

Brooklyn Board of Education
Meeting Minutes August 28, 2019
119 Gorman Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234

Nathan Richards, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
May Lyons

Joan Trivella, Vice-Chair
Melissa Perkins-Banas

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 its regular monthly meeting on August 28, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mr. Richards, Mrs. Trivella, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Lyons, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also present. Two members of the public were in the audience.

1. Attendance, Establishment of a Quorum, Call to Order

Quorum established. Mr. Richards called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Mrs. Trivella arrived at 7:05

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2019

(Lyons/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

Mrs. Buell reported that copies of the State Single Audit and Town Audit report were in the Board Member's folders. Informational purposes.

Mrs. Buell reviewed a letter from Woodstock Academy indicating the need to appoint a new sending town trustee. Mrs. Trivella indicated that she is allowed to remain in this position while she is on the Board of Education. After the election in November the Board will need to appoint a replacement for consideration by the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees.

6. Brooklyn's Best

Mrs. Buell shared district level celebrations for the August Brooklyn's best.

1. Thank you to the many teachers who participated in professional development: restorative practices, math/collaborative with Sterling and Plainfield
2. Thank you to the amazing office staff who created forms online for our Administrative Plus, student management software program
3. Thank you to the custodians for their great work this summer.
The buildings are looking great!
4. Thank you to our administrative team who attended training and have developed a cohesive plan to implement instructional strategies for the new year.

5. Thank you to the cafeteria staff who serve over a thousand meals and snacks. We needed volunteers to serve at the teen center and MANY staff members volunteered to ensure that we could get breakfast served to those who wanted it at the teen center.
6. New teachers attended a day of orientation. thank you to Mrs. Wimmer who gave a historical tour of Brooklyn on the bus tour! She has already been booked for next year! The new teachers and mentors have begun to work together to ensure a successful school year!
7. Administrators maximized Town resources by seeking and receiving multiple furniture donations or purchasing at a very low cost furniture for the classrooms. Then they moved it and set it up.
8. Thank you to a BPS graduate who built and donated a buddy bench. It will be painted by students and they will finish it.
9. The Girl Scouts donated two buddy benches this week! They look amazing!
10. Today was a great start to the year.
11. Traffic pattern: we made a minor change today and plan to make another change in September. This will eliminate traffic stopping on Louise Berry Drive.
12. Thank you to Eliza and Davis Simpson, both students are at WA who are part of an organization called Kids Helping Kids. They donated many backpacks for students who need them.

7. Administrative Reports

BES and BMS Draft School Advancement Plans were shared with the Board of Education. A presentation by the building administrators will be shared during the September Board Meeting.

Mrs. Buell reviewed the current FY 20 budget balance and reporting. New reports were reviewed and will be shared monthly with the Board of Education. The finance report was reviewed: To date \$1,350,000

has

been transferred to the BOE as part of the general appropriation. No grant funds have been received. No line item transfers were made. This year we started the year with an extra teacher. Funds for this teacher are available due to the retirement/resignation of teachers that were unanticipated. The FY 19 report included revenue of \$18,331,644 including the local appropriation, grants and donations. Not all accounts have been reconciled. Expenses to date total \$18,275,435 suggesting a balance of \$8,838 of the appropriated budget. The BOE has outstanding liabilities which will be offset by revenue. These are related to fees associated with outstanding tax payments. There are no line item transfers to be completed yet.

The Enrollment Report was reviewed by Mrs. Buell. BES enrollment is 560. BMS enrollment is 339. High school and charter school enrollment is 408. There are 22 students placed in specialized programs

outside

of the Brooklyn Public Schools for a total enrollment of 1330. Last year the enrollment was 1332 in September.

Brooklyn New Hires: Teachers: Michelle Nye, Kindergarten; Anna Mango, grade 1; Jason Moriarty, grade 1; Sara Phelps, grade 1; Samantha Craig, grade 2; Amanda Stanton, grade 2; Micaela Gradie, BES Art; Jillian

Weitknecht, BES social worker; Heather Iannone, BMS Special Education, Sara Kozey, BMS Special Education; Sarah Burton, math grade 8. Paraprofessionals: Molly Corvello; Tammy Courtemanche; Sonia David-Hustus; Jillian Loomis; Brieanna McAvoy. Welcome to all of our new employees. They were announced by Mr. Weaver and Mr. Torchia during convocation! They did a great job announcing them. Summer work and projects: There is a new traffic pattern scheduled to alleviate cars from waiting on Louise Berry Drive to pick up students. The Board discussed the fact that parents line up to drop off and pick up their children very early. They no longer want parents to be lined up outside of the school for more than 15 minutes and they do not want them to idle their cars. They have asked that parents not be allowed to line up until 8:15AM for the 8:30 drop off and not line up until 3:00PM for the 3:15 dismissal. Mrs. Buell will communicate that to families. The solar project managers are still working with DAS to ensure that we meet the requirements needed to post the RFP. This process has taken much longer than anticipated.

Mrs. Buell shared that the preliminary SBAC results are in and there are mixed results. There are some areas of growth and some areas that did not demonstrate growth. Mr. Otto asked if Mrs. Buell was

satisfied with the student test results. Mrs. Buell indicated that she was not satisfied, and will not be satisfied until a much larger percentage of students are scoring at or above proficient, but that there are some growth areas that she is pleased with. The district will continue to adjust curriculum, instruction and outcomes.

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

There were no committee reports

9. Board Representatives to other Committees

Mrs. Trivella gave a report on EASTCONN. She pointed out that EASTCONN has hired HVAC and electrical contractors to assist their districts. They are trying to achieve diversification of what they can offer to their districts including transportation.

Mrs. Trivella gave a report on Woodstock Academy. Their enrollment is 1185. There are more diverse students including multiple countries. The Loose Center for the Arts is being worked on. On 9/14 their Board will have a retreat.

Mrs. Trivella gave an update on CABA. There was a discussion about holding the legislative breakfast earlier this year so that we could provide information to the legislators before they go into session. She reminded other Board members that the CABA Conference will be November 15th and 16th and is money well spent.

10. Old Business

A motion was made (Trivella/Lyons) The Brooklyn Board of Education grants the Superintendent of Schools permission and the authority to remove employee names from all Brooklyn School accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business

Update to BOE Policy 6112 Instruction, School Day

Motion to amend the policy by removing the line "a minimum of four hours (4) per day" (Richards/Trivella)

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed updating BOE Policy 9110 Bylaws of the Board Number of Members, Terms of Office, Oath of Office.

Motion to table the discussion until January 2020 (Trivella/Perkins-Banas)

Motion passed unanimously.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Kerouac asked if there were any concerns about the monthly overages.

Ms. Wastrom-Evans stated that you are a sharp board, I'm impressed.

Mr. Otto shared his concerns about the state of affairs of education in the United States. He indicated that he would say it again, public education over the years has dropped. Students used to perform 10th in the world and now are 35th. He indicated that we need to address math, science and literacy in the United States. He noted that we need to compare to more than communities in CT. He feels we need more rigor, higher expectations and engage parents more. He indicated that higher expectations are needed for all socio-economic classes and all students need to demonstrate growth, the lower achieving students and the higher performing students. He suggested that if two or three more math teachers are needed, the Board of Education should request it because he believes that the Town of Brooklyn would support it.

14. Executive Session:

9:10PM Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's contract and evaluation and a personnel matter. Mrs. Buell was invited into executive session. (Trivella/Lyons)
Motion passed unanimously.

9:49PM A motion was made to come out of executive session.
Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion to grant a paid one year leave of absence for Marla Rufo-Pellegrino. (Trivella/Atchinson)
Motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjournment

9:51PM Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Richards/Trivella)
Motion passed unanimously.