

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
January 11, 2023

Present

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Shawn Uscilla
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera arrived at 6:45 pm

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angel Irigoyen

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PTO Report

Mrs. Savo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Student Recognition

Seth Downs, Julian Vanderberg, Faye Fischer, and Cali Wells were recognized for participating and Sophia Scott was recognized as the award recipient for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Project.

Public Comment

Kevin Farrell, 53 Clay Road.
Andre Puleo, 36 Knollwood Road.
Jennifer Cafasso, 21 Perkins Road.
Julia Strong, 150 Crestwood Road.
Jenny Turner, 98 Farm View Road.
Jessica DesPierre, 101 Falls Road.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the December 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 1 abstain (Uscilla), 1 absent (Irigoyen).*

Committee Reports

ACES:

Mr. Maher provided an update.

Curriculum:

The committee did not meet in January.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Finance:

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through December 31, 2022 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, Uscilla, White, Wijesekera), 1 absent (Irigoyen).*

Dr. Pittenger further reported with an update on the ARP/ESSER III grant projects, 2023-2024 Budget, and the Audit.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Maher to accept the revisions to Bylaw 9321 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, Uscilla, White, Wijesekera), 1 absent (Irigoyen).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the revisions to Policy 0523 as presented. *The motion fails 3 yes (Amato, Pittenger, Wijesekera), 5 no (Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White), 1 absent (Irigoyen).*

New Business

Motion by Amato, seconded by Wijesekera to amend the agenda to receive and accept the resignation of BOE member, Angel Irigoyen. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, Uscilla, White, Wijesekera).*

Motion by Garcia, seconded by White to amend the agenda to add a discussion with a candidate for the BOE vacancy and to enter into a possible executive session and a possible vote. *The motion fails 4 yes (Garcia, Maher, Uscilla, White), 4 no (Amato, Lestinsky, Pittenger, Wijesekera).*

Mrs. Byrd presented the 2023-2024 Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan and answered questions from Board members. The presentation will be posted on the website.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on December 31, 2022, PK-6 enrollment was 430 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that Kindergarten projections are around 55 students at this time and 42 have pre-registered for the fall of 2023.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the newly hired Physical Education Teacher and current job openings.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum and Special Services. Her report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Principal Report

Mr. Reed-Swale reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events. Mr. Reed-Swale's report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Chairman Report Communications

None.

None.

Public Comment

Andre Puleo, 36 Knollwood Road.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved February 8, 2023