

Thursday, May 5, 2022

MINUTES OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held May 5, 2022, at Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Present were members Chair Christine Baptiste-Perez and Joseph Sokolovic.

Supt. Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a Bridgeport Military Academy (BMA) field trip to the Boston Museum of Science.

Arun Kadam provided information on the trip. He said the museum was a hands-on, STEM experience. There is also a planetarium related to education about space.

In response to a question, Mr. Kadam said the museum does not have mask mandates or testing requirements.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez requested the form provided give the full name and relationship for the students' emergency contact information. Mr. Kadam said the submitted roster of students was completed.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *"to recommend to the full board approval of the Bridgeport Military Academy's trip to the*

*Boston Museum of Science.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a BMA overnight trip to Kettletown State Park in Southbury, Connecticut. Mr. Kadam said this is for a forensic science class. Students will be finding evidence and analyzing evidence in an outside environment as opposed to the laboratory work in the classroom.

In response to a question, Mr. Kadam said there are four tents, with one eight-person male tent and one eight-person female tent, with the chaperones nearby. Parents will pick up and drop off students at the site. There are no Covid protocols.

Mr. Sokolovic moved “*to approve Bridgeport Military Academy’s field trip be brought to the full board for approval to Kettletown State Park.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a BMA trip to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, N.Y.

Kyleen McGinnis said the purpose of the trip is to give students the opportunity to engage with historical artwork and artifacts at the largest art museum in the Western Hemisphere. Students in AP studio arts and AP U.S. history will be participating.

Ms. McGinnis said the students will have to wear masks. Mr. Sokolovic noted a certificate of insurance was present. Ms. McGinnis said the submitted list was the final list of students. She said students are permitted to bring cellphones on the trip.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez suggested the students' cellphone numbers be collected. Ms. McGinnis said there are three chaperones for 24 students participating. In response to a question, she said there are no Covid testing requirements.

Mr. Sokolovic moved "*to present to the full board Bridgeport Military Academy's trip to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.*" The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on the district's Debate League's trip to the Edward Kennedy Institute in Boston.

Ron Rapice said the trip first occurred in 2019. The trip will include a trip to the JFK Library, which is on the same campus. The event is a model Senate hearing, where the students will model a state and a senator. Students in Grades 6 to 8 will participate, along with four Harding High students and a Central student.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez asked the full information on emergency contacts be gathered and provided. She suggested students' cellphones numbers be gathered.

Mr. Sokolovic moved "*to bring in front of the entire board Bridgeport Public Schools' Debate League trip to the Kennedy Center.*" The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a trip by the IT School at Fairchild Wheeler to Yonkers, New York.

Suchith Shantharaj said the trip is to a facility named iFly for a conceptual physics course. The facility will help

demonstrate laws of motion, gravity and other concepts. It includes an indoor wind tunnel, and the students will perform predictive calculations. Student will ask to complete waivers, with parents notified. He said he will provide a copy of the waiver to the board. He said the school nurse was provided with information about the trip.

Mr. Sokolovic moved “*to present to the full board Fairchild Wheeler IT’s trip to iFly.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a Harding High trip to the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York.

Supt. Testani said this is a May 26th trip of Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers, which includes an annual recognition brunch. He said he will likely be attending as well. Congressman James Clairborne will be a guest, along with Allen Houston, the former New York Knicks player, who is a chair of Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers.

In response to a question, the superintendent said board members and parents can also attend. He said he would look into whether parents can also receive bus transportation to the event. He said he was told the list submitted was the final list of students in the program this year.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez said all the permission slips were still needed.

Mr. Sokolovic moved “*to present to the full board Harding High School’s trip to the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York, for the awards ceremony.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved

Mr. Sokolovic moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baptiste-Perez and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

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