum wage increases to the following:

Certified teacher substitute: \$115/day or \$57.50/half day

Non-certified substitute: \$100/day or \$50/half day

Paraprofessional substitute: \$13.00/hour

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

Mr. Richards asked about the pool of substitutes. He remembers a time when it was hard to get substitutes. Mrs. Lyons stated that everyone is in a similar situation. Mrs. Buell stated during covid, they were not allowing substitutes in the

buildings. Once we return back to normal from covid, she is hopeful the substitute pool will increase.

No further discussion, unanimous vote to approve

c. Review Stipend Positions in Contract

Mrs. Buell discussed some of the Extracurricular Salaries and recommended removing positions that were never filled in the past.

Motion to agree to follow the recommendation from the Superintendent to remove the following stipend positions for the 2021-22 school year:

Computer Club Advisor
Technology Club Advisor
Library Club Advisor
Math Counts Advisor
Quiz Bowl Advisor
Technology Support (2 positions)

(Jolley/Richards)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

d. Review Non-affiliate Contracts

Mrs. Buell stated that there are a couple positions that are non-affiliated contracts, which are offer letters. These positions are for the Executive Secretary, Human Resource, Nurses, IT Director, and the Finance Director position.

Motion to approve the following raises for 2021-2022 school year:

Non-affiliated contracts: 2% raises

School nurses: 2.5% increase

Finance Director: 3% increase to reflect a market adjustment

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve

e. Update on AFSME 1303 Contract Negotiations

Mrs. Buell stated that the AFSME 1303 contract negotiations have not been finalized as of yet.

f. Review Nondiscrimination Policy #0521

Mrs. Buell stated that Nondiscrimination Policy #0521 is a first read and states there is a minor change with the law. She has provided CABE's proposed policy as well for the Board to review.

g. Review Current Goals for the Next School Year

Mrs. Buell would like to review the current goals for the next school year. This policy was last adopted November 15, 2016.

Mrs. Lyons stated that it would be good to get more input on this at a later date for the July agenda. Mrs. Buell will add this to the July agenda.

- h. Town of Brooklyn Budget Hearing: June 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Buell stated that the hearing has changed from June 2, 2021 to June 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- i. Brooklyn Town Meeting: June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Buell stated that the Brooklyn Town meeting will be held June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Executive Session

- a. Discussion concerning the Superintendent's contract

Motion to go into executive session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's contract and to invite Mrs. Buell to attend.

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve
(Phaiah/Jolley)

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

No discussion, unanimous vote
(Jolley/Phaiah)

12. Possible action concerning Superintendent's Contract

The Board stated that the Superintendent's contract will include a market adjustment of \$6,000 in the first year. Additionally, there will be a 2.5% increase for each of the three years.

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve (vote: 5/0)

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas-Jolley)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Donna L. DiBenedetto
Board Clerk