

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
Carolyn Hackbarth

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 budget workshop on February 26, 2020 at the Brooklyn Schools Central Office Conference Room. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Perkins-Banas, Mrs. Jolley, Mr. Phaiah, Mr. Atchinson arrived at 6:09 p.m., and Mrs. Hackbarth arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Also in attendance were Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otter, Board of Finance.

1. Attendance, Establishment of a Quorum, Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Mrs. Buell stated that all budget documents will be posted on the Brooklyn Schools website at www.brooklynschools.org. Anyone that has comments or questions about the budget to email budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org. Budget questions and answers will be posted to the Brooklyn Schools website as well.

Mrs. Buell reviewed the BOE Proposed Estimate of Expenditures from the January 29, 2020 Budget Workshop, which is \$20,475,804 or 9.7% increase over the 2019-2020 budget.

Mrs. Buell also discussed possible reduction items for the Board to consider in bringing the budget down. Item numbers 1 through 12 would bring the budget down to a 7.7% increase.

A motion was made to accept the recommended item #'s 1-12 on the possible reduction item list.
(Perkins-Banas/Hackbarth)

There was discussion about item 10, Health Paraprofessional, addition to the budget.
There was also discussion about item 8, Special Education Teacher for Pre-K Teachers to service Special Education.

No further discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell discussed other items on the possible reduction list for the Board to consider reducing the budget.

Mrs. Lyons stated the Board needs to discuss the Library Media Specialist positions a little bit more in detail before making a decision.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Otto stated that he's disappointed in the test scores and we need to do better than we have been in the past 5 years with Smarter Balanced Assessment. Surrounding towns in Eastern Connecticut that are the fifth our size score 30% higher in Math. Towns that are larger and more wealthy score even higher than that. He thinks it's possible when you look at it from a budget point of view we should be doing a better job at teaching the students. They should be getting better test scores.

Mrs. Fontaine is a parent of a first grader who loves the library and she is also a high school Library Media Specialist and she is concerned about the Library media specialist being eliminated. She feels it would be a disservice to the students due to the depth that they teach. In looking at the description of what an Instructional Coach would do, that is very much like what a certified Library Media Specialist does.

A volunteer in the Brooklyn Elementary Library supports keeping Mrs. Therrien in the library. She does more than check out books. She teaches computers, kindness, respect that a paraprofessional or coach may not do.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

(Jolley/Banas-Perkins)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve