

Brooklyn Board of Education

Meeting Minutes June 26, 2019

119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Nathan Richards, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
May Lyons

Joan Trivella, Vice-Chair
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 May 26, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mrs. Trivella left the meeting at 7:56 PM, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Absent was Mr. Atchinson. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also present. One member of the public was in the audience.

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

Mr. Richards called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Vote on Board Chair Vacancy

Motion to remove agenda item 3 (Perkins-Banas/Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to add agenda item 12F Discussion of visitor management system (Trivella/Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to move agenda item 12 to 6 (Trivella/Lyons)

4. Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2019

(Richards/Trivella)

Unanimous vote to approve

6. New Business

a. Approve Healthy Food Certification

Motion: (Richards/Trivella) The Board of Education agrees to implement the healthy food option for school year 2019-20; Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion: (Richards/Trivella) The Board of Education agrees to allow food exemptions required by C.G.S. Section 10- 215f. Food exemptions: The board of education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the

following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Discussion: We vote on this every year. Board members commented that they want the PTO to be able to serve food at their functions.

Unanimous vote to approve

b. Change Lunch Prices

Motion: (Richards/Trivella) To raise lunch prices by .05 at each location making the cost of lunches \$2.95 at BES and \$3.00 at BMS.

Unanimous vote to approve

7. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank you

Mrs. Buell shared thank you notes from Mr. Partika for a retirement gift he received, Kylie Juhola for an award that she received and a thank you note sent to Staples for a generous donation made to the Brooklyn Public Schools.

b. Letters of resignation

Letters of resignation were received from Miss Ackley, grade 2 teacher, Miss Gilpatrick, we wish them well

A letter of retirement was received from Mrs. Lantry. The Board of Education thanks her for her 41 years of service and wishes her the best in her retirement.

c. Communication about WA Graduates Future Plans

Mrs. Buell shared a communication from Woodstock Academy that celebrates the numerous colleges and universities the students have been accepted for the fall 2019

8. Brooklyn’s Best

BES

1. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who made Fun Day such a great event
2. The Farewell Victory Lap was great fun to celebrate our retirees: Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Goulet, Mrs. Lantry and Mr. Partyka. You will be missed!
3. Grade 4 students had a great visit to BMS! Thank you for preparing our students for this exciting transition.
4. BES Grade 4 Promotion: was a great event and very well attended to parents, grandparents and other important people in the lives of our fourth graders! Thank you Mr. Weaver who led the ceremonies and to the classroom teachers who were a part of the event. Thank you to our custodial staff who prepared the stage for this event! It was wonderful to see the students receive their certificates on the stage!

BMS

1. Girls Softball won the QVJC championship
2. Both Girls and Boys Track and Field placed 3rd in the QVJC conference. 18 students qualified for CT Middle School Track and Field Championship.
At the Championship:
 - Magda Myslenski placed 4th in the discus
 - Alex Potapfskiy took 9th in the discus
 - Alyssa Newson placed 6th in the 400

- Bella Sorrentino finished 6th in the long jump
 - Avery Mowrey placed 10th in the 800
3. Successful and well attended Honors Night/NJHS Induction
 4. Field Day was a beautiful day and the kids had a great time
 5. Band and Chorus performed at the Fantastic Festivals. The Band received Gold recognition and Chorus received Silver recognition. They proudly represented Brooklyn Middle School off of school grounds.
 6. Chorus and Band performed for grade 4 students
 7. 8th Grade Class trip went smoothly and adults and students had a great experience.
Thank you to the parent chaperones that attended. Also, thank you to the 5 staff members that traveled with the group including, Mrs. Hatzberger, Mr. Gutierrez, Miss Mackewicz, Miss Gilpatrick, and Mr. Torchia. Also, Mrs. Hatzberger did a fantastic job coordinating and planning the trip with a larger than usual number of participants!
 8. Congratulations boys and girls basketball teams for earning the Sportsmanship Award for QVJC, voted on by the Board.

9. Administrative Reports:

- a. **Current budget balance**
Mrs. Buell reviewed the current budget balances. At this time Brooklyn has an anticipated unspent balance of approximately \$60,000.
- b. **Budget Transfers**
There are no budget transfers to be made at this BOE meeting
- c. **Enrollment Report**
The June enrollment was stable, increase of one student at the end of June
- d. **2019-20 Projected Enrollment Report**
The projected enrollment was discussed for next year. There are still some new students who need to be placed and some who we anticipate will be registering soon.
- e. **2019-20 Staff Lists**
The staff list for next year was shared and new staff on the list were pointed out to the BOE. There are currently two teacher vacancies: grade 2 and grade 8 mathematics

10. Board of Education Committee Reports

Negotiations: Mrs. Lyons gave an update from the negotiations committee. Nurses received their offer letters and are no longer under a three year contract based on the advice of the Board's legal council.

Parks and Recreation: Dr. Perkins-Banas was not at the meeting but Mrs. Lyons was in the audience and gave a report. Of interest, there was a community member, an expert on grasses, who is donating his time to work with Parks and Recreation to review the condition of the fields and has made recommendations to improve the grass surfaces of the playing fields, including fields at the schools.

11. Board Representatives to other Committees

12. Old Business

13. New Business (continued)

- a. **Review Universal Screen Data**
Mrs. Buell shared performance data. The results are mixed with some positive and some negative data. The data will be used to improve the SRBI protocols that were developed in the fall of 2018. The administrators have been reviewing this data which will guide the decisions about the intervention model and tools for the next school year. This data will also support the development of next year's District and School Advancement Plans.

b. Climate Survey Results

Mrs. Buell explained that the State mandates that we administer an annual survey to students, staff and parents. There are required questions and optional questions on each survey. The staff at each building has spent time reviewing the data in small groups to determine what the data tells us, what the data does not tell us and how we can improve climate at the building, classroom and community levels. This data is greatly appreciated and this year's increased parental participation has provided meaningful conversation at all levels.

c. District and School Advancement Plans

Mrs. Buell shared the report indicating that the data has been discussed in the last two items. The administrative team has discussed this in both schools and has begun discussing how this data will impact the advancement plans next year.

Mr. Otto commented on the need for teachers to be tougher and have higher expectations for students and parents.

14. Public Comment

Mr. Otto discussed research that he has done on the state of education in the US compared to other countries. He suggested that we need to recommend the supports that are needed to increase achievement of our students. He suggested that we also need to increase parental involvement as a way to improve student achievement. He also indicated that parents may need support on how to help their students at home. He stated that when his children were in school parent communication was twice a year at conference time but that if teachers communicated the behavioral issues or academic concerns right away and gave specific information on how to help their children this may help. He also commented on the area high school rankings. There must be a data problem at WA that impacted their ratings. He noted that the highest ranked school is Parish Hill, which also has a very low student/teacher ratio. It is possible that Brooklyn missed the mark when they did not build the high school with Parish Hill when they had the chance.

Mrs. Lyons indicated that the communication to parents through the use of technology has changed dramatically and parents are receiving frequent communication including videos of classroom instruction.

Mr. Kerouac commented on the assessment data. Noone wants to make negative comments about the data. The scores are very concerning. He specifically commented about the intervention scores. He shared the importance of improving scores and the impact of school achievement on the interest of families purchasing homes in Brooklyn. He stated that parents want to be involved. He suggested that if parents were graded on their engagement with their children's schools this may be helpful. He is familiar with software that measures engagement such as opening emails/communications that are sent. He suggested that we raise our expectations of parents.

14. Executive Session

Motion 9:21 (Richards/Lyons)(9:21 PM) to enter into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and contract. Mrs. Buell was invited into executive session.

The Board of Education does not intend to make any decisions or hold a vote following executive session and will adjourn the meeting

Motion 10:01 (Richards/Lyons) to exit executive session

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Richards/Lyons) 10:01 PM