

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
Carolyn Hackbarth

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 December 18, 2019 in the Central Office Community Room. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Atchinson (arrived at 7:08; left at 8:23), Mr. Phaiah, and Mrs. Hackbarth. Mrs. Jolley (arrived at 7:38). Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, Mr. Otto, Board of Finance.

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

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of minutes

a. November 26, 2019 BOE Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 26, 2019
(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Thank you letter, \$1,000 donation for negative lunch balances

Mrs. Buell stated that this is the third year in a row that an anonymous donor has donated \$1,000.00 to offset negative lunch balances.

- b. Thank you Haley Newell, Ella Giselson, Anya Oliverson, Caitlin Chandler, and Dominic Pascale, all members of NJHS, for their assistance during the CABE Area 4 Legislative Breakfast on 12/12/19.

Mrs. Buell stated she sent out five thank you letters to the above NJHS students for assisting during the CABE Legislative Breakfast.

6. Brooklyn's Best

CAPSS SUPERINTENDENTS AWARD WINNERS

1. BES Makenna Faucher, Lucas Hecker
2. BMS Ella Gisleson, Devin Exarhoulias
3. WA: Linda St. Laurent

BES

1. STEAM Night- we had about 20 people attend and they provided very positive feedback. Mr. Coderre is very excited for the next night
2. Brighter Christmas Fund Paint Night was well attended by staff from both buildings
3. Ms. Sokolowski has passed another TEAM module and only has one more to complete.
4. The Mental Health and Wellness Fair planning is underway

BMS

1. Choral Members sang at Tree of Life Ceremony
2. Two NJHS students attended the Leadership Conference at Woodstock Academy (Ella Gisleson and James Koproski)
3. Parent Conferences were well attended
4. November Good Cookie Award Recipients:
 - Gr. 5 - Tomas Gutierrez, Ronan Curran
 - Gr. 6 - Autumn Kuszaj, Ian Sherman
 - Gr. 7 - Daniel Miller, Chauntel Vandel
 - Gr. 8 - Dominic Pascale, Julia Young
5. Student performances by Band and Chorus members
6. Basketball and Cheerleading season has begun
7. NJHS collected items to send to troops
8. NJHS is currently collecting items to give to children at Day Kimball Hospital over the holidays
9. Family Book Group has 6 families participating right now with Gina LaPlante reading Unbound A Novel in Verse

7. Administrative Reports

- a. Current budget balance: FY 20

Mrs. Buell discussed the budget balance to date. Expenses to date are \$7,313,143 or 39.2% of the budget.

8. Board of Education Committee Reports

There was discussion in regards to when the committees meet during the day for members to see if they would be available to join the committees. Members will email Mrs. Lyons with interest of joining the committees.

9. Board Representatives to Other Committees

Mrs. Perkins-Banas reported that the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation met last week. There will be a price increase for summer camp of \$5.00 per week. There will be a minimum wage increase for the Before and After School Program to \$12.00 an hour. Also, the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation approved funding for a “Partyka’s Path” sign for the path from Prince Hill to the Brooklyn Schools to honor Mr. Partyka, Cross Country Coach. The toy drive this year has 112 kids in need.

10. Old Business

- a. Appoint committee members

Discussed above in Board of Education Committee Reports

- b. Draft 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mrs. Buell discussed the 2020-2021 School Calendar with the requested changes from the November meeting. There was discussion about changing the wording of “Snow Days” to “Weather Days.”

Motion to approve the 2020-21 School Calendar as discussed.
(Atchinson/Phaiah)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

- c. Discussion of BOE Policies: 6159, 6142.10, 5131.911

Mrs. Buell went over the recommended changes she would like to make to the policies. There are additional recommendations Mrs. Buell made to Missions, Goals and Objectives page - 0200, and policy 5118.1.

Motion to approve policies 6159, 6142.10, 5131.911, 0200, and 5118.1 as

discussed.
(Perkins-Banas/Atchinson)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

11. New Business

a. Brooklyn Public Schools Marketing

i. Kidder Newsletter Sample

Mrs. Buell discussed the Kidder Newsletter Sample and how this might be a way to reach out to parents that aren't connected to the Brooklyn Public Schools, and a way to connect to the whole Brooklyn community that may not have students in school. It is a cost of \$5,000 for the first mailing. There was discussion of where the cost would come from, possibility of budgeting for it next year, and who would work with the company. Also, a discussion of starting a Middle School Newspaper that the students create or finding other ways to communicate information.

b. Current Special Education Enrollment Trends

Mrs. Buell discussed the special education enrollment trends. Mrs. Buell will continue to monitor the special education enrollment.

c. Enrollment Report

Enrollment is stable at this time.

12. Public Comment

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.
(Jolley/Perkins-Banas)
No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

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Board Clerk