

# 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 meeting in the Central Office Community Room and virtually on September 27, 2023 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, and Mr. Ives and Mr. Sostre. 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: Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Isaias Sostre and herself, Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

August 23, 2023 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Mrs Burgess made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2023.

(Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve.

Mrs. Burgess motioned to add an agenda item 11 a. executive session.

(Burgess/Phaiah)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve.

Mr. Phaiah motioned to move agenda item 10 to be discussed between agenda items 4 and 5.

(Phaiah/Burgess)

No discussion

**Vote Count:** 4, 0

Unanimous vote to approve.

#### 4. Public Comment

None

#### 10. New Business

##### a. District Advancement Plan:

- This plan shows the current scores and how each School is taking action to improve the scores. Administrators discussed the district advancement plan which is available on The School's website.

##### b. SBAC scores

- Areas of Success:

- ELA scores in Brooklyn increased in 75% of the grade levels
- ELA grade 3 and 5 had double digit growth at the grade level. This growth is excellent and far exceeds the growth of the state and other grade levels.
- Overall ELA scores exceeded the State scores in 83% of the grade levels.
- Math scores in Brooklyn increased in all grade levels.
- Math scores exceeded the State math scores in 50% of the grade levels.
- The rate of growth in Brooklyn exceeded the state in almost every comparison.
- Science scores increased by almost 12% and exceeded the State Scores in grade 5. Our grade 8 scores are still being reviewed.

- Areas for Growth:

- ELA overall is showing growth, but there is plenty of room to continue this growth.
- The current grade 5 ELA scores are the lowest and are lower than than the State. We will monitor intervention at this grade level.
- ELA growth rate in grade 4 is concerning. The cohort of students increased minimally from grade 3 to 4 but this is the current grade 5 that will need monitoring.

- ELA Grade 8 scores decreased slightly and the cohort remained flat. We will monitor this for expected growth.
- Math scores in grades 4, 5, and 8 were lower than State averages. We will need to continue to monitor the implementation of the new curriculum.
- Math for the current grade 5 and 6 are the lowest in the district. We will need to monitor the intervention groups for these students.
- Implementation of the new math programs will be monitored closely.

Dr. Perkins-Banas joined the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

## 5. Correspondence and Communication

### a. Upcoming events

- 9/28/2023: Soccer - Boys at Woodstock 3:30PM
- 9/28/2023: Soccer - Girls v. Woodstock at BMS 3:45PM
- 9/28/2023: Cross Country - Away at Woodstock 3:45PM
- 10/3/2023: Soccer - Girls v. Away at Wheeler 3:30PM
- 10/4/2023: Soccer - Boys v. Wheeler at BMS 3:45PM
- 10/5/2023: Soccer - Boys at Griswold 3:30PM
- 10/5/2023: Soccer - Girls v. Griswold at BMS 3:45PM
- 10/5/2023: Cross Country - Away at Killingly 3:45PM

## 6. Administrative Reports

### a. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. DiBennetto stated that the School has spent 15% of this year's budget. The School is expected to receive grants which will offset some negatives seen in the expenditure report.

### b. Enrollment Report

- i. Mrs. Buell stated the biggest decrease in enrollment was in 8th grade and kindergarten had the biggest increase.
- ii. Total of 1258 students in the district

### c. Brooklyn's Best

#### i. Brooklyn Elementary School:

- We had wonderful participation at the Back to School Open House. Thank you to our amazing staff for opening their classrooms and the PTO for the treats.
- The rollout of our new math program is going well. Teachers are jumping in, preparing materials and collecting data.

- Kinder Camp was well attended by our incoming Kindergarten students and families. This year we had multiple community organizations attend to share information about how their organizations can assist families and students.
- The Stuff-A-Bus event at Walmart in August was very successful and showcased the generosity and support of our families and partners within our Brooklyn school community.
- Elementary School teachers are digging into the new iReady math program. A special shout-out to Amanda Caruso for teaching some great math lessons and providing colleagues with tips and trick

ii. Brooklyn Elementary School:

- We have had great participation in all fall sports. Thank you to the coaches and our athletic director for working so hard to make this opportunity a positive one for students.
- Girls and boys teams both won their first matches against Griswold despite limited practice due to challenging weather.
- We have had an exciting and smooth start to the new school year. There is a lot of positive energy in the building with everyone back.
- Thank you to Ms. Mack, Mrs. Nault, Mrs. Guimont and the Mackewicz family for supporting our Community Fitness Course with the Lemonade sales at Woodstock Fair. The station was very busy with a lot of community support for our efforts.
- We are excited to have the new staff that has joined our middle school community.
- We had a great turnout for Open House despite delaying the event due to extreme heat.

## 7. Board of Education Committee Reports

Mrs. Burgess reported the Board at Woodstock is determining what to do with their student center. Woodstock is determining if they will build up more technology or create a program for students in the surrounding areas that might need special education programs.

Mrs. Buell stated Brooklyn was the highlight of the Northeast Early Child Council meeting this month. The school readiness grant is a combination of the school and town so in order to apply both parties must be involved. Each month The Council spotlights a town, this month was Brookly. First Selectman Tanner attended to talk about his support of the grant and the long standing commitment

to early childhood education in Brooklyn. Mrs. Burgess stated Mrs. Buell has completed her last meeting as board chair and Mr. Rioux is the board chair. Mrs. Burgess is the parent representative

Mrs. Lyons stated that the Board is in negotiations with administrators and will be going to mediation.

#### 8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to report

#### 9. Old Business

##### a. Board Attorney Proposals:

- Shipman & Goodwin, LLP.
- Kainen, Escalera & McHale, PC
- Pullman & Comley
- Bercham Moses, PC
- Deborah G. Stevenson Law Firm
  - All proposals are available online for review

The board will review all proposals.

##### b. Review of Policy 6172.3 and 6145.2 for Homeschooling & Sports

Mrs. Buell did a quick survey of neighboring Towns regarding homeschoolers participating in activities:

- Thompson: No policy, Does NOT Allow
- Woodstock Academy: Does NOT allow
- Sterling: Does NOT allow
- Killingly: Does allow
- Putnam: Does NOT allow

Mrs. Buell did contact CIAC to get clarification on the policies. CIAC did confirm that they do not regulate middle school sports. CIAC does not allow home school students to participate in high school sports.

The board discussed the policy and the new information received. Mrs. Buell stated she will organize a meeting with the Board and attorney to discuss the policy language.

10. New Business

- a. District Advancement Plan - Moved between agenda topics 4 and 5.
- b. SBAC scores - Moved between agenda topics 4 and 5.

11. Public Comment

Attendee stated he has communicated with other homeschool families in neighboring towns about their curriculum and trying to allow their children to participate in sports. He stated that he is willing to give a daily overview of the curriculum and work completed if needed so their children could participate in sports. The attendee stated that a reason for this push is so their children can socialize with children in their district.

12. Executive Session

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion for the Board of Education to enter into executive session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's goals and evaluation and invite Mrs. Buell, Superintendent. There will be no further action taken once the executive action ends.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:44 p.m.

(Perkins-Banas/Phiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

13. Adjournment

Mrs. Burgess made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

(Burgess/Dr. Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion

**Vote Count:** 5, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laura R. Cota*

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Board Clerk

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Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

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Date