

**BRIGHTON SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:30 PM
Brighton Elementary School Library**

Americans with Disabilities Act Considerations:
Call 802-334-5847 if you need accommodations to participate.

Members:

Gayle Cornelious
David Yasharian
Judy Castonguay
Bradley Beth
Tim O'Bar

Administrators:

Annsunee Swift, Principal
John Castle, Superintendent
April Touchette, NCSU Financial

*Denotes absentees

I. Call Meeting to Order

ACTION:

The meeting was called to order by Bradley Beth at 5:34 PM.

II. Approve the Minutes of March 9, 2022

ACTION:

Yasharian made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9th meeting.
Castonguay seconded.

III. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens

Ms. Erica Petre was present for public comments. Ms. Petre was asked to speak to the school board to represent the teachers' union. Ms. Petre spoke about how the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions has contributed to a boost in morale within the school. Ms. Petre also commented on "Reading Is Fun" week which allowed for older students to engage in reading opportunities with younger students. Reading week also afforded town members the opportunity to read to students. This encouraged community engagement which is something that Principal Swift and Ms. Petre will continue to work on. Ms. Petre spoke about student-led conferences and discussed how each grade showed their strengths either through an interactive

opportunity or through technology. In closing, Ms. Petre touched on the ending of SBAC testing as well as the success of the Scholastic book fair.

Cathy Kinney sent a letter to the board regarding the unsafe commute students face while walking to school. Cathy Kinney suggested introducing a walking school bus to help bypass unsafe areas. Castonguay and Principal Swift will investigate the matter to come up with a solution.

IV. Financial Report

The Financial report indicated that Brighton Elementary is in good standing. However, the initial budget for heating fuel was \$18,000 and ended up costing \$21,000.

ACTION:

Castonguay made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Cornelius seconded.

Approve the Warrant

Information/Discussion:

A. ESSER Funds Considerations

ESSER fund ideas did not change. However, there was talk about having someone come in to give a talk to students about drug prevention.

Mr. Castle noted the successful submission of the grant to the State of Vermont.

V. Principal's Report

Principal Swift opened by communicating that many new students have joined the Brighton Community. The student population will reach 120 after spring break. Principal Swift also discussed the success of student-led conferences and noted how nice it was to see parents in the school building again. Principal Swift congratulated Archer Beth for winning 3rd place in the state spelling bee and was excited by his representation of the Brighton community. Principal Swift was excited about the new sign that will be in front of the school and is working with the art teacher about possible artwork that could be displayed. In closing, Principal Swift discussed the potential over-night field trip for the graduating 8th grade class as well as the graduation date of June 13th. Graduation will be held in town.

ACTION:

Yasharian made a motion to approve the Principal's Report. Seconded by O'Bar.

Information:

A. Personnel Updates

1. Hire of para-educator

2. Resignation of Math Interventionist (Echo Hopkins)

ACTION:

Castonguay made a motion to approve the resignation of Echo Hopkins. Seconded by O'Bar

3. Hire of Kindergarten Teacher

ACTION:

Castonguay made a motion to approve the hiring of kindergarten teacher Amity Burnham.

4. Hire of 4th Grade Teacher

Castonguay made a motion to approve the hiring of the 4th grade Teacher Michelle Hall. Seconded by Gale.

B. 2022 NCSU Annual Report Highlights

ACTION:

The board was shown a promotional pamphlet of the highlights from the NCSU Annual Report.

VIII. Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting May 11, 2022

N/A

IX. Executive Section

N/A

X. Adjourn

O'Bar made a motion to adjourn at 7:15. Seconded by Castonguay

Respectfully submitted by Jonah Petre

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Castle opened his Superintendent's Report by discussing the continued staff shortages the district is facing. Mr. Castle also discussed a bill that would change the average calculation per equalized pupil. Act 173 is establishing a Block Grant model that is based on student numbers and not on student needs. This could be a significant problem going forward in terms of funding for education.

VII. Unfinished/New Business

ACTION:

A. Approve IDEA-B (Attachment D)

ACTION:

O'Bar made a motion to approve IDEA-B. Seconded by Judy Castonguay.

B. Administrator Salary Considerations

ACTION:

The Board sought to delay approval until a later date

C. Support Staff Salary Considerations

ACTION:

The Board sought to delay approval until a later date

D. Appoint NCSU Negotiations Committee Member

ACTION:

The Board sought to delay approval until a later date

E. Appoint Representative to the NCUHS Board

ACTION:

The Board sought to delay approval until a later date