

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Nathan Richards, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
Mae 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 October 23, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mr. Richards, Mrs. Trivella, Mrs. Lyons, and Dr. Perkins-Banas. Mr. Atchinson was absent. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, Ms. Vachon, Finance Director, and Paula Graef, BES Principal, were also present. Members of the teaching staff, students and parents, and Mr. Tanner was in the audience.

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

Quorum established. Mr. Richards called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting September 25, 2019

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2019
(Trivella/ Perkins-Banas)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Mr. Richards made a motion to move agenda item #6. Brooklyn's Best up to agenda item #5. Correspondence and Communication, due to having students here tonight, wanting to have them finish at a reasonable time and would love to have them present.
(Trivella/Lyons)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

6. Brooklyn's Best

a. Brooklyn Elementary School Students: Read, Run and Recycle Program

Mrs. Buell stated that there are four students from the Brooklyn Elementary School and a 6th grader from the Brooklyn Middle School.

Mrs. Graef stated that the 4 fourth grade students would be sharing information about the Read, Run and Recycle Program they belong to. The Read, Run and Recycle Program is every Monday after school. The first thing they do is read a book, around 7 chapters, and sit in a circle, and then talk about it. They talk about the characters in the book and one of the ways they do that is Mr. Maloney puts a character on their head. The students then have to ask questions to figure out who they are. Once they are done reading, they begin to stretch. Then, they run around the middle school and elementary school campus. Their goal is to run 2 miles and so far they are up to 1.5 miles. Once they are done running, They break into groups to pick up trash around the school. The students said they have lots of fun. The students stated they joined the club because they like running and it's fun. The teachers that run with the students are Mr. Maloney, Mr. Rush, Ms. Sokolowski, and Ms. Case.

Mrs. Buell stated that our 6th grade student was at the Cross Country meet today. The student stated that the Cross Country Conference Championship was today. He stated that the Brooklyn Boys and Girls won the division championship. Brooklyn received 2 trophies and a plaque. The boys team was undefeated this year, 8-0; the girls were 7-1.

Mrs. Buell thanked the students for coming tonight and thanked their parents for allowing them to participate. The Board stated they were very proud of the students for reading and for helping to make the school look beautiful.

Mrs. Buell asked one of the students about boxes on the counter. He stated that his step-dad owns CrossFit and they donate to the elementary school. Members of CrossFit bring school supplies, including binders, markers, crayons and folders to be donated to the elementary school.

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank you to students who presented at the BOE meeting in September

- i. Caleb Aubertine
- ii. Makenna Faucher
- iii. Carlita Herrera
- iv. Ella Petersen

- v. Angelos Haveles
- vi. Haley Newell
- vii. Kaylie Parmeter
- viii. Apphia Schley

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent thank you notes to the above students that presented at the last meeting for the Start with Hello.

- b. Dr. Prem Kumar, Executive Director of Indian American Education Foundation

Mrs. Buell stated that they received a gift of 3 books to the elementary library by several donors of The Indian American Community of Connecticut, 2 in English and 1 in Indian. A thank you note went out for the books..

- c. Thank you to Wheels To Learning

Mrs. Buell stated that Wheels To Learning sponsored 2 field trips, 1 for grade 2 and 1 for Kindergarten. A thank you note was sent for their donation.

- d. Anonymous Donation

Mrs. Buell stated that there was an anonymous donor that made a donation to the 8th grade to fund half the cost for the field trip to see A Christmas Carol play in Rhode Island. This donation offsets the cost for the families for tickets and bus transportation. A thank you note was sent for their donation.

6. Brooklyn's Best continued

- b. Brooklyn's Best

BES

1. We've had great conversations during goal setting meetings.
2. Curriculum pacing guides have been created for each grade level.
3. The PTO has approved the purchase of our school mascot.
4. We started the Be a BEAR Everywhere incentive program.

BMS

1. Great Celebration of Kelly King at the Killingly/Brooklyn Rotary Teacher of the Year event.
2. Thank you to the Lion's Club for another successful vision screen.
3. Homework Club, Board Game Club, Book Club have started with nice participation.
4. Drama Club is just getting started with information to students.
5. The Bobcat Cafe has been a huge success for the students involved.
6. NJHS is planning their Veteran's Day Ceremony for November 11, 2019.

7. Administrative Reports

a. Current Budget Balance: FY 20

Ms. Vachon discussed the budget balance to date. Actual expenditures are at \$3.9 million, 25% spent to date. She also discussed the line item transfers.

Mrs. Buell requested that the BOE approve the line item transfers to make the budget adjustments to expenditures.

Mr. Richards would accept a motion to do maintenance for the line item transfers on the budget expenditures and adjustments as outlined by Ms. Vachon.

(Trivella/Lyons)

Discussion:

Ms. Lyons asked a question if this is something they will be voting on monthly or authorizing it? They usually don't do this. Mr. Richards stated that they have spoken previously that while things are being cleaned up, the BOE will be authorizing the transfers due to the amount of money moving around. They want to be aware, instead of just doing the adjustments, as a transparency piece.

Unanimous vote to approve

b. Draft 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mrs. Buell discussed the proposed 2020-2021 calendar. The calendar mirrors the current year calendar. She will make minor changes and will show the calendar to staff to see if there's any other suggestions. Mrs. Buell would like to bring it to the next meeting for a vote.

There was discussion about school being in session on April 28th for the Connecticut Primary. Mrs. Buell thinks this will be a bigger turnout than the last primary. Mrs. Trivella discussed about the vestibules to have the private in and out in the gym, why it's an issue? The gym area is secure and voters wouldn't be entering the building through the front door. Mrs. Buell would like the BOE to consider having school. The gym doors to the school will be closed, voters enter and exit through the vestibules, never entering the hallway of the school. Mrs. Buell stated that she knows Pomfret Public Schools has school and have a constable there to help with traffic. Our Resident Trooper would be here at the school. Mrs. Buell will have a conversation with the First Selectman and our Resident Trooper in regards to having school in session.

c. Enrollment Report

The numbers are stable at this time, no big changes.

d. Bus Contract Request For Proposal (RFP) Process and timeline

Mrs. Buell shared that the bus contract is coming to an end. Mrs. Buell spoke to Eastford and Pomfret, whose transportation contracts are up as well and going out for RFP. Mrs. Buell stated the possibility of going out to bid together and allowing potential bidders to bid on one price for all 3 towns or 3 individual prices. It could help us if one company thinks they're going to get business from 3 towns, they might have a better bid. We can still individualize the contracts for the town, It would also be easier to borrow a bus or a driver if the town is short if we are all with the same bus company. Mrs. Buell also discussed the timeline and hoping to open bids in January, 2020. She is looking to get quotes from M&J, DATTCO, EASTCONN, and possibly First Student.

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to Report

9. Board Representatives to other Committees

Dr. Perkins-Banas stated that the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation met to discuss an incident that occurred on the walking track at Prince Hill. A child was riding a bike on the track and accidentally hit a woman walking on the track. A sub-committee was established to look at the rules of the track and how to post them and potential changes. Mrs. Buell stated another incident happened this week as well and Troop D is involved with this incident. Mrs. Lyons wanted to suggest something to Dr.. Perkins-Banas that a parent asked her to bring back to the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation committee about offering a half day program (morning or afternoon) for preschool students, similar to the before and after school program.

Mrs. Trivella mentioned that EASTCONN met last night, October 22, 2019. She stated the RESC Alliance, which includes ACES, CREC, LEARN, AND EASTCONN were invited to the governor's office and gave a presentation about what could be done in terms of special education transportation, minority recruitment, and cooperative purchasing. What came from it was seed money would be made available to further pursue these things. She also gave an update in regards to Early Head Start, for the first time they are seeing that 50 percent of Early Head Start children receiving services, the shift as gone from behavioral to developmental. EASTCONN has put together a student/parent handbook and an employee handbook, EASTCONN previously did not have these.

Woodstock Academy invited Mrs. Trivella to present at the leadership conference last week with approximately 300 students from area schools/towns. She presented interviewing skills, did a mock interview to show what a good interview looks like as well as what a bad interview looks like, shake hands and make eye contact.

Mrs. Trivella discussed the Woodstock Academy Board meeting, she stated they asked for a 10 year plan on renovations and restorations.

Mrs. Trivella also wanted to inform the BOE of Russel Beausoleil, a Brooklyn student, received the Head of School Award. Also, Linda St. Laurent, a Brooklyn student, is receiving the CAPS Award.

Mrs. Trivella stated she will continue being on the Woodstock Academy Board as well as being EASTCONN even though she is leaving the Brooklyn Board of Education and CABA.

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

12. Other

Mr. Richarads presented Mrs. Trivella with a gift and a plant from the BOE as a small token of appreciation of her participation on the Brooklyn Board of Education.

13. Public Comment

Mr. Tanner wanted to agree with Mrs. Trivella about having school during elections. He was on the committee and the big reason the vestibules were put in was because it was separate from the school and could have elections not disrupting the school day. As far as constables go, the Selectman can appoint constables so that might be something to think about to have a couple there.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.
(Trivella/Lyons)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Donna L. DiBenedetto
Board Clerk