

# 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 Special meeting in the Central Office Community Room and virtually on May 24, 2023 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Ives and Mr. Sostre (arrived at 6:02 p.m.). Mrs. Buell, Superintendent and Mr. Carey were 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, Rick Ives, and herself, Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

a. April 26, 2023 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2023.  
(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Isaias Sostre arrived at 6:02 p.m.

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Woodstock Academy - May Head of School Awards

Mrs. Buell stated that she received notification from Mr. Christopher Sandford, Head of School at Woodstock Academy, that the following students received the May Head of School Award:

- Madyson Knox
- Jason Konsavich
- Peishi Liu
- Mia Pannone
- Davis Simpson
- Owen Tracy

b. Thank You - Rachel Blair & Neil Souvigny

Mrs. Buell stated that she wrote a thank you letter to Ms. Rachel Blair and Mr. Neil Souvigny for their donation towards the school lunch program. Their donation will help families in need of assistance with negative balances.

c. Thank You - Walmart #5777

Mrs. Buell stated that she wrote a thank you letter to Walmart Supercenter #5777 for awarding Brooklyn Public Schools the Community Grant. The Community Grant of \$2,000 will greatly benefit the Community Fitness Course at the Brooklyn Middle School.

d. Letter from KHS American Citizen Classes

Mrs. Buell stated the Brooklyn Board of Education received a letter from the Killingly High School American Citizen Classes that the Witness Stone Project is coming to Brooklyn. It is a ceremony that will be honoring Mr. Dick Putnam on May 31, 2023 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the old Brooklyn Meeting House located at 7 Harford Road, Brooklyn, Connecticut. Mrs. Buell stated that the Board is welcome to attend the ceremony.

e. Important Upcoming Events

Mrs. Buell discussed the following important upcoming events:

- May 25, 2023: Chorus Concert
- May 29, 2023: Memorial Day, Brooklyn Parade at 9:00 AM
- June 8, 2023: BMS Music Trip
- June 12, 2023: BES Fun Day (rain date June 14, 2023)
- June 13, 2023: BMS Field Day

- June 15, 2023: 8th Grade Promotion
- June 16, 2023: 4th Grade Promotion
- June 16, 2023: Last Day of School, Early Release

## 6. Administrative Reports

### a. Brooklyn Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. Brooklyn Elementary School had no changes. Brooklyn Middle School went down by 4. The high school enrollment went up by 1. She stated that overall there was a decrease of 3 students for enrollment. The enrollment has gone from 1303 to 1300 for total enrollment.

### b. FY23 Financial Reports

Mr. Carey discussed the financial reports. He stated that the substitute line has increased due to having more substitutes in the building and teacher salaries have been steady. The benefit line items for health insurance is holding at \$120,000 and he stated he is working with another district on a more accurate way of encumbering in the system for next year. There is still funds from the lightning strike and have not been billed yet for the phones that have been installed and the Town will be covering the remaining costs with ARPA funds. Mr. Carey stated that there were transfers made last month for building repairs. He stated that we are still waiting for approximately \$65,000.00 in excess costs. Mr. Carey stated that we are currently showing \$117,000.00 in the black and anticipating approximately \$50,000.00 going back to the Town. He will be watching it carefully.

### c. Brooklyn's Best

#### **BES**

- Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Minarik, Ms. Rainville, Mr. Osborn and Ms. Caulfield have all recently completed TEAM!
- Positive Office Referrals: Many students have been receiving referrals for making great choices and being Big-Hearted, Engaged, Acting Safely and being Respectful. The students (and their teachers) are VERY proud!
- SBAC is underway and our students are doing an amazing job. Even our younger students are showing their support by creating posters and notes of encouragement for the third and fourth grade students.
- Mrs. Langevin provided an outstanding professional development to our staff on the early release day to give them a glimpse into our new reading intervention program that is aligned with mClass which is part of the K-3 state approved universal screen list. Her passion for reading intervention was contagious!
- Our art teachers have put so much love and time into the Art Show. We cannot wait to see the event and all the student masterpieces.

## **BMS**

- Good Cookie April 2023:  
**Grade 5:** King/DS/Desabota:  
Carson/Nault: Connor Saez  
**Grade 6:** Henry Goodwin, Aislynn Hassett  
**Grade 7:** Olivia Devolve, Melanie Dipippo  
**Grade 8:** Mikey Sarkis, Jayliana Camacho
- Thank you to Mrs. Paille for collaborating with Mrs. Gatlin to plan a district-wide Art Show for families.
- 5th and 6th Grade Movie Night was well attended with almost 80 students. Thank you to the staff and Student Council members that stayed after school to facilitate and supervise the event.
- 7th and 8th Grade Dance was well attended with over 100 students. Thank you to the staff that stayed to chaperone the event. The students did a great job planning and decorating for the event.
- Our baseball and softball teams had a successful season of growth and development. Thank you to Mr. Gadomski and Mr. Rewers for your work with our students.
- Thank you to Mrs. Kozey and Ms. Mackewicz for a successful Track and Field season.
- **Congratulations to Track and Field Qualifiers for the State Championship:**
  - Emelia Langevin (1600m & 800m)
  - Aris Roane (400m, long jump & 200m)
  - Mikey Sarkis (shot put & discus)
  - Ayden Daigle (shot put)
  - Cogan Gosselin (discus)
  - Avery Schaefer (400m)
  - Reagan Scheck (shot put & discus)
  - Kai Brailsford (100m)
  - Kendall Ternowcheck (long jump)
  - Nina Purcell (400m)
  - Kai Brailsford, Ryael Riche & Aiden Daigle (4x4 relay)
- **Third Quarter 2022 2023 Lions Club Award Recipients:**
  - 5th: Aliya Asante
  - 6th: Kaydence Saucier
  - 7th: Carlita Herrera

## 7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to report

## 8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Mr. Phaiah stated that Eastconn has been watching a House Bill 5003, which Mr. Phaiah

stated it is precautionary and would treat Magnet Schools similar to the Technical Schools where the State would pick it up and the smaller towns would not have to pay tuition for students going to Magnet Schools, which could save towns money. He stated that the EASTCONN Board drafted a resolution in support of the Bill and it will be going to the full Chambers, Educational Committee and the Governor's Office.

## 9. Old Business

### a. Second Reading: Policy 9110

Mrs Buell stated Policy 9110, Bylaws of the Board of Education, is a second read for the Board. She discussed the few changes that she would like the Board to accept and approve.

Mr. Ives made a motion to accept Policy 9110 with the changes that have been made.

(Ives/Phaiah)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

## 10. New Business

### a. Review School Climate Surveys

Mrs. Buell stated that she has provided the School Climate surveys. She would like the Board to review the surveys and will address questions the Board may have at the next meeting. Mrs. Buell stated the surveys are for:

- Brooklyn Elementary School Parent/Guardian
- Brooklyn Elementary School Grades 3-4
- Brooklyn Elementary School Staff
- Brooklyn Middle School Parent/Guardian
- Brooklyn Middle School Grade 5
- Brooklyn Middle School Grade 6-8
- Brooklyn Middle School Staff

Mrs. Buell stated that they do look at the surveys to see what the takeaway is from the answers. She will be discussing it with the administration during their next meeting tomorrow, May 25, 2023. Some of the questions in the surveys are feeling of belonging, feeling safe, is the work challenging, families feeling supported with homework, feeling safe during fire drill practice. Mrs. Buell stated that we need to be prepared in case there is ever an event. There is communication with families with weekly blasts electronically by email. She stated that Brooklyn Elementary School had 140 survey responses and Brooklyn Middle school had 33 Parent/Guardian survey responses, not the best response rate. Mrs. Buell asked the Board to review the surveys and she'll address questions that they may have at the

next meeting. She stated that she and administration will develop goals to address the survey responses and add them to the District Advancement Plan.

Mr. Ives asked if the survey could be sent out again or is it too late. Mrs. Buell stated that she could send it out again. It was already sent out through an email link.

Mrs. Buell stated that at the Reunification, not many parents attended.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna L. DiBenedetto***

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Board Clerk

---

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

---

Date