

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Rosa Fernandes, Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Jen Laden and Michael Murphy

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maureen Ruby, Director of Business & Operations Ken Post, Director of Special Services Gina Wygonik, Director of Instruction Deb Farias, BHS Principal Marc Balanda, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Melissa Labroschiano, CES Principal Mary Rose Dymond, and members of the administration.

PRESENTATION OF LITERARY MAGAZINE/YEARBOOK

The Board and Superintendent received brief presentations of literary magazines and yearbooks from Whisconier Middle School and Brookfield High School.

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

The Board and Superintendent received a report from Yvonne Cech, Abbey Lynch, Meg Gill and Debbie Brooks regarding the Children's and Youth Librarians and the collaboration between the Library Media Specialists in the school system and our librarians at the public library.

YEAR END REPORT FROM THE BROOKFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Board and Superintendent received an end of the year update on the Brookfield Education Foundation by BEF President Kristen Joshi.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Ed Butt wrote regarding spring sports and coaches

Ron Jaffe, Elijah Huling and Haley Goodrich wrote regarding the Boards open letter to the community
Howard Lasser, Susan Iverson and Laura Orban wrote regarding addressing racism in the school community

Marie Williams wrote with a question regarding curriculum

Ron Jaffe shared information on a documentary regarding racism and voting rights

Ron Jaffe and Kiana Shabazz Williams wrote regarding diversifying curriculum

Ron Jaffe shared information from the National Education Association regarding their summer justice series camp

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Regular Meeting- 6/17/2020

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Barile reported on the paving at BHS & WMS and the BHS Class of 2020 graduation. The district will move forward to purchase 91 laptops and 300 Chromebooks for students. The State waived 180 days for next year to reduce the school year to 177 student days. The State is looking to let the executive orders run out on September 9, 2020. Dr. Barile mentioned that 4 guests were invited to tonight’s meeting to talk about diversity and the reopening of school.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy/Communications- 6/17/2020- Mrs. Brooks said the subcommittee discussed reviewing outdated policies regarding distance learning and electronic resources. They discussed communications and did not do a budget flyer. The subcommittee will draft a flyer to the community after the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year explaining the budget process.

Mrs. Dymond gave a brief enrollment report for Kindergarten.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the agenda to add Item F under new business to discuss and have a possible motion on changing the school calendar.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

POLICIES

DELETION OF CURRENT BROOKFIELD POLICY #6141.3 AND POLICY #6141.321 AND REPLACING IT WITH CABE POLICY #6141.321

A. Foster moved, J. Greenstein seconded to approve the deletion of current Brookfield Policy #6141.3 and current Brookfield Policy #6141.321 and replacing them with new proposed CABE Policy #6141.321 with revisions as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to make a motion to amend the motion that’s on the table to insert the words “for a first reading” after the word “approved” in the motion.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

UPDATE OF CURRENT BROOKFIELD POLICY #6141.328

A. Foster moved, B. Belden seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve updating current Brookfield Policy #6141.328, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE SECURITY TASK FORCE/POSSIBLE MOTION

As an Ad Hoc Committee having met their objective to formally review the physical security of our schools as well as security protocols and procedures and recommend improvements to the Board of Education, R. Fernandes moved to dissolve the Security Task Force, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBCOMMITTEE REGARDING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND RACE

The Board had discussion with Robert Rader, CABA Chairman and Martha Brakeen-Harris, CABA Diversity Consultant regarding Equity, Diversity and Race.

After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, B. Belden seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 that the Brookfield Board of Education establish a diversity, equity and inclusion committee which is charged with strong considerations of the following actions as part of their comprehensive planning process; to develop a process for students and staff to recognize existing racial biases, understand how curricular approaches may inadvertently promote such bias, and develop an intentional and intellectual approach to addressing racial issues with the aim of all members of the community being valued and feeling a sense of belonging. Supporting the development of instructional activities, extra-curricular opportunities and field experiences that promote a richer awareness of cultural and racial diversity. Reviewing and monitoring policies on diversity, inclusion and equity. Reviewing curriculum in grades K-12 through the lens of multicultural and diverse perspectives. Reviewing and employing mechanisms, for example, anonymous tips or trusted adults to allow students and staff to share sensitive and confidential information that will help in the investigation of acts of bullying, harassment and racism. Continuing to research and implement best practices and social emotional programs and resources to ensure that every student feels safe in a supportive environment. Determining where our schools could enhance understating, respect, caring, problem solving, conflict resolution, anti-bullying, etc. Providing training for all staff aimed at maintaining a safe inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students, including students of color. And, while the Board recognizes that it is difficult to develop quantifiable metrics for the results of all of the work of this committee, these will be the indicators of progress made:

1. Further lessening or elimination of the student achievement gap between students of different races and socio-economic backgrounds;
2. Cultural competency throughout the school system especially in communications between students and staff and members of the community
3. Survey responses

The Board had discussion on the make-up of the committee.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION REGARDING REOPENING SCHOOL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Superintendent shared with the Board an update regarding the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Raymond Sullivan and Dr. Cornelius Ferreira joined the discussion. The formal reopening plan will be presented at a special Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR REVISION

After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented by Superintendent Dr. John Barile.
R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION

A. Foster moved, B. Belden seconded to continue its discussion on the July-December subcommittee composition.

After discussion B. Belden moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to table its discussion regarding subcommittee structure at its next Board meeting.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board received an update on the new school building project.

3 MAIN POINTS

1. Discussion of the school calendar
2. Overview of school re-opening committee plan
3. Discussion about the new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED

A. Foster moved, B. Belden seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining and unaffiliated salaries at 10:04 pm.

R. Fernandes, B. Belden, A. Foster, D. Brooks, J. Greenstein, J. Laden and M. Murphy voted aye.

Chairman Rosa Fernandes called the meeting to order at 10:06 pm.

Present: Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Mike Murphy and Jen Laden.

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining and unaffiliated salaries.

Bob Belden, Debbie Brooks, Rosa Fernandes, Amy Foster, Joy Greenstein, Mike Murphy and Jen Laden exited out of executive session at 10:13 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection, Chairman Rosa Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 10:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education