

# 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 a special meeting in the Central Office Community Room and virtually on October 26, 2022 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Sostre and Mr. Ives (arrived at 7:03pm). 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 a Quorum has been established. Board members that were present: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Isaias Sostre, and herself, Mae Lyons. Mr. Ives was not present.  
Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Ives joined virtually at 7.03 p.m.

## 2. Public Comment

Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, 17 Elliott Rd, Brooklyn, CT: She stated that she is a Brooklyn resident, taxpayer, and Chair for the Brooklyn democrats. She thanked the Board for receiving her letter and adding the discussion to the Agenda. She is advocating to urge the Board to come out in favor of the Killingly mental health clinic. She stated that the kids in Killingly asked for the clinic and there was a survey of the students that were given 14.7% had a suicide plan and almost 30% had thoughts of self harm. Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans stated that the Killingly Board of Education continues to say no to the kids. Killingly High School is a sending high school for Brooklyn students and impacts Brooklyn students as well. She stated that the Board has the opportunity of putting politics aside and putting the kids first. She stated that there is a rise in mental health problems with kids with anxiety, depression, and struggle with addiction. She discussed

data from 2021 of students that reported mental health problems due to covid-19. She stated the people that are opposed to the mental health clinic are concerned about parental rights. There is experience with the neighboring schools in Putnam and Woodstock Academy that parental rights are important and are helpful. In Putnam, students fill out paperwork with family members first in order to be eligible for any mental health care. Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans stated that there are concerns with the monetary impact of the clinic and she stated that there are no funding concerns due to the program being funded through parental insurance and if parents do not have insurance through a sliding scale, it is fee based, based on your income and no charge to the school. She stated that it is not a political issue, it is about students needing mental health care. She stated it is about our values. As a Board and community we value health, safety, community, compassion and family. She thanked the Board for their time and for their Consideration.

Susan Wasstrom, 709 Hartford Road, Brooklyn, CT: Mrs. Wasstrom stated that she is Ailla Wasstrom-Evans' mother, lifelong resident of Brooklyn, attending Brooklyn Schools and also attended Killingly High School. She stated that things were different back then than they are now. She was a confused kid and did not make it through high school, she dropped out. She wished there had been a mental health clinic there to have someone to talk to. She stated her parents would have liked someone for her to have spoken to as well. Mrs. Wasstrom stated that it has gotten worse in terms of what kids are facing today. She does not understand the people that are opposed to gun restrictions say that it is a mental health issue. She said that we need to put money into mental health and school resources. She would like Brooklyn to stand with the students of Killingly.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### a. September 28, 2022 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 28, 2022.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion to move Agenda item 9a. Discussion regarding letter from the Brooklyn democratic Town Committee to Agenda item 3b.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

#### b. Discussion regarding letter from the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee

Mrs. Buell stated that she has had communication with the Superintendent Angeli of Killingly Schools,. She stated that Killingly and Woodstock Academy presented to the Board at previous meetings. Mrs. Buell stated that she knows that

this has been an ongoing discussion and she has been following it from a sending district standpoint. She Stated that Superintendent Angeli is in favor of the school based mental health clinic. There was a school based clinic prior to covid, which was part of the presentation when Killingly presented to the Brooklyn Board of Education. Killingly is hopeful that they will be able to have a clinic again. They had asked the Board again to consider a school based health clinic and it has not passed as of yet. There has been a lot of discussion in regards to advocating for it and there are still people that are not interested in creating one. Mrs. Buell stated that she spoke with Angeli a second time and Killingly is waiting on the recommendation from the State Department of Education and they also have grant funding coming from the State to help fund mental health services. She stated that Killingly will be exploring the mental health funding to accommodate the need students and staff have identified. Killingly has not received a response from the State, which has been delayed. Killingly would like to move forward based on the State's recommendations to be in alignment with what the State is asking them to do.

Mr. Ives stated he does not see the down side to the mental health clinic. He knows that it is their decision, but Brooklyn has a larger percentage of students that attend Killingly High School. He thinks it is their responsibility to speak up for those kids. He believes it has become a political issue. Mr. Ives stated a lot of students have issues. Mr. Ives stated that they should want to make it easier for the students. He stated he knows it is up to the Killingly Board. Mr. Ives believes they should send a letter in support and urge the Killingly Board to have the mental health clinic.

Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that she disagrees. She does support students with mental health issues, it is what she does for a living and mental health is extremely important. She does not think it is the role of this Board to send a letter to Killingly's Board. She stated that it is important to recognize that we have school choice. Students can attend Woodstock Academy where they have many services for mental health. She also stated that when Killingly presented to the Brooklyn Board of Education, they talked a lot about the relationship between staff and students identifying the students who are in need of additional support. She stated even though there is no formal mental health clinic, they do have services in place being offered by guidance counselors and teachers to provide the additional support that is needed.

Mrs. Lyons stated that this Board would be overstepping their bounds. She stated that they have no say in programming in any high school. We are not part of their Board and are not part of their presentations. She stated that students have free choice to attend a school that has a mental health clinic. Students are not locked into one school, they do have a choice. Mrs. Lyons stated that they do not have a voice with the Killingly Board.

Mrs. Burgess agrees with Mrs. Lyons. We have had professionals come in and

present what their Boards have discussed. It is not our role as a Board. This comes from a request for us as a Board to make a statement on this from a political committee. Mrs. Burgess stated that if they take action on a request from a political committee, it will be political and sets a precedent of choosing sides. She stated that it is not the Board's role.

Mr. Sostre agrees with them. He stated as the liaison to the Killingly Board, he has developed a relationship with them. The Killingly Board knows there is a mental health issue and they are not denying it. They know that it needs to be addressed. He stated that it is unfortunate that the students have been caught in the cross hairs and do not know what the mental health clinic would entail. He stated that therapists will not need to get consent from parents to treat students, according to Act 21-46 that he had with him. Mr. Sostre stated that mental health is an issue.

Mr. Phaiah stated that he hopes that the Killingly Board will pass the mental health clinic. He thinks it is needed and is in favor of it. He agrees to what Mrs. Lyons and Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that it is not the Board's place to make an official statement as a Town to another Town. He stated that he is uncomfortable doing that. He stated that it is a local issue and the State should not be a deciding factor, that is what elections are for. Mr. Phaiah does not want to write a letter to Killingly.

Mrs. Buell stated that she looked at the trends of enrollment of students that choose Woodstock Academy or Killingly over the last few years.. The percentage has changed with more students going to Woodstock. She stated for the school year 2020-2021, 36% attended Killingly and 63% attended Woodstock Academy. Currently, 30% attend Killingly and 70% attend Woodstock Academy. Those are numbers that they are looking at for their enrollment and are trying to meet their needs. Mrs. Buell stated that she cannot hire people school psychologists, and outside counseling groups won't come either. There is a shortage in the mental health area. It is a challenge and not that simple. Medical issues and mental issues are their own needs. Killingly is aware of the need and they are trying to address it. She will continue to have conversations with Superintendent Angeli. She will provide updates as they are available to the Board.

Mr. Ives asked Mrs. Buell when she stated "they," did she mean school Administration? Mrs. Buell stated that yes, the school staff are aware of their needs. Mr. Ives asked if it seemed to be a conflict with their Board? Mrs. Buell stated yes and Mrs. Lyons stated it seems the administrators want it back. Mrs. Buell stated that they do want it back, but were not able to sustain it when the school was shut down and the outside agency not wanting to sit in an empty building and not treating kids who could not afford it. The current Board did not bring it back.

Mr. Ives asked how do we evaluate whether we think a school is a place that

we send our kids to? Mrs. Buell stated that we currently have a ten year contract with Killingly High School and also a ten year contract with Woodstock Academy. The Killingly contract runs until 2028. From her standpoint of the students and families, we are sharing information and families are aware of it. She stated there are high school fair nights and visits and the school counselors are aware of what the services the schools have to offer. She stated that the State Department of Education has gone and taken a look and will make a recommendation. Mrs. Buell stated that Killingly is aware of the needs of our students and treats them as theirs.

Mrs. Lyons stated that it may put a budgetary burden out there for Killingly and they may need to look at what they need to do. Currently, we do not have a contract that states we need to send 100% of our students anywhere being a designation. To make a change we would need to form a high school search committee. She also stated that we do not have enough students to form our own high school. Mrs. Lyons stated that Brooklyn children/students have options.

Mrs. Buell stated there is nothing in our contract that allows us to dictate their curriculum. They can develop and change programs without any input from sending districts. The contract states that they will accept our students and will provide special education services to all of our students. She stated that Killingly is a designated high school. We provide transportation and this is how we identify our number of students with enrollment. If the Board were to take action, they would need to start now. Mrs. Lyons stated we would need to have a place for our students to go now and she does not want to add fuel to the fire. It would not be helpful.

Mrs. Buell stated that we have had very successful Brooklyn students in Killingly in the last four years, the Valedictorian has been a Brooklyn student. She understands the concern and she is following it with Superintendent Angeli.

The Brooklyn Board of Education is not going to take action at this time. They will be monitoring the situation. Mrs. Lyons thanked Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans for bringing this to their attention.

#### 4. Correspondence and Communication

##### a. Introduction of BOE New Finance Director, Charles Carey

Mrs. Buell introduced Charles Carey, the new Finance Director/Business Manager from the Odyssey Charter School in Manchester, to the Board. Mrs. Buell stated that he is currently the Human Resources in Business Operations Manager. He has experience in early childhood and has been a middle school teacher. He is certified in both general and special education. He is a certified administrator with an 092 certification. He has an 085 certification and he is serving as Business

Manager and will be working here in Brooklyn. Mrs. Buell stated he came highly recommended, describing him as hard working, jumping right in to get started.

Mr. Carey looks forward to joining the school and is very excited. He is currently living in Wethersfield with a wife and three children. He is currently on the Board of Education in Wethersfield as well. He looks forward to jumping right in. He starts on November 14, 2022.

b. Thank you - Walmart Brooklyn

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a thank you letter to the Walmart in Brooklyn for their significant donation of school supplies. Walmart donated three pallets of assorted school supplies that will greatly benefit Brooklyn students and staff.

c. Thank you - Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a thank you letter to the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce for loaning the special scissors for the new Community Fitness Course ribbon cutting ceremony on September 28, 2022.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. Brooklyn Elementary School had no change and the homeschool number went down. Brooklyn Middle School went up by 2. The enrollment has gone from 1305 to 1298, down by 7 for total enrollment.

b. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. Buell discussed the expenditure report. It is still early in the year and approximately 25% of the budget has been expended and we are approximately a quarter of the way through the year. She will continue to look at the numbers. She stated that there are no requests for budget transfers at this time.

c. Data Dashboard

Mrs. Buell discussed the attendance for the month of September with staff and she wants to look at it on a monthly basis. There was a slight decline at Brooklyn Elementary School. Numbers do not look bad but there are issues in filling the substitute positions. She is looking at recognizing the people with perfect attendance and acknowledgement of staff that are coming in.

Mr. Sostre asked if it has been difficult to find substitutes. Mrs. Buell stated that there was difficulty last year. It has been hard in general and challenging.

d. Brooklyn's Best

**BES**

- Data has been collected and our grade levels are in the middle of the first cycle of data team meetings. All staff have done an outstanding job discussing the students and making decisions based on their individual needs.
- The first issue of BES News was shared. Thank you to Mr. Maloney and the students for highlighting the important events that happen each day at BES!
- Thank you to Mortlake Fire Company for teaching our kindergarten students about fire safety!
- As part of our school-wide PBIS initiative (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports), all of our students have been earning tickets across all areas of our school for "Being a BEAR, everywhere." Being a BEAR means being
  - Big-Hearted
  - Engaged
  - Acting Safely
  - Respectful

Each week, students have the opportunity to purchase items from our school store with the tickets they have earned. Each month two students from each grade level are randomly selected for our monthly grand prize - a BES T-shirt, provided by the PTO, and a wristband. We are very proud to recognize our students and their accomplishments. The following students were winners for the month of September: Braelynn Smith, Emmett Bartlett, Isaac Chviek, Amelia Perez, Logan Slattery, Olivia Hill, Naylah Rodriguez-Otero, Hailey Burgess, Emyrson Castro, Christian Roy, Elliana Faucher, and Bradley Larson.

**BMS**

- Good Cookie September 2022:  
**Grade 5:** King/DS/Desabota: Landon Bessett  
Carson/Nault: Nina Garcia  
**Grade 6:** Madison Kozaczka, William Martin  
**Grade 7:** Ryael Riche, Mackenzie Lee  
**Grade 8:** Taylor Strickland, Noah Castonguay
- We had a very successful fall athletic season! Our girls soccer will be competing in the playoffs as the #1 seed.
- We had 50 students participate in our Quarter 1 after-school activities.  
Thank you to:
  - Mrs Schaetzle for Cheerleading Clinic
  - Ms. Geeza for GSA
  - Mr. Kiefer for Board Games Club
  - Ms. Russo for Trails Club
  - Ms. Piccione and Mrs. Dehls for Homework Club

- Feargrounds Fundraiser was a huge success this year. Thank you to staff, parents and students that worked our cider/donut booth. We raised about \$1200 for our Community Fitness Course.
- Successful Pep Rally planned by Staff with input from Student Council to celebrate fall athletics and support our sense of school community.
- Current fundraiser of Butterbraids to supplement the cost of our 8th Grade Field Trip to Nature's Classroom.

#### 6. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to report

#### 7. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to report

#### 8. Old Business

##### a. Policies

Mrs. Burgess stated that the Policy Committee met and discussed the following policies:

- 9321: Bylaws of the Board - replaced by CABE proposed policy 9321.2
- P5145.511(a): Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program - make changes recommended last month
- P5141.4(a): Reporting of Child Abuse Neglect and Sexual Assault - make updates to our current policy based on CABE recommendations
- P5144.4(a): Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students- adopt CABE's recommended policy in whole
- P5113(a): Truancy - update Brooklyn's policy based on the Caba 5113.2 policy
- P1250: School Visitors - Replace the Brooklyn Board of Education policy 1250 with Shipman 1250 with retaining the language of "all visitors are expected to follow school rules and visitors should not initiate conversations with students or otherwise interrupt normal activities, Any questions should be addressed after the class, outside the classroom, to the teacher and/or administrator."(#5, 6)
- P1330: Use of School Facilities - make an update to this policy to include "School grounds shall not be available to any group or individual during the school day when school is in session, and 30 minutes prior or after the school day, or after sundown, except with permission of the Board, unless part of a school sponsored or sanctioned event."

Mrs. Burgess makes a motion to approve the following policies:

9321 - Electronic Board of Education Meetings



- 5145.511 - Sexual Abuse Prevention & Education Program
- 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect & Sexual Assault
- 5144.4 - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students
- 5113.2 - Truancy
- 1250 - School Visitors - will replace Board of Education policy 1250 with Shipman 1250 with retaining the language of “all visitors are expected to follow school rules and visitors should not initiate conversations with students or otherwise interrupt normal activities. Any questions should be addressed after the class, outside the classroom, to the teacher and/or administrator.”(#5, 6)
- 1330 - Use of School Facilities - make an update to this policy to include “School grounds shall not be available to any group or individual during the school day when school is in session, and 30 minutes prior or after the school day, or after sundown, except with permission of the Board, unless part of a school sponsored or sanctioned event.”

Mrs. Burgess stated that the motion is to approve all policies as read.  
(Burgess/Phaiah)

**Vote:** Mrs. Lyons: Yes  
Dr. Perkins-Banas: Yes  
Mr. Phaiah: Yes  
Mrs. Burgess: Yes  
Mr. Ives: Yes  
Mr. Sostre: Abstention

b. Update regarding HVAC School Construction

Mrs. Buell stated that she opened and received bids yesterday, October 25, 2022 from two different companies for the HVAC school construction. She stated that there is a building committee meeting tomorrow, October 27, 2022 and will award the bid. The DAS/OSCG&R application is due December 1, 2022. There will need to be a Town Meeting scheduled to request approval of funding for this project. This project has a 72% reimbursement rate from the Office of School Construction if we are approved for the grant. We will have semantics for the second round of grant funding, if it is not approved. She stated that if the Town approves it in this cycle, we should be awarded in January and the project would need to be completed in December 2024. Mrs. Buell stated that there is concern for materials for the project.

Mrs. Burgess asked if it is a competitive grant. Mrs. Buell stated it is competitive and depends on how many people submit for this grant. The bids received for the project could cost \$3 million dollars.

Mrs. Lyons asked if there would be an extension due to parts not being available. Mrs. Buell stated that she thinks there would be and that we will not be the only district having delays.

Mr. Ives stated that there were rumblings out of Hartford today that Towns are pushing to allow use of ARPA funds again due to not taking care of everyone and that money will be running out. He does not know if it will help us. Mrs. Buell stated that the ARPA Committee did approve \$150,000 for semantic drawings, which would come off of the bid prices.

c. Boiler Replacement Update

Mrs. Buell stated that there is a walkthrough next week. She stated that the boilers are up and running with plenty of heat. They are waiting on two parts that are on order at the Brooklyn Middle School that have to be replaced and are not available yet. The boilers are running very smoothly. There were leaks that have been repaired that have been leaking for a very long time. There are no more leaks.

9. New Business

a. Discussion regarding letter from the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee

Discussed earlier

b. Discussion regarding substitute pay rate

Mrs. Buell stated that there has been difficulty with substitute pay. She shared data with the Board from the Absence Monthly Summary Report. For example: September 13th they needed 13 substitutes, only 4 positions were filled, leaving 9 positions unfilled. The fill rate was 30%. She stated the vacancies is why she is asking for an increase in pay. There are some positions where substitutes are not needed. They have been pulling people to cover other people. It is very disruptive to the flow of instruction. It is with both certified and uncertified staff. She stated that a para gets to fill a vacancy as a sub covering a class. This becomes very disruptive due to paras being pulled from their group of kids to go and cover another class.

Mrs. Buell has been told by people that they would work here if they pay more money. She does not know if an increase in pay would automatically bring substitutes to Brooklyn.

Mrs Lyons stated that Brooklyn did have permanent substitutes at one point. Mrs. Buell stated that some do have permanent substitute positions. The administrators would like to have building substitutes.

The Board had discussion in regards to other districts having permanent substitutes or internships.

Mrs. Buell stated that they are trying to be more competitive in substitute pay with Killingly and Canterbury. She also stated that she has been thinking about hiring a substitute for each building. They would be guaranteed work every day and guaranteed a daily rate. Mrs. Buell stated that administrators spend a lot of time texting and calling trying to fill positions or moving people around to cover positions that need to be filled.

Mr. Ives stated that they have been talking about this year being more stable and it does not look like it. He sees a long term effect on efficiency system wide. He thinks dedicated building people would help. He thinks that there is just a real shortage of substitutes. He stated people are still afraid of coming into buildings because of covid and with no air conditioning. The results are that the students are not sure who they will be seeing on a regular basis. Mrs. Buells stated that it is disruptive. A teacher can leave great lesson plans but when you leave these plans for a substitute that does not know where you left off yesterday and is picking up the next day, it is a lost day. A building substitute may be able to pick it up easier.

Mrs. Buell stated that if she were to post for two building substitutes, the rate of pay would be \$150.00 per day. There was discussion on substitute pay for certified and non-certified substitutes as well as paraprofessional substitutes.

Mr. Ives asked with building substitutes if we are keeping track of the number of days that they are in the building because he is worried about the kick in of benefits if we are not careful. Mrs. Buell stated that we were doing calculations last year for end of year reporting, that there are not enough hours/days that they would work to be eligible for benefits especially if they are not starting until November. It would be something to consider for the next school year.

Mrs. Lyons asked if there would be a benefit for a retired teacher or a certified teacher. Some Towns pay their retired teachers a little bit more. There was discussion of building substitutes and retired teachers from Brooklyn being paid at a rate of \$150.00 per day.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to increase the rates of pay as follows:

- Non-certified substitutes to \$120.00
- Certified substitutes to \$140.00
- Two building substitutes and retired teachers from Brooklyn to \$150.00 per day
- Para substitute pay from the rate of \$14.00 per hour to \$16.00 per hour.

(Perkin-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

- c. Discussion regarding 2023-2024 Regional Professional Development Days and Proposed Calendar

Mrs. Buell stated that the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar is similar to this year.

Mrs. Burgess asked if there has been feedback on having conferences on Election Day. Mrs. Buell stated that it has not happened yet and she has not gotten many as of yet. She stated that some feedback that she has gotten is that it is good, but Tuesday will be a long day of conferences. Teachers are used to conferences being broken out between two days.

Mrs. Buell stated this is a first draft and it does not need to be approved. She can send it out and request feedback. Mrs. Buell did state that April vacation is a week earlier. She will send it out to families and staff for feedback and will report back to the Board.

- d. Brooklyn Board of Education 2023 Meeting Dates

Mrs. Buell shared the Board of Education meeting dates for 2023.

**Board of Education 2023 Meeting Dates:**

January 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
February 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
March 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
April 26 2023 at 7:00 PM  
May 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
June 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
July 26, 2032 at 7:00 PM  
August 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
September 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
October 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
December 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM

There was discussion about the November 15, 2023 meeting being moved to the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving, November 21, 2023 and the December 27, 2023 meeting being moved to the third week, December 20, 2023.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to accept the 2023 Brooklyn Board of Education meeting dates with the changes that were made.

(Perkins-Banas/Sostre)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

e. 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Workshop Dates

Mrs. Buell discussed the proposed Budget Workshop dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Proposed Budget workshops for the 2023-2024 school year:**

January 11, 2023 at 5:00 - 7:00 PM

January 25, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM (prior to BOE Meeting)

February 22, 2023 at 6:00 - 7:00 PM (prior to BOE Meeting)

March 22, 2023 at 6:00 - 7:00 PM (prior to BOE Meeting)

April 26, 2023 at 6:00 - 7:00 PM (prior to BOE Meeting)

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to accept the proposed 2023-2024 Budget Workshop dates.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Lyons stated that she had a request from a third grader stating that they need to have ice cream in the cafeteria more often. They only have it once a month. Mrs. Buell stated that she can tell the third grader that she heard her request.

10. Public Comment

Carrie Juhasz Horton, Day Street, Brooklyn, CT: She wanted to comment on the issues that are going on in Killingly with their Board of Education and their lack of support and push back on the mental health clinic. She stated as Brooklyn being a sending town, she wants to make sure that our kids are in a safe environment and wondering how it could affect the safety of our kids not having mental health services in the school. She stated that she will not be sending her kids to Killingly for that and other reasons. She is also wondering if their values align with Brooklyn any longer and if we want to be a sending town.

Mr. Dykstra asked if the Board would give an update on the phone system. Mrs. Buell stated that most of the equipment is on site. They are still waiting on a server, a hardware issue. Gabe is reaching out to the company regularly. They are trying to see if they can start some of the work without the switch gear. It would take a few weeks to get all the classrooms connected and programmed individually.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

(Phaiah/Burgess)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 6, 0  
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna L. DiBenedetto***

Donna L. DiBenedetto  
Board Clerk

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Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

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Date