

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 their monthly meeting in the Central Office Community Room Auditorium and virtually on March 23, 2022 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Sostre, and Mr. Ives. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, was 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 prior to the meeting.

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

Mrs. Lyons stated that all Board members were present. Quorum established.
Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 23, 2022 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2022.
(Perkins-Banas/Sostre)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

a. BOE Recognition

Mrs. Buell stated that March is Board of Education month. Mrs. Buell read the following to the Brooklyn Board of Education:

“The month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. Therefore, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the Brooklyn Board of Education for their leadership and support to our community.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated Board leading our school community who have spent countless hours of work to help improve our district. I would like to express my gratitude for their leadership, their commitment to our students and families, and their continued support to improve the educational system for our students.

Should you happen to be out and about and see one of our esteemed members, please join me in thanking them (Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Ives and Mr. Sostre) for their dedication and service to our school community.”

Mrs. Buell thanked each member of the Board of Education. She stated that the 5th Grade students created cards in appreciation to each of the Board members.

b. Thank you - Big Y

Mrs. Buell stated she sent a thank you letter to Big Y for their generous donation of a one-hundred dollar (\$100) gift card to feed the volunteer veterans that worked in the Brooklyn Schools applying the TiCoat application.

c. Thank you - Beagary Charitable Trust

Mrs. Buell stated she sent a thank you letter to the Beagary Charitable Trust for their continued support of the Brooklyn Public Schools and for their generous donation for a two-year grant of \$10,000 to be applied to the music program.

d. Thank you - TiCoat

Mrs. Buell stated she sent a thank you letter of appreciation to TiCoat for giving Brooklyn Public Schools a donation worth \$77,645 in savings with the TiCoat application. The savings was realized by the donated labor of the veterans and other volunteers and Brooklyn Public Schools will continue to save by eliminating the use of harsh cleaning supplies with the benefit of being environmentally friendly.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment

Mrs. Buell discussed the January enrollment report. She stated that there were no major changes in enrollment. The total enrollment changed by 4.

b. FY22 Financial Reports

Mrs. Buell shared the expenditure report. She continues to work with the Director of Finance to monitor the budget. The budget is very tight. They are watching and monitoring it carefully. There are savings in transportation and have received excess cost reimbursements.

c. February Data Dashboard

Mrs. Buell discussed the Data Dashboard for February with the Board. She stated that attendance has improved. Staff are continuing to monitor Tier II and Tier III interventions carefully. There are additional staff, instructional coaches, math interventionists and reading interventionists, available to help students in intervention..

Brooklyn Elementary School Data for the month of February:

- Assessment completed on time: 100%
- At or above expectations: NA
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 62; 11.48%
- % of students in intervention Tier III: 80; 14.81%
- Observations reviewed: 6
- Instructional pacing on track: 88.33%
- Learning objectives: 100.00%

Brooklyn Middle School Data for the month of February:

- Assessment completed on time: 100.00%
- At or above expectations: Math - 29%; ELA - 55%
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 125; 36%
- Student intervention Tier III: 49; 14.12%
- Observations reviewed: 4
- Instructional pacing on track: 50.00%
- Learning objectives: 50.00%

District Attendance for the month of February:

- BES student attendance: 539 ; 93.03%
- BES staff attendance: 88; full day - 94.99%; partial day - 95.68%
- BMS student attendance: 349 - 94.69%
- BMS staff attendance: 64; full day - 95.79%; partial day - 95.31%

d. Brooklyn's Best

BES

- Hailey Chabot completed TEAM. She was supported by her mentor, Linda Jung.
- We had a very successful 2nd annual virtual Career Day. Twenty-four people volunteered to teach our children about various jobs they hold. Children have been so eager to share what they learned and many have new interests.
- We have completed the School Readiness Grant and submitted it for approval.
- Our Grade 2 teachers are beginning their last phonics unit and are excited about all of the strategies children are using during reading time.
- Music and Art Clubs are underway. These are a great opportunity for our staff to make meaningful relationships with children while they extend their learning.

BMS

- Good Cookie February 2022:
Grade 5: King/DS:Christopher Speranza
Carson/Nault: Lilyanna Malek
Grade 6: Aaron Messick, Ness Halves
Grade 7: Connor Bessette, Kaitlyn Thiffeault
Grade 8: David Sumner, Maxwell Coddling
- We are excited that we are able to order our first three (3) stations for our Community Fitness Course. We are continuing our fundraising efforts.
- We have great participation in our upcoming conferences with a hybrid approach.
- Quarter 3 after school program now has over 100 students participating as interest has clearly grown across the school year. The current options are: Newspaper Club, Library Club, Board Games Club, Art Club, Diversity Alliance Club, Volleyball Club, and Academic Support Club.
- Shrek The Musical rehearsals are moving along. The current dates for the performances are May 13th and May 14th.

6. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to Report

7. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation registration for April vacation is going on now. Registration for Summer Camp starts April 5, 2022. Also, the Drive Up Bunny Event is April 9, 2022.

Mr. Sostre stated he attended the Killingly Board of Education meeting and they were discussing the possibility of having a mental health clinic in the school.

8. Old Business

a. Solar Panel Project Update

Mrs. Buell stated that the project started a few years ago. She provided the following Solar Panel update for both Brooklyn Elementary School and Brooklyn Middle School:

Projected Cost: \$1,802,255.00
Actual Cost \$1,373,632.93
DAS Reimbursements: \$534,592.89
Final Cost to Install PV: \$534,592.89

Projected Return on Investment: ZREC
Annual ZREC Payment to the Town: \$67,000
Projected ZREC 2022-2034: \$804,000

Mrs. Buell stated if you only calculated ZRECs to pay for the project, the project would be paid off in 8 years. Four years of ZREC payments \$268,000 would be collected once the project is paid.

Projected Return on Investment: Solar Power Generation
Energy this Month: 34.21 MWh
Energy this Year (January-March): 79.30 MWh
Energy Lifetime: 731.58 MWh
Three Months Savings (Generation Sales): \$3,669.63

The savings is from December 2021 through January 2022 when power generation is lower. Mrs. Buell stated if we annualized the savings based on this, the annual savings would be \$14,678.52.

b. Operations & Maintenance - CTEC Solar, LLC

Mrs. Buell stated that the Operations & Maintenance by CTEC Solar, LLC is an unbudgeted expense of \$5,472 each year once the annual report is received.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to add agenda item 8c for Gifted and Talented Students Program policy 6172.1.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

c. Policy 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students Program - Third Reading

Mrs. Buell stated that the Brooklyn Board of Education does not have a Gifted and Talented Students Program and is not required to have it. They are required by the State of Connecticut to identify if a child is gifted and/or talented. Mrs. Buell stated that there are some students that have been identified as gifted and/or

talented in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Buell stated her recommendation of the policy is to keep the language the same for the 1st paragraph, and add extensions to the curriculum and accelerated placement options when available. She also recommends deleting a section of #2 in regards to contact information. Mrs. Buell stated there are referral forms to see if a student is gifted and/or talented. She will bring more information to the Board once she has a packet put together.

Mrs. Burgess made a motion to approve policy 6172.1(b) for the Gifted and Talented Students Program with the provisions as suggested.

(Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Lyons asked if cleaning has been easier since TiCoat was applied in the schools. Mrs. Buell stated that custodians have provided feedback and stated that it eliminated locker room odors. There is no need for harsh chemicals to clean surfaces.

Mrs. Lyons asked since masks have been an option, has there been a lot of absenteeism? Mrs. Buell stated that absenteeism has improved. There have not been any outbreaks of Covid, but there is an increase of the flu this week.

9. New Business

a. Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2022-2023

Mrs. Buell stated the Annual Healthy Food Certification statement is for the reimbursement for meals and the Board needs to make motions to approve.

Motion 1:

Mrs. Burgess made a motion: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted for 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, 2022 through June 20, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Burgess/Perkins-Banas)

Mrs. Lyons stated she had a question in regards to the section, "All foods offered

for sale to students,” there is no free food, which means someone cannot bring in cookies or cupcakes to classes? Mrs. Buell stated that this is a healthy food policy, which is different.

Mr. Sostre stated he did not understand. Mrs. Lyons explained the Brooklyn Public Schools receives money from the Federal government for not offering candy and soda to students. Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that there are exceptions for after school events, such as a dance, where cookies or cupcakes may be sold.

No further discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion Granted: Yes

Motion 2:

Mrs. Lyons made a motion: The Board of Education or governing authority 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, school 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 and must be the same place as the food sales?

(Lyons/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion Granted: Yes

b. Killingly High School Calendar 2022-2023 Update

Mrs. Buell shared the Killingly High School Calendar 2022-2023. Killingly will be having multiple building projects and school will not be starting their school year until after Labor Day and ending later in June. There will be a higher cost with transportation.

Mrs. Buell stated that Brooklyn Public Schools current last day for this current school year is June 17, 2022, which is a Friday. She stated 8th Graders normally have their promotion the day before at 181 days and the rest of the students are 182 days. Mrs. Buell stated that it is still early to discuss and will table it for the next Board of Education meeting in April.

Mr. Ives asked about Woodstock and mental health services and if Brooklyn has had a discussion about the different approaches the two high schools take and how it affects our students? Mrs. Buell stated that it has not been discussed as of yet. Mr. Ives feels Mrs. Buell should get a report on what services are offered at the high schools for next month's meeting. Mrs. Buell will reach out to the high schools and bring back information for the Board.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date