

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Justin Phaiah, Secretary
Ailla Wasstrom-Evans

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Kayla Burgess
Deb Metzger

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 Central Office Community Room and virtually on March 27, 2024 via Google Meet. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Ms. Burgess, Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans (arrived at 5:31 p.m.), and Mrs. Metzger.

Also in attendance were Patricia Buell, Superintendent, Donna DiBenedetto, Business Manager, and Michele Raynor, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2024.

The Brooklyn Board of Education will hold multiple budget workshops to determine the needs and priorities for the 2024-2025 school year. There will be as many meetings as necessary to agree to a budget to be shared with the Board of Finance. Each budget workshop will be via Google Meet and the Public is welcome to attend.

We will not be able to respond to questions live, but welcome comments or questions at budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org. Budget questions and answers will be posted on the Brooklyn Public Schools website at www.brooklynschools.org.

This budget will be passed by the Board of Education once they have finished discussing the budget.

Budget workshops for the 2024-2025 school year are scheduled for:

January 3, 2024	5:30-7:30 PM	March 27, 2024	5:30-6:30 PM
January 24, 2024	5:30-6:30 PM	April 24, 2024	5:30-6:30 PM
February 28, 2024	Canceled		

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

Mrs. Lyons began with roll call: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Deb Metzger, and herself, Mae Lyons. Ailla Wasstrom-Evans arrived at 5:31 p.m.

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

a. FY25 Budget

Mrs. Buell reviewed the Board of Education Proposed Estimate of Expenditures. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2024-2025 school year is \$22,856,083, which is \$1,221,083 or a 5.64% increase over the 2023-2024 school year. The budget drivers are new programming around the science of reading, salary increases, and special education costs.

Mrs. Buell discussed a few adjustments with insurance and tuition savings that were made to the budget from the last Budget Workshop on January 24, 2024. The new Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 school year is \$22,656,771, which is \$1,021,771 or 4.72% increase over the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Buell discussed budget considerations and legislative changes with the Kindergarten waiver, HVAC/Indoor Air Quality, and School Security.

- Kindergarten Waiver: Mrs. Buell stated that the Kindergarten waiver is due to the change in the birthdate to start kindergarten from being age 5 before January 1st to being age 5 before September 1st, which could potentially impact class sizes.
- HVAC/Indoor Air Quality: Mrs. Buell discussed the new requirement with the HVAC/Indoor Air Quality to conduct inspections every 5 years with an added expense of up to \$500,000. She stated that this is part of the current budget and will tie this into the HVAC drawings to apply for DAS funding for a future large HVAC project that is also outlined in the capital request.
- School Security: Mrs. Buell stated that grant funds were spent to enhance school security along with specific drills and activities to ensure if there is an emergency that we will respond in the most efficient manner possible. She stated that requests have been made for armed security this year and in years past by parents. During The CT State Police Tactical Team Safety Assessment various priorities to improve safety were identified and 75% of these items have been completed. Mrs. Buell stated that an armed security guard would be an additional cost of \$100,000-\$125,000 per person.

The Board held a discussion on the armed security guard and asked Mrs Buell to include this in the end of year survey to parents/guardians for consideration of next year's budget.

b. FY25 Capital Budget

Mrs. Buell discussed the four Capital Improvement Requests in the amount of

\$209,741.00:

- Network Infrastructure: To replace end of life switches necessary to maintain functionality of the district networks for instruction, communication and safety. Cost to replace is \$138,491.00.
- BES Freezer/Cooler Replacement: This has been on the future projects list since 2018-2019. This needs to be replaced before having a significant loss when it dies. Cost to replace \$18,000.00.
- Controls Update: Upgrade outdated Trend Controls with Siemens - \$38,250.00.
- Sidewalk: Install sidewalks by the third and fourth grade wings for parent drop off/pick-up. Current quotes are \$31,000.00. Mrs. Buell stated that we have already been approved for \$16,000.00 and is requesting the balance of \$15,000.00.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca S. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk