

**BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2035 MONROE AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUSINESS MEETING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**November 12, 2019**

**4:00 p.m. Executive Session**

**5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. Community Forum**

**FRENCH ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETORIUM**

**MINUTES**

---

The Board of Education of the Brighton Central School District held an Education Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the Twelve Corners Elementary School Building.

Present: Mark Kokanovich, President  
Andrea Costanza  
Marvin Sachs  
Christina Lee

Absent: Julene Gilbert, Vice President  
Karen Hatch  
Larry Davis

Also Present: Dr. Kevin McGowan, Superintendent of Schools; Louis Alaimo, Assistant Superintendent for Administration; Dr. Debby Baker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Carolyn Rabidoux, Director of Student Services; Principals: Tom Hall, Rob Thomas, Allison Rioux and Matt Tappon; Assistant Director for Humanities Deanna Spagnola; Nicole Ureles, BTA Representative; Leslie Seltzer, PTSA Representative; Theo Viggiani-Cole, Student Representative; Dan Goldman, Communications Coordinator and Kim Lanzafame, District Clerk.

I. At 4:15 p.m., Mr. Kokanovich called the meeting to order

Approval for an Executive Session to Discuss a Particular Employee

Motion for Approval: Mrs. Lee

Second: Dr. Sachs

Approval: Unanimous (4 Yes and 0 No)

At 5:11 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the public meeting.

II. Public Participation – NONE

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion for approval of Agenda: Mrs. Costanza

Second: Dr. Sachs

Approval: Unanimous (4 Yes and 0 No)

## IV. Approval of Minutes from the October 29, 2019 Meeting

Motion for approval of Minutes: Mrs. Costanza

Second: Mrs. Lee

Approval: Unanimous (4 Yes and 0 No)

## V. Principal Reports – Principals Tom Hall, Rob Thomas, Allison Rioux and Matt Tappon highlighted upcoming events for their respective buildings.

## VI. Reports

A. Student Representative – Quarter 1 is wrapped up so that stress is all gone. Auditions for the winter musical, High School Musical just completed. Try-outs for winter sports are beginning. Student Senate had its first meeting and received good input on Homecoming and other events. Purple Week is starting at BHS, which symbolizes our fight against violence and abuse. Clubs are hosting events all week. He said students aren't angry, just disappointed that there wasn't a snow day Tuesday.

## B. Board of Education

- MCSBA Labor Relations meets Nov. 20 to discuss negotiations.
- MCSBA Information Exchange meets Nov. 20 to discuss juuling.
- MCSBA Legislative met Nov. 6 and there's a lot going on. They debriefed from the NYSSBA Convention and the election. The elections don't have as much of a direct effect as in other years. They recently met with Senator Joe Robach and will be meeting soon with Assemblywoman Jamie Romeo. The trip to Albany is coming up in December. There are two position papers developed by the committee: one on teacher and support staff shortages and the other on bus driver shortages.
- Christina Lee said Extended Studies Review did meet and they're looking at enrollment numbers and how to increase enrollment of underrepresented groups.
- Andrea Costanza and Julene Gilbert are on the ELA program review. They're looking at scores and disparity in different subgroups. They're also on the Wellness Committee and they're focused on building bridges of trust and planning events where they're talking with people, not at people

## C. BTA Report – Nicole Ureles

## CRPS:

- Second graders are learning about democracy and the voting process. On Tuesday, Nov. 5, second graders will participate in an election. Candidates: Toys for the National Museum's Toy Hall of Fame! They will fill out voter registration, a ballot and receive an "I voted" sticker!
- Additionally, students in Mrs. Youngman's second grade will be writing speeches centered around what makes a good leader and will give their speeches later this month in front of an audience.

FRES:

- Ms. Covert's class is collecting new pajama sets for kids in need in conjunction with Scholastic Books. For each pair of PJs collected and donated, a child will get a new book donated to them by Scholastic Books as well. This collection will run for the month of November.
- Fifth Grade Science Classes have been applying their engineering design skills to figuring out how to move water as they learn about how we can provide freshwater to those in need. Activities involve several tasks where they work with their lab group to use given materials to move water horizontally and the moving water vertically. In science, fifth graders then learn about how we access groundwater. The classes of Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Close, and Mrs. Monachino had the opportunity to have a Skype interview with Senior Staff Geologist of Langann Engineering, Nick Cutler, who answered student questions about accessing groundwater and his work with aquifers.

TCMS:

- TCMS and BHS World Language Department: Our fourth and last language intern for 2019-20 school year has arrived! Susana is here from Colombia and is very happy to share her Colombian culture with us. She will be working with Spanish students from BHS and TCMS. Susana is a kindergarten teacher in Colombia and would love to observe a kindergarten teacher at Council Rock for a day! Susana will be collaborating with our three other language Interns: Victor from Spain, Mohamed from Senegal and Katharina from Germany. All four will be working with our language students until June. - Viviam Lopez-French
- On Saturday, Oct. 26, MaryAnn Walter accompanied 46 TCMS students to the Rochester Oktoberschulfest... a biennial event, sponsored by the Rochester chapter of AATG, that has taken place, in Rochester, for over 25 years! Over 200 students from Greece, West Irondequoit, Fairport, Webster, Rush- Henrietta and Brighton participated in a day of engaging cultural activities. This year's theme was: 30 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall! Students: learned German folk dances with the Bayern Verein Alpengrün, a local German-heritage group; examined the lives and cultures of both sides of the Berlin Wall; found out about East and West German specialties and ate Spaghettieis (ice cream sundaes that look like a bowl of spaghetti!); discovered a variety of East and West-German musicians through the years; starred in a German Escape role play; designed and pressed a slogan button, in German, while learning about the Peaceful Revolution; and ate great German sausages and sauerkraut from Swan's Meat Market for lunch!
- Craig Dennison-Spanish teacher at TCMS devised an alternative assessment for a unit covering household chores and home vocab. Instead of a traditional written exam, students filmed themselves at home narrating in Spanish/acting out their household chores and responsibilities. It was a cute and creative way to showcase their speaking skills and knowledge. Several students brought their pets into the film or added fun music or graphics. Students uploaded their videos

from their tablets to Office 365 video. Student and parent feedback have been favorable.

BHS:

- Trapezoid ESSPA 2019 Awards
  - Overall Gold Award
- BHS students from Eric Morris' College Economics class hosted guest speaker Dr. Jerry Evensky, professor of economics at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Students engaged in a seminar-style discussion about economics, current events, history, and college life with Dr. Evensky, who is also the author of the students' textbook! It was a meaningful and inspiring experience for both students and adults alike.

D. PTSA Report – Leslie Seltzer

- Our October meeting we had Matt Tappon, Andrea Yawman and Judy Wegman talk about the Habits of the Mind.
- We are working on bringing the movie “Beyond measure” which is by the same director as Race to Nowhere. We are hoping to have a community wide screening of the movie in the spring of 2020, assuming we can secure a venue. The synopsis for the movie reads as follows:
- Every day we hear stories about America’s troubled education system. And we’re told that in order to fix what’s broken, we need to narrow our curricula, standardize our classrooms, and find new ways to measure students and teachers. But what if these “fixes” are making our schools worse.
- In *Beyond Measure*, we set out to challenge the assumptions of our current education story.
- PTSA is supporting the initiative of Brighton parent (Lisa Sponsel) in trying to obtain a traffic light on Winton Road entering the BHS parking lot.
- The Brighton PTSA and community were invited to a McQuaid PTA sponsored event on teen stress and anxiety. About 8-9 Brighton parents attended. It was a great event with a panel of five experts, including a physician, licensed clinical social worker, school counselor, and two members of the Mobile Crisis Unit. They spoke about ways to tell if your child is stressed/anxious and what to do about it, when and how to use the Mobile Crisis Unit, and when to know if you need outside help. It was a very informative evening, and we are discussing replicating it in Brighton this spring.

E. Superintendent Report - Dr. McGowan thanked all staff members who served in the armed forces, as well as those with family members who served. The District supports Lisa Sponsel’s effort to get a traffic light for Winton Road. It is a county road though and they haven’t supported the idea in the past. Dr. McGowan encouraged drivers to slow down and let students take the buses to school.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Personnel Changes

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the recommendations from personnel changes as explained in the accompanying materials.

B. Approval of Recommendations from the Committee on Special Education

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education as explained in the accompanying materials.

C. Approval of Recommendations from the Committee on Preschool Special Education

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education as explained in the accompanying materials

D. Approval of Field Trip

1. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, DC Class Trip – March 18-20, 2020

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the field trip explained in 1 above and as explained in the accompanying materials

E. Approval of Fund Raising Activities:

1. Student Council – TCMS – Cookie Dough Sale – November 5-12, 2019

2. BHS Junior Class – Chipotle – Monroe Avenue – December 17, 2019

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the fund raising activities listed 1-2 above and as explained in the accompanying materials.

Motion for approval of Consent Agenda: Mrs. Costanza

Second: Dr. Sachs

Approval: Unanimous (4 Yes and 0 No)

XII. Motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:57 p.m.: Mrs. Costanza

Second: Mrs. Lee

Approval: Unanimous (4 Yes and 0 No)

Meeting adjourned until the Community Forum as 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Lanzafame  
District Clerk

APPROVED: