

# The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn  
119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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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 May 25, 2022 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Sostre, and Dr. Perkins-Banas arrived late. Mr. Ives was absent. 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](mailto:buell@brooklynschools.org) prior to the meeting.

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

Mrs. Lyons stated that four Board members were present: Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Isaias Sostre and herself, Mae Lyons.

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. April 27, 2022 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 27, 2022.

(BurgessPhaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank You - Danielson Line Crew

Mrs. Buell stated she wrote a thank you letter to the Eversource Danielson Line Crew for their generous donation of \$545.00 in the form of a gift certificate for a Brooklyn family in need who has lost their possessions/home due to a house fire. The student(s) in need will be able to enjoy the summer program at Windham County 4-H Foundation at no cost to the family.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment

Mrs. Buell discussed the April enrollment report. She stated that Brooklyn Elementary School is up by 3 students and Brooklyn Middle School is down by 1 student. The total enrollment changed by an increase of two.

b. FY22 Financial Reports

Mrs. Buell shared the expenditure report. She stated that the report is currently showing an ending balance in the negative by approximately \$72,000. The salary lines are high, in the negative, due to many staff members being out on FMLA collecting pay/sick pay while on FMLA and having substitutes covering. The special education needs are higher as well. There will be some adjustments being made, one will be to the insurance line. She continues to work with the Director of Finance to monitor the budget. There is another excess cost payment that is expected to come in June. Mrs. Buell stated that repair work has been done on the air conditioning at the middle school, elevator work at the elementary school, and there are pending bills. She is hoping to hit the zero mark and not too far in the red. Mrs. Buell and the Finance Director are watching and monitoring the budget carefully.

c. April Data Dashboard

Mrs. Buell discussed the Data Dashboard for April with the Board. She stated the Dashboard will look a little different for next year.

Brooklyn Elementary School Data for the month of April:

- Assessment completed on time: 100%
- At or above expectations: NA
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 61; 11.30%
- % of students in intervention Tier III: 70; 12.96%
- Observations reviewed: 9
- Instructional pacing on track: 100.00%
- Learning objectives: 100.00%

Brooklyn Middle School Data for the month of April:

- Assessment completed on time: 100.00%
- At or above expectations: Math - 29%; ELA - 55%
- % of students in intervention Tier II: 95; 27%
- Student intervention Tier III: 42; 12.00%
- Observations reviewed: 6
- Instructional pacing on track: 83.30%
- Learning objectives: 75.00%

District Attendance for the month of April:

- BES student attendance: 544 ; 93.00%
- BES staff attendance: 88; full day - 94.17%; partial day - 94.92%
- BMS student attendance: 344 - 93.79%
- BMS staff attendance: 64; full day - 95.94%; partial day - 95.83%

d. Brooklyn's Best

**BES**

- Alyssa Barry has completed TEAM with the support of her mentor, Karen Hyatt.
- Many staff members helped with the cleaning of the schools during staffing shortages.
- SBAC testing has gone off without a hitch.
- BES won the Board and Brush Contest for getting the most votes submitted. Gift cards were given to all staff members and a personalized wooden sign was delivered that will be displayed in our office.
- Our social workers and support staff have gone above and beyond working with our students and families.

**BMS**

- The kids did an amazing job performing Shrek the Musical. Visitors enjoyed the show tremendously! Thank you to the staff who volunteered with ticket sales and concessions and created the cast and crew display for visitors and participants to enjoy!
- We just received the shipment for our first 3 stations in our Community Fitness Course. We are working on arrangements for our volunteers to install.
- We are excited that all middle school grade levels currently have field trips planned in May and June. Grade 5 is going to Mystic Seaport, Grade 6 is going to Mystic Aquarium, Grade 7 is having an international food and sustainability experience with Sütő, and Grade 8 will be traveling to Cape Cod for Nature's Classroom. Thank you to Wheels for Learning for the grant covering the transportation for the Grade 5 and 6 field trips and Brooklyn PTO for their support of the transportation cost for the Grade 7 field trip.

None to Report

## 8. Old Business

### a. Update to the Middle School Math Pilot

Mrs. Buell stated that there was a retirement celebration this evening and the math committee was unable to attend the Board meeting. Mrs. Buell shared a video the committee had sent to her to be shared with the Board. Mrs. Buell stated that the committee is recommending to adopt the Illustrative Math Program for grades 5-8.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion that the Brooklyn Board of Education adopt the Illustrative Math Program for grades 5-8 following the pilot of different math programs. We appreciate the work of the math committee and their thorough analysis of state standards, reports and the strength of each program as well as programs used by other districts. If adopted, the materials will be purchased and will begin being used for the 2022-2023 school year.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Mr. Sostre abstained from the vote

### b. Policies - 2nd Reading

#### i. Policy 5145.5 regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Mrs. Bull stated that her recommendation of Policy 5145.5 is to accept the policy as written, which is fully vetted by Shipman and Goodwin, the Boards attorneys.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to approve Policy 5145.5, Policy regarding Title IX, as written.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Mr. Sostre abstained from the vote

#### ii. Policy 3440

Mrs. Buell stated that Policy 3440 on Inventories needs a few updates after speaking with the Business office and looking at other districts' policies with tracking equipment, which was at a value of \$200.00. Mrs. Buell is recommending a value of \$500.00 and to change the word "reasonable" to "reasonably."

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to approve Policy 3440, Policy regarding Inventories, with the following changes:

- Inventory equipment in excess of \$500
- Edit the word “reasonable” to “reasonably”

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

## 9. New Business

### a. FY 22 Update

Mrs. Buell stated this was discussed earlier.

### b. FY 23 Update

Mrs. Buell stated there was a change with some dates. The Town Hearing is May 31, 2022 and the Town Meeting is on June 21, 2022, both in the Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

### c. Legislative Updates: What impacts do we need to plan for

Mrs. Buell stated that there is a bill, SB1, that has been passed through at the Legislative level and is anticipated to be signed. The bill addresses mental health wellness for children. Mrs. Buell stated that other items were put into the bill and one of them is that the Legislature requires schools to provide a 30 minute duty free lunch for all professional staff. Students do not have a 30 minute lunch. It is a 25 minute lunch period. The impact for Brooklyn Public Schools is adjusting schedules to accommodate the 30 minute lunch break. Another item added to the bill is dual instruction being prohibited, which does not have an impact on Brooklyn. Brooklyn did not have dual instruction, which is teaching students on screen and in the classroom at the same time. Some districts did have dual instruction. Mrs. Buell stated that they are working on the schedule to make the time meaningful for students while accommodating the 30 minute duty free lunch break.

Mrs. Lyons asked if other towns were doing dual instruction prior to covid? Mrs. Buell stated that no they were not, it was all related to covid.

### d. Board of Education Meetings In-Person or In-Person/Virtual

Mrs. Buell wanted to ask the Board if they wanted to continue with in-person/virtual or to go back to in-person meetings. The Board is aware that it is not mandated and is also aware that it is more convenient for some to log onto a

meeting from home. The Board will continue to offer in-person/virtual Board meetings.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Executive Session

a. Review Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's Goals and to invite Mrs. Buell to attend. There will be no action taken when they return from executive session.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Phaiah made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:51 p.m.

(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna L. DiBenedetto***

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Board Clerk

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Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

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Date