

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Justin Phaiah, Secretary
Ailla Wasstrom-Evans

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Kayla Burgess
Deb Metzger

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 December 20, 2024 via Google Meet. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans, and Mrs. Metzger. 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 a Quorum has been established. Board members that were present: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, Deb Metzger, and Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

a. December 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for December 20, 2023.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0
Unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Review District Advancement Plan by Administration

Mrs. Buell stated that the Administrators will give a presentation on the mid-year Assessment Data Universal Screenings that they assess students throughout the school year.

Mrs. Graef discussed the Brooklyn Elementary School DIBELS Composite Scores for grades kindergarten through grade four. She stated that they can also take the data and look at it more closely to see where each of the students are struggling and then be able to work on where the students are having the biggest struggle. One of the areas a cohort of students are struggling with is phonemic awareness, nonsense word fluency. The instructional coaches and reading interventionists will be working on reading interventions with students. Mrs. Graef reviewed the fall and winter data with the Board.

Mr. Weaver discussed the iReady Mathematics Diagnostic data, which replaces the STAR Assessment for the Brooklyn Elementary School. He reviewed the fall and winter data with the Board. Mr. Weaver stated that there has been significant growth that deserves celebration. Students set goals for themselves and are excited when they achieve them. Teachers are also able to show students where they are and what their next goals will be. Students are responding to instruction and intervention with iReady Mathematics.

Mrs. Tamsin discussed the ELA data for Brooklyn Middle School. She stated that the STAR assessment is utilized for grade five through eight ELA and Math. Mrs. Tamsin reviewed the fall and winter data with the Board. She discussed how they look at individual students where they can see significant improvement in individuals, and are able to tell which students did not do their best. Mrs. Tamsin did state that there has been some growth in the ELA assessment.

Mrs. Tamsin discussed the Math data for the Brooklyn Middle School as well. She stated that the middle school will be looking at using the iReady Mathematics, since there has been great data from the elementary school and it will help in creating a learning pathway. Mrs. Tamsin stated that they are ready to implement the iReady Mathematics program. They are excited to implement this program for the remainder of the school year and get the students into a pathway and begin monitoring growth.

Mr. Bender discussed student growth percentile for math data and reported a strong increase from the fall data. All students are working in interventions during flex periods on iReady for at least 20 minutes. If a student is not understanding a

concept, iReady will give them a lesson rather than more questions on the topic to ensure students are understanding the skill and concepts.

Mrs. Tamsin discussed the DESSA results for the Brooklyn Middle School. She stated that they are focusing on social, emotional learning with goal directed behavior.

Mrs. Graef stated that the winter data for DESSA will be completed within the first weeks of February. She discussed the fall DESSA results for the Brooklyn Elementary School. This data is used during BMT meetings weekly and look at the behavior referrals they received and discuss what supports are needed with the social worker staff to provide interventions based on the data.

Mr. Bender stated that DESSA breaks down each percentage by grade level and in different areas. It shows the strengths and weaknesses of each group and which techniques are most effective in that group. This also helps to set up grade level awards and interventions with students to shape behaviors.

Mrs. Hyatt discussed the special education data for the elementary school. She stated that they use the same universal screens that the elementary school uses for students with IEPs. She reviewed the ELA goals and objectives, and stated that the math assessments have not been completed for the winter data. Students made progress on their goals. Mrs Hyatt also stated that they have been working with teachers on the students that may have stabilized or decreased from their goals.

Mrs. Toth discussed the special education data for the middle school. She stated 83% of students with IEPs progressed to mastery of IEP goals and objectives in ELA and 100% of students with IEPs progressed on math goals and objectives. Students have been working very hard on their math goals.

b. Woodstock Academy: Samuel Clark December Head of School Award

Mrs. Buell stated she received a letter from Woodstock Academy's Head of School, Christopher Sandford, stating that Samuel Clark was chosen to receive the Head of School Award for December. Mrs. Buell and the Board congratulated Samuel.

c. Thank you to Beagary Charitable Trust

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a letter to the Beagary Charitable trust for their generous donation of \$5,000 for enrichment programs at Brooklyn Public Schools, specifically for field trips and other enrichment activities along with a \$30,000 donation towards the acquisition of an electronic sign for Brooklyn Public Schools. The donation for the electronic sign will play a crucial role in enhancing the visibility and communication with the community.

6. Administrative Reports

a. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. DiBenedetto discussed the expenditure report. There are no changes in expenditures from last month and remaining on track. She also was excited to announce that both financial assistant positions for the school and the Town have been filled and are expected to start within the next week or two.

b. Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. The Brooklyn Elementary School had no changes. The Brooklyn Middle School increased by three. High School Students decreased by one. Total student enrollment went from 1,256 to 1,258.

c. Brooklyn's Best

Brooklyn Elementary School:

- PBIS incentive to read to principals has been well received.
- We had an excellent assembly to celebrate our healthy choices and positive behaviors for the month of December.
- Mr. March put on an impressive concert with our 3rd and 4th grade students. The BMS auditorium was packed with families.
- Our kindergarten readers earned their superhero capes. Throughout the first part of the year they have been working hard to become super readers. Thank you to the PTO for continuing to support this work by purchasing the capes.
- Our greenhouse has left California and should be arriving at BES on January 12th. Thank you to Mr. Barrette for your help in coordinating the delivery with the freight company.

Brooklyn Middle School:

- Mrs. Paille is beautifying our building with painted murals painted by students across grade levels. They are currently working on 2 murals in the social work conference room after completing two murals in the 6th grade hallway. We appreciate the effort put in by the students to have such a positive impact on our community.
- Thank you to the members of the band that played the National Anthem at our recent basketball game.
- Thank you to the students that stepped up to sing the National Anthem at the basketball game when our regular recording was not working.
- Thank you to the KHS Robotics team for presenting to STEAM students about the program and opportunities in robotics at the high school level.
- Good Cookie October 2024:
 - 5th - Lucie Ledogar, Caolan Curran
 - 6th - Oliva Hunton, Rocco Asermelly

- 7th - Brinley Blake, Declan Harman
- 8th - Aaron Mesick, Brynn Choruxek

7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to Report

8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Mrs. Burgess stated that there was a Northeast Early Childhood Council (NECC) meeting on Monday. She stated there are many resources for parents with children up to age eight. Anyone interested in learning more, please visit <https://www.neccouncil.org/> for more information.

9. Old Business

a. NESDEC Update

Mrs. Buell gave an update on NESDEC.

- 1/27/2024 (Saturday): Superintendent Candidates 1st Round Interviews (top 5-8 candidates)
- 1/29/2024 - 2/16/2024: Committee selects Superintendent candidate finalists
- 2/7/2024 (5-9:00PM): Superintendent Candidates 2nd Round Interviews
- 2/21/2024 (possible date): Superintendent Finalist(s) Day Long Visit
- 2/29/2024: Final checks and agreements for Superintendent Finalist
- 03/01/2024: BOE Appoints new Superintendent

10. New Business

a. Review residency information

Mrs. Buell stated she wanted to review the residency information. She stated that a few residency matters have occurred this year. When a parent comes to enroll a student, there are documents that are required. In addition, it is required to present information to prove residency in Brooklyn. Examples include leasing documents, or signed documents, utility bills, etc. In order to prove residency, parents need to provide documentation that indicates they receive mail in Brooklyn and that they pay their bills in Brooklyn. Mrs Buell stated there have been a few problems encountered where lease documents may not be legitimate. She stated that it has been very challenging for the school secretaries to confirm the legitimacy of residency in Brooklyn. Mrs Buell stated that they will review sample enrollment and residency requirements. They will be standardizing the forms and conducting random audits where proof of ID, lease, mortgage, or photo ID may be required to prove residency in Brooklyn. She stated that all students should be residing in Brooklyn in order to attend Brooklyn Public Schools.

Mrs. Buell also stated it is required by law to live in Brooklyn to get an education in Brooklyn. If there is a question about whether or not a student lives in Town, Mrs. Buell will be inclined to contact the parents about the concern and verify residency. Mrs. Buell stated that Brooklyn Schools uses a residency officer to help with the verification process. If it comes to Mrs. Buell's attention that a student does not live in Brooklyn, they will have to withdraw from Brooklyn Schools and attend the school in the Town they reside in.

b. Review and approve Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

Mrs. Buell stated that there is an increase in the Educator Diversity Plan from the State. The State's goal is for students to have equal representation in the school. The goal for the State of Connecticut is to increase educator diversity, which Mrs. Buell stated that Brooklyn Schools will be creating a plan to increase diversity of educators in the school. She also stated that Brooklyn Schools goal is to hire the best qualified employees for the position being filled and to expand the diversity of staff to reflect diversity of students. Mrs. Buell stated that she will be working on the Educator Diversity Plan and will bring it to the Board for approval.

11. Public Comment

No comment

12. Adjournment

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.
(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca S. DiBenedetto

Rebecca S. DiBenedetto

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date