

## **The Board of Education**

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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Aimee Genna, Chair  
Joan Trivella, Vice Chair  
Keith Atchinson, Secretary

Mae Lyons  
Nathan Richards  
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 February 27, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were: Mrs. Genna, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Richards, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Mrs. Trivella and Mr. Otto were absent. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, Mrs. Brown, Special Education Director, Mrs. Tamsin, BMS Principal, Mr. Torchia, BMS Assistant Principal, Mrs. Graef, BES Principal, and Mr. Weaver, BES Assistant Principal, were also in attendance. Members of the teaching staff and public were in the audience.

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

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting January 23, 2018

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting January 23, 2018

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2018  
(Perkins-Banas/Richards)  
Unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

Mrs. Buell stated a letter was sent out to Exxon who had made a donation and plans to use it towards Math and Science.

6. Brooklyn's Best

**BES**

1. We had a very successful Time for Peace program put on by the grade 1 students. This was replacing the Jewett City Bank tree trimming program.
2. We are in the middle of our "Lunch and Learn" sessions where certified and noncertified staff are coming together over their lunch break to participate in a book club. We are currently reading The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools.
3. We are excited for our reading week (Feb 25-March 1) We have many fun activities planned such as a storyteller and buddy reading.

**BMS**

1. 88 students attended our 7/8 dance on 2/15.
2. Girls Basketball won QVJC championship.
3. Boys Basketball were 2nd place in QVJC championship.
4. Celebrated Winter basketball accomplishments with a Pep Rally with teachers participating in a knockout game with students.
5. Honor's assembly honored high honors, honors, Lion's Club recipients, winter athletes and kindness awards.

Mrs. Genna made a motion to move the New Business section up from item 11.

Motion to approve

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

Unanimous vote to approve

a. Mid year report of School Improvement Plans: Leadership Team Presentation

Mrs. Tamsin, Mr. Torchia, Mrs. Graef, and Mr. Weaver reviewed the mid year STAR Reading and STAR Math Data in both schools. They also discussed Reading and Math interventions and how it has an impact on student performance. While the data shows growth and progress in some of the testing areas there is still work to be done to close the gaps. Mrs. Tamsin presented the Student Growth Percentile (SGP). The BMS school wide goal: 80% of students will have an SPG of 35 or higher for the 2018-2019 school year.

b. Update on business office procedures and protocols

Mrs. Buell discussed how the current business office procedures and protocols are being assessed and developing new protocols. Mrs. Buell feels that they're making progress, but there's still progress that still needs to be made.

c. Motion to approve Board of Education Employees to join Connecticut Collaborative Health Insurance Plan (CT-CHIP)

Mrs. Buell asks the Board to approve the move to the Collaborative due to significant savings of joining the collaborative in the first year. The first year of increase in health and dental insurance is less than 1% compared to last years increase of 15%. Mrs. Buell asks the Board to make a motion.

Mrs. Genna entertains a motion to have the Board of Education employees join the Connecticut Collaborative Health Insurance Plan (CT-CHIP).

Motion to approve  
(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

7. Administrative Reports:

a. Current budget balance

Mrs. Buell gave an update on the current budget status stating that we're on track for ending the year in the black.

b. Current Grant Report

Nothing to report

c. High school Tuition

Reports are updated; no changes

d. Enrollment Report

Reports are updated; no changes

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to report

9. Board Representatives to other Committees

Mrs. Buell stated that technology committee did meet and reviewed the outside evaluation done by Apex Technology and some of the recommendations that were made are reflected in the budget requests and capital improvement requests.

The transportation committee did reach out to the engineer, but haven't been able to connect back with him at this time about a new traffic pattern or what some of his recommendations may be.

Mrs. Genna stated the Board of Finance met last week planning for all the presentations for everyone to present their budgets to them. Mrs. Genna stated that the Board of Education could move up their presentation to March 20, 2019 to help out with scheduling issues.

## 10. Old Business

### a. Review of the 2019-2020 Board of Education Budget

Mrs. Genna made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$18,708,768, which is a 2.37% increase from last year.

Motion to approve

(Lyons/Richards)

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell wanted to restate that all the budget documents are on the Brooklyn School's website and anyone that has questions or comments about the budget can contact her directly or email [budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org](mailto:budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org). Mrs. Buell will keep questions and answers posted on the website.

### b. Review of Capital Requests for 2019-2020

Mrs. Genna made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Request in the amount of \$398,025.

Motion to approve

(Perkins-Banas/Atchinson)

Unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Atchinson wanted report on Killingly High School students on the Honor Roll Report for Quarter 2. There are 114 Brooklyn students enrolled at Killingly High school and 45 of those students made the honor roll, 40% of Brooklyn students making honor roll. 10 of those students made High Honors.

## 11. New Business

Reported earlier

12. Other

13. Public Comment

Mr. Kerouac asked questions in regards to the building committee - Has the Board put together a building committee? Is the Board putting together a building committee? Is it a sub-committee of this board? Mr. Kerouac was just wondering because this is the Board he went to for the solar panel project.

14. Executive Session

a. Discussion of Superintendent's Mid Year Evaluation

Mrs. Buell was invited into executive session.

Board to go into executive session at 8:04 p.m.

Out of executive session at 8:15 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.  
(Atchinson/Richards)  
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna L. DiBenedetto***

Donna L. DiBenedetto  
Board Clerk