

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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 August 23, 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 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, Richard Ives, Isaias Sostre and herself, Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Dr Perkins-Banas wanted to acknowledge Mrs. Buell's nomination for superintendent of the year award.

4. Approval of Minutes

- July 26, 2023 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Perkins-Banas made the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 26, 2023.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve.

5. Correspondence and Communication

- Discussion with Administrators regarding Homework Policy
 - Mr. Weaver had explained that the current BES handbook has some outdated policies.
 - Mr. Weaver and Mrs. Graef had suggested that Brooklyn Elementary should be practicing reading either independently or with an adult, board games, practicing snap words, counting money, making a recipe which involves work with fractions, school provided programs such as MobyMax along with other ideas that involve children learning.
 - Mrs. Tamsin had confirmed that the current BMS handbook also contains outdated policies.
 - Mrs. Tamsin has proposed that teachers communicate within their groups to have no more than 5% of a workload on students.
 - Mrs. Tamsin stated that teachers give a week for homework assignments so students can learn how to use time management on accomplishing their workload.
 - Mrs. Tamsin also suggested picking one day that all teachers cannot give homework.
 - Mrs. Buell has suggested administrators implement their ideas and open the communication with parents by having parent teacher conference or surveys to see how their ideas regarding homework have worked for families
- Upcoming events
 - August 24 - August 27 - Brooklyn Fair
 - August 24 - Kindergarten Camp
 - August 28 - Convocation/ Professional Development
 - August 29 - Professional Development
 - August 30 - First day of school (Kindergarten - Grade 8)
 - August 31 - Preschool's First day of school
 - September 1 - Early dismissal from school
 - September 4 - Labor Day - No School
 - September 7 - PTO Welcome Back BBQ, BES/BMS Open House
 - September 23 - Grand Opening of Brooklyn Cares Community Center
 - There has been an overwhelming support in donations
 - Access has committed being there once a month
 - There is surveillance in constant use to keep everyone safe

6. Administrative Reports

- a. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. DiBennetto stated that the salary lines are no longer in the negative due to the transfer approved at the last meeting. Total contracted services did have funds transfer but due to invoices that still needed to be paid the line still remains negative in the amount of -\$6,087.82.

Total other services, total supplies and total equipment are longer in the negative due to the transfer.

Due to encumbrances being released for invoices not received and unfinished work the School is to give back \$83,000 to the Town.

Mrs. DiBenedetto has requested the transfer in the amount of \$6,088.00 to cover the negative line.

Mr. Ives made a motion for a transfer request in the amount \$6,088.00 to cover the negative line amount..

(Ives/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

b. New Hires and Resignations:

- Rachel Cardaci - Resignation
- Tracie Brouillard - Resignation
- Hanna Forsten - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Kayla DeMaire - BES Teacher
- Diane Caldwell - Financial Assistant

7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to report

8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to report

9. Old Business

- Board Attorney Proposals
 - Mrs. Buell stated she did send out letters to attorney firms to see what types of services they offer school districts. Mrs. Buell confirmed that letters were sent to five different attorney firms. The attorney firms will send in their proposals. All proposals are due by September 22, 2023.
 - The school has received verbal confirmation from a few attorney firms stating they will be sending in a proposal. Mrs. Buell stated the School has also physically received one set of proposals.

- The Board will review the proposals first then decide on which attorney firms they would like to interview.
- Review of Policy 6172.3 and 6145.2 for Homeschooling & Sports
 - (6172.3) The Brooklyn Board of Education believes that formal education in the public schools is highly beneficial both for the child and for the society, but it also recognizes the right of parents to fulfill their obligation to ensure an education of their children by schooling them at home. The Board instructs the school administration to work cooperatively with homeschooling parents.
 - (6172.3) Home schooling is reviewed by the Brooklyn Board of Education as full time and therefore home schooled students are not eligible for school offerings or activities.
 - (6172.3) Parents who wish to educate their child at home must file with the Superintendent of Schools a "Notice of Intent, Instruction at Home" form within ten (10) days of the start of the home instruction program. A notice of Intent will only be effective for the school year in which it is filed.
 - (6145.2) The Board of Education believes individual students will benefit from opportunities to grow physically and intellectually through experiences that provide the opportunity for self-discipline and team efforts made possible through competitive inter school intramural team and individual sports activities.
 - (6145.2) District participation in interscholastic athletics will be subject to approval by the Board. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, conferences, of rules for student participation, and of annual sports schedules.
 - (6145.2) It is the Board's policy to provide students interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. Students will be allowed to participate in individual sports on the basis of their physical condition and desire. Qualified personnel shall be provided for coaching and supervising individual sports. In addition, it is the policy of the Board to provide intramural athletic activities as an outgrowth of class instruction in physical education commensurate with the grade level of the students involved.
 - (6145.2) Students with disabilities, possessing the required level of skill or ability to participate in a competitive program or activity, shall be afforded an equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, which include club, intramural or interscholastic athletics. The District shall make reasonable modifications and provide those aids and services that are necessary to afford a "qualified" disabled student the opportunity to participate in extracurricular athletics, unless it results in a fundamental alteration to the District's program. The District will consider whether safe participation by a disabled student can be assured through reasonable modifications or the provision of aids and services.

- (6145.2) The District may create additional opportunities for students with disabilities who cannot participate in the existing extracurricular athletics program, even with reasonable modifications or aids and services, in order to afford such students an equal opportunity to receive the benefits of extracurricular athletics.
- (6145.2) Each student who chooses to participate in an interscholastic athletic program is required to have on file, in the offices of the building administrator, a certificate of consent which is signed by the parent or legal guardian. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he or she has been examined and approved by a medical doctor. This certificate of consent will be in effect for each student for each sports season.
- (6145.2) The purpose of school athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the primary consideration. Participation should be without unreasonable interference with other obligations in the school, community and home.
- (6145.2) It is recognized that a well-organized and well conducted athletic program is a potent factor in the morale of a student body and an important phase of good community-school relations.
- (6145.2) Every possible effort shall be made to offer equal opportunities for both sexes in sports and activities which shall include life sports that a student can carry through adulthood.

Mrs. Buell stated it would be in violation of the Board's policy to allow homeschooled students to participate in sports.

The board discussed the policy and agreed to review the policy once some questions are answered from the CIAC regarding their policies.

10. New Business

- Mrs. Buell had suggested changing the start time of the BOE meetings

Mr. Ives has made a motion to change the BOE meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

(Ives/Phaiah)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Mr. Ives made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.
(Ives/Burgess)
No Discussion
Vote Count: 6, 0
Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura R. Cota

Laura R. Cota
Board Clerk

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date