

Monday, March 7, 2022

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held March 7, 2022, at Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Albert Benejan*, and Joe Lombard*. Board members Joe Sokolovic and Christine Baptiste-Perez* were present. Mr. Benejan arrived at the meeting in person subsequently as noted.

(*participated remotely)

Supt. Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Benejan moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on policy regarding public comment.

Mr. Weldon noted he updated the draft to include 2-A-6, where language was taken from the existing sign-in sheet to replace language in the prior draft.

Mr. Sokolovic expressed concern about the reference to abusive conduct. Mr. Weldon said that was meant to cover profanity or threatening. Mr. Sokolovic said he has been called a racist in the past, which he didn't like, but he said the person had the right to say it.

Mr. Lombard moved “*to take this draft policy and refer it to the full board for a first and second read and final adoption.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a revised high school magnet school entrance requirements and expectations.

Supt. Testani said an omission raised by Mr. Sokolovic at the last meeting has been addressed. Language has been added to say, “All Grade 8 students in TAG and Bridgeport magnet elementary schools, including Classical Studies and Geraldine Claytor, may automatically enter Central Magnet if they have met the minimum entrance requirements stated above.”

In response to a question, the superintendent indicated Central Magnet administration wanted to discuss further the issue of diplomas for the school when their committee reconvenes. Supt. Testani said he believed there should be a distinction for Central Magnet diplomas. He suggested proceeding with the revisions and addressing the diploma issue at the next meeting. He said the diploma matter would likely be included under graduation standards.

Mr. Benejan arrived at the meeting in person.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to push this for a first read and second read to the full board.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

Mr. Benejan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on May 2, 2022