

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**  
**July 8, 2020**

**Present**

Doreen Fox  
John Paul Garcia  
Lisa Gaw  
EJ Maher  
Christopher Pittenger  
Dorothy Seaton  
Lynette White  
Namita Wijesekera

**Administration**

Colleen Murray

**Absent**

Shawn Uscilla

**Call to Order**

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Seaton to amend the agenda to add Public Comment after the Call to Order and after the Chairman's Report. The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Gaw to amend the agenda to move Executive Session to the end of the agenda. The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by White to amend the agenda to move the Superintendent's contract motion to the end of the agenda. The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Seaton to move the Professional Development Presentation to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing a confidential attorney/client privileged communication addressing legal issues related to the return to work and school in the 2020-21 school year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes**

**Motion** by Seaton, seconded by Gaw to accept the June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

In response to a letter sent to the Board and administration from the Community Alliance for Racial Equity (CARE), Dr. Pittenger and Mrs. Murray led a discussion on the District's past and current efforts, as well as future plans to address race equity at BCS. Board members offered suggestions to add access and equity to future curriculum committee meetings and to review Board policy on race equity at the next policy committee meeting. The Board also agrees that increasing communication with the school and community on this topic would be beneficial. Dr. Pittenger and Mrs. Murray will compose a letter in response to the CARE letter received.

The Board conducted their annual self-evaluation.

The Board reviewed a draft of the 2020-2021 Goals. The Board agreed that changes did not need to be made to the goals.

## Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray discussed the current enrollment numbers and class sizes by grade with a current total of 346.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on facility projects.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on Personnel who have resigned from their positions and the status of the hiring process.

Mrs. Murray stated that on June 30<sup>th</sup> the 2019-2020 budget allowed the District to fund all their needs, purchase personal protective equipment, invest in the Annex renovation, set aside 2% in a non-lapsing account, and will return approximately \$16,000 to the Town.

Mrs. Murray provided an overview of the State's Reopen Plan. She discussed the creation of the BCS Executive Committee and their role in gathering information and making informed decisions to complete Bethany's Reopen Plan meeting the requirements of the State's Plan by the July 24<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated that the Negotiations Committee will be meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare for teacher negotiations.

## Public Comment

None.

## Executive Session

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Seaton that the Board of Education enters into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing a confidential attorney/client privileged communication addressing legal issues related to the return to work and school in the 2020-21 school year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and that the Superintendent and Board Attorney, Rebecca Santiago 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 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

### Attendance

#### **Present**

Doreen Fox  
John Paul Garcia  
Lisa Gaw  
EJ Maher  
Christopher Pittenger  
Dorothy Seaton  
Lynette White  
Namita Wijesekera

#### **Administration**

Colleen Murray

#### **Other**

Rebecca Santiago

#### **Absent**

Shawn Uscilla

## Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:32 p.m.

**Motion** by Seaton, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the Superintendent's one-year contract extension through June 30, 2023, increase her base salary by 2.5% and allow 10 carryover vacation days. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

  
Susan L. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

Approved on August 12, 2020