

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2019

PRESENT

Doreen Fox
 John Paul Garcia
 Lisa Gaw
 EJ Maher
 Christopher Pittenger arrived at 6:39 pm
 Dorothy Seaton
 Shawn Uscilla
 Lynette White
 Namita Wijesekera via conference call 7:42 to 7:53 pm

ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Murray

GUEST

Rebecca Santiago

ABSENT

None

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. Mrs. Murray called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. PRESENTATION

a. Board of Education Professional Development Presentation by Rebecca Santiago from Shipman & Goodwin.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

a. Election of Board Officers

i. **Motion** by Maher, seconded by Seaton to accept nominations for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Garcia nominated Christopher Pittenger, seconded by Fox. Christopher Pittenger accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

ii. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Fox that the nominations for Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries unanimously.*

iii. **Motion** by Seaton, seconded by Fox to open balloting for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Chris Pittenger Received	9
1. Doreen Fox	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Lisa Gaw	
4. EJ Maher	
5. Christopher Pittenger	
6. Dorothy Seaton	
7. Shawn Uscilla	
8. Lynette White	
9. Namita Wijesekera (verbal)	

Christopher Pittenger is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Chairperson.

iv. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Seaton to accept nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. *The motion carries unanimously.*

John Paul Garcia nominated Dorothy Seaton, seconded by Namita Wijesekera. Dorothy Seaton accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

- v. **Motion** by Fox, seconded by Gaw that the nominations for Vice-Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries unanimously.*
- vi. **Motion** by Gaw, seconded by Maher to open balloting for the position of Vice-Chair. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Vice-Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Dorothy Seaton Received	9
1. Doreen Fox	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Lisa Gaw	
4. EJ Maher	
5. Christopher Pittenger	
6. Dorothy Seaton	
7. Shawn Uscilla	
8. Lynette White	
9. Namita Wijesekera (verbal)	

Dorothy Seaton is elected as Bethany Board of Education Vice-Chair.

- vii. **Motion** by Maher, seconded by Gaw to accept nominations for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Dorothy Seaton nominated Lynette White, seconded by Lisa Gaw. Lynette White accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

- viii. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Seaton that the nominations for Secretary be closed. *The motion carries unanimously.*
- ix. **Motion** by Gaw, seconded by Seaton to open balloting for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Secretary	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Lynette White Received	9
1. Doreen Fox	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Lisa Gaw	
4. EJ Maher	
5. Christopher Pittenger	
6. Dorothy Seaton	
7. Shawn Uscilla	
8. Lynette White	
9. Namita Wijesekera (verbal)	

Lynette White is elected as Bethany Board of Education Secretary.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. **Motion** by Seaton, seconded by Gaw that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue and that the Superintendent and Principal Candidate are invited to attend followed by a discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation and Employment Contract and that the Superintendent is invited to attend. *The motion carries 9 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT

Doreen Fox
John Paul Garcia
Lisa Gaw
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger
Dorothy Seaton
Shawn Uscilla
Lynette White

ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Murray

OTHER

Principal Candidate

ABSENT

Namita Wijesekera

5. REGULAR MEETING RECONVENES

- a. Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **Motion** by Seaton, seconded by Gaw to accept the June 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera), 1 abstain (Uscilla).*

7. VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Seaton to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of the Principal of Bethany Community School. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*
- b. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Uscilla to approve the Child Nutrition Authorized Signatures Change Form to include Superintendent, Colleen Murray as the first person and Brandy Spargo, Business Manager as the second person designated to authorize and sign Child Nutrition claims for reimbursement as required by the Connecticut State Department of Education. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*
- c. **Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Maher to hire additional Kindergarten personnel for the 2019-2020 school year and work with the Town to access allocated funds. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*
- d. **Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia to approve the Superintendent's one-year contract extension through June 30, 2022, increase her 403(b) account on a pre-tax basis by \$2,500, increase her base salary by 2.5% and allow 5 carryover vacation days. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*
- e. Dr. Pittenger announced that the Board will receive a Committee Membership Interest Survey to determine which committee they will be appointed to serve on.
- f. The Board rated and discussed their self-evaluation.
- g. The Board developed a draft of the 2019-2020 Goals. Dr. Pittenger directed Board members to email Mrs. Murray with any additional suggestions.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

a. Superintendent's Report:

- Mrs. Murray discussed the current enrollment numbers and class sizes by grade with a current total of 374.
- Mrs. Murray discussed the status of summer facilities projects including the parking lot, tile floor, IT wiring, security system and the old schoolhouse.
- Mrs. Murray reviewed the status of open or recently filled positions.
- Mrs. Murray asked if the August Board Meeting would be cancelled. The Board decided to cancel the August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting. Notice of the cancellation will be posted with the Town Clerk.

11. VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan L. Carpenter
Recorder

Approved September 11, 2019

APPROVED