

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
Tana Jolley

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Justin Phaiah
Nathan Richards

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 Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium and virtually on August 25, 2021 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mr. Richards, Mr. Atchinson, and Mrs. Jolley. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, was also present.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Brooklyn Board of Education will conduct a virtual meeting in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B.

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

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. July 28, 2021 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2021.

Mrs. Jolley stated that she was not absent for the Board meeting on July 28, 2021. She was waiting in the waiting room to be let into the meeting virtually and was not able to notify anyone that she was there waiting.

The Board meeting minutes for July 28, 2021 will be amended showing that Mrs. Jolley was present for the Board meeting.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes with the amendment for July 28, 2021.

(PhaiahJustin/Perkins-Banas)

No further discussion, unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank You Letter - Krafty Kids 4H Club

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a thank you letter to the Krafty Kids 4H Club for their generous and beautifully crafted handmade donation and installation of the Little Free Library. The Little Free Library is located by the Brooklyn Middle field.

b. Thank you Letter - Staples

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a thank you letter to Staples for their generous donation of school supplies. She stated that Staples donated two pallets of various sizes and colors of binders and pencils that will greatly benefit both students and staff at the Brooklyn Elementary School and the Brooklyn Middle School.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn Enrollment Projection

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. Mrs. Buell stated that Brooklyn Elementary School will be starting with 541 students and Brooklyn Middle School will be starting with 349 students.

b. Expenditure Report

Mrs. Buell shared the expenditure report. She stated that the finance manager has resigned for another position and we have a new finance manager. The report shows that 32% of the budget is remaining, which is due to the budget being encumbered due to salaries. Mrs. Buell stated that there are some negative balances which are due to some of those items being covered by grant funding that has not been received as of yet.

c. Brooklyn Financial Projections

Mrs. Buell stated that it is early for a financial projection report. She will have a report for the September meeting.

d. Brooklyn's Best

- **Welcome the following new teachers:**
 - Kaleigh Caufield, Special Education Teacher
 - Kristen Cesario, Special Education Teacher
 - Savannah Kyllonen, Special Education Teacher
 - Lori Reynolds, Math Interventionist
 - Melissa Lessard, 8th Grade Language Arts
 - Craig Osborn, Grade 1
 - Rachel Wlodarczyk, Grade 2
 - Ryan Anglim, Grade 3
 - Miranda Rivera-Gardner, Grade 3
 - Erin Kennedy, Grade 3
 - Hailey Chabot, Grade 4
 - Cara Habicht, Grade 4
 - Marybeth Kerr, Social Worker
 - Pauline Piccione, 8th Grade Language Arts
 - *Sherri Brady, STEAM Middle School, returning after resigning in the spring*
- Teachers have been engaged in professional learning, orientation activities for new staff including meetings and a bus tour narrated by Mrs. Wimmer. There have been many staff members coming into school to set up classrooms and prepare for a wonderful opening.
- Special thank you to our custodial staff who have been preparing the buildings and grounds for the first day of school! They have done great work! Thank you to the secretaries who have enrolled or re-enrolled over 120 students between the two schools. We have many new students and families. Thank you to the administrative team who is engaged in plans for a strong 21-22 school year and who have provided tours and orientation to many students.
- We would like to welcome the many new families and students to Brooklyn Elementary and Brooklyn Middle Schools.
- Best wishes to Stephanie Levin who has changed districts. We welcome Rushie Bean to the position of Director of Finance.
- The Town of Brooklyn will have a booth at the Brooklyn Fair, right in front of the Better Living Building. There will be people from different departments in the Town there on different days. Vaccines will be administered by NDDH: Thursday 4-7PM, Friday & Saturday 3-7PM and Sunday 3-6PM.
- Kindergarten Camp was well attended and there were many smiles during

their visit. Students and parents were able to visit different classrooms and engage in fine and gross motor activities. Thank you to the many community organizations who attended and shared resources with families. Thank you to EASTCONN bus services for giving the students a bus ride and for serving lunch.

- Brooklyn Middle School is still raising funds to create a fitness track to be installed on the field beside the middle school. There will be fund raising activities posted.

Mr. Atchinson asked how much the Booster Club has raised so far for the fitness track. Mrs. Buell stated that they have not raised as much as they would like and want to raise more money to purchase more pieces so that the students have more equipment to be shared. She stated that they have received donations from local businesses as well. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

6. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to report

7. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that she attended the Executive and finance Committee meetings for Woodstock Academy. She stated that both students and staff will be wearing masks indoors and students will be required to wear masks on the bus. Also, The clock/bell tower restoration has been completed and the bell will now ring on the hour.

Mr. Atchinson asked about the tuition for high school students. Mrs. Buell stated that she did not have the exact figures with her, but will send it to him. She stated that it is a two to three percent increase at most high schools, approximately \$15,500 per student for Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School is close to the same amount.

8. Old Business

a. Review Updated Continuity of Services Plan (State's Fall Mitigation Strategies)

Mrs. Buell stated the Continuity of Services Plan was done prior to the summer program and has been updated. She had discussed it at the last meeting in July and it will be posted to the schools website: www.brooklynschools.org.

Goals:

- Return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year
- Promote healthy schools to keep students in person learning this year
- Reduce the incidences of quarantine for everyone by following mitigation strategies
- Advance the achievement and emotional well-being of our students

Strategies:

- Establish healthy protocols for all students and visitors as they enter the Brooklyn Public Schools
- Focused instruction and intervention
- Monitor student learning and growth through the use of data teams
- Reporting of data based on classroom, grade level and building performance

Mrs. Buell stated that there have been some changes/updates to the mitigation strategies. She stated wearing masks is required based on CDC and DPH guidance. The executive order for the mask mandate is until September 30, 2021 currently. The schools will continue with opening windows to increase ventilation; disinfecting with hand sanitizer/washing hands; modified physical distancing and cohorting for the 2021-2022 school year to help with quick contact tracing; schools will follow CDC and DPH guidelines for quarantining of sick staff and students; and follow guidance with quarantining after travel.

Mrs. Buell stated that changes from the last meeting is Governor Lamont's Executive Order 13D around vaccinations. She stated that staff are required to be fully vaccinated or have received the first dose by September 27, 2021.

Mrs. Jolley stated that staff need to be fully vaccinated by September 27, 2021. Mrs. Buell stated staff will need to be fully vaccinated or have received the first dose by September 27, 2021.

Mrs. Buell stated that there are some exemptions for medical and religious reasons. She will share documents with employees. Employees need to have a written request for an exemption and employees need to provide proof of vaccination by showing their vaccination card.

Mrs. Perkins-Banas asked if staff members have an exemption, will they need to be tested every week? Mrs. Buell stated that yes, they will need to be tested weekly and the Board is not liable for paying for the testing. She also stated that she will be watching the numbers and the executive orders.

Mrs. Buell stated that if an employee refuses to abide by the executive orders, she will follow the protocol or disciplinary actions. Mrs. Buell also stated that she cannot fill a position with someone who is not vaccinated after September 27th.

Mrs. Buell discussed the quarantining guidelines. Staff that are fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine if exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID, as long as they have no symptoms. Mrs. Buell stated that if an unvaccinated person is 6 feet and has more than 15 minutes of exposure, they will need to be quarantined. She stated that there is an exception, if a child is seated in their class and wearing their mask, the distance shrinks to 3 feet. Preschool and kindergarten

will have a different scenario due to the challenge of not maintaining 3' and not being seated.

Mrs. Lyons asked about the guidelines for the bus? Mrs. Buell stated that anyone within 6 feet of the student that tested positive, will have to be quarantined if exposed for 15 minutes or longer.

Mrs. Buell also stated that devices will not be going home everyday with students. There will be no distance learning this year. There may need to be individual support for students that need to quarantine.

Mrs. Jolley stated that Mrs. Buell mentioned she will be looking at the numbers come September. Does that mean positive cases, not the number of tests? Mrs. Jolley stated there will be an abundance of people being tested, a huge influx per day. Mrs. Buell stated that it is not the number being tested, just the number testing positive.

Mr. Atchinson asked if quarantining classrooms will still happen. He stated he knows the hope is to not quarantine whole classrooms. Mrs. Buell stated that he is correct and that teachers will not have to quarantine if they have been vaccinated and are not showing symptoms.

Mr. Atchinson asked about students that are in a classroom that have been exposed and have to quarantine, how are teachers going to be keeping up with the students making sure they are getting their assignments done? Mrs. Buell stated that there is no additional time for the teachers, which is a challenge. There is a possibility that there may be someone available to check in with those students. It may be a case by case situation. She also stated that if a student is sick, they may not be able to get their school work completed.

Mr. Atchinson stated that he had heard the kids needed help during distance learning and now there will not be help. What if students and/or parents need help with a packet, what will be the resource they will have? Mrs. Buell stated there may be a need to pivot quickly to a different learning model if there are 30 students in each building that need to be quarantined.

9. New Business

a. PV Project Update

Mrs. Lyons stated the PV Building Committee met last night, Tuesday, August 24, 2021 and stated that both PV Projects are completed at both schools.

Mrs. Buell stated the Brooklyn Board of Education needs to accept the projects at both schools as being completed.

Motion #1:

Mr. Richards made a motion for the Board of Education to accept as complete, the Brooklyn Elementary School Photovoltaic Project, DAS Project Number:

019-0031 PV.

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Motion #2:

Mr. Richards made a motion for the Board of Education to accept as complete, the Brooklyn Middle School Photovoltaic Project, DAS Project Number:

019-0032 PV.

(Richards/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell stated the PV Committee accepted the projects as complete and made a motion that they recommend an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contract to the Board of Education and that the Board of Education consider using CSW as part of the process to ensure that we find the right company and ask that they complete the O&M as specified to ensure we protect our investments.

Mrs. Buell stated that a third party operations and maintenance (O&M) provider will protect the Town's investment into the solar array by ensuring the projected ZREC revenue and utility savings are achieved. This is accomplished through remote monitoring of the system, annual inspections and reactive maintenance visits. The O&M provider will monitor the systems production, identify production issues, and analyze site data to determine root causes. Once a year a team of technicians will visit the site to conduct a visual inspection of all components, ensure wiring connections are secure, and check equipment outputs. Costs are anticipated to be around \$5,000 to \$6,500 per site per year.

Motion:

Mrs. Perkins-Banas made a motion to contract with CSW to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) to go out for bid for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) provider to protect the Town's investment into the solar array by ensuring the projected ZREC revenue and utility savings are achieved.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

b. Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Ratings

Mrs. Buell stated that all teachers and administrator ratings fell into exemplary or proficient for the 2020-2021 school year. Most of the goals were SEL focused. There were no ratings that fell into the developing or below standard level this year. All employees were evaluated and discussed areas of growth for the new school year.

c. Policies - First Reading

Mrs. Buell shared CAGE's recommended policies for the Board to review for consideration. Mrs. Buell also shared the Goals/Objectives for Student Accomplishments for the Board to review. She stated the Board can bring questions to discuss at the next meeting.

10. Public Comment

Amy Landis, Fairway Drive - Mrs. Landis stated that vaccinated staff would not have to quarantine, would it be true for vaccinated children as well? She also asked how students would be able to get their work if they are getting sick? Will Google Classroom still be a resource to post assignments or how would teachers get work to their students? She stated she knows the Board cannot comment and asked Mrs. Buell to email her with answers.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.
(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

I, The Brooklyn Board of Education Clerk, certify that these meeting minutes are accurate.

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Donna DiBenedetto
Board Clerk

August 25, 2021

(Date)