

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom Webinar
December 9, 2020

Present

Doreen Fox arrived at 6:53 pm
John Paul Garcia
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Dorothy Seaton
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Lisa Gaw
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

PTO Report

A PTO report was given by MaryGrace Crisci. Mrs. Crisci reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Seaton, seconded by Garcia to accept the November 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 4 yes, 2 abstain (Maher, White), 3 absent (Fox, Gaw, Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Pittenger to adopt the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2020-2021 Operating Budget through November 30, 2020 as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes, 3 absent (Fox, Gaw, Uscilla).*

Curriculum:

Mrs. Seaton reported that the committee met earlier today and received an update on Curriculum programs, new report card, remote learning, and the Equity Team.

Facilities:

The committee will be meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020. Mr. Garcia conducted a recent walkthrough of the Annex building. He stated that the project is 75% complete and praised the quality and amount of work that has been done. Mr. Garcia asserted it will be a great asset to the District, Town Hall, and community and recommended the Board grant additional funding to move the project forward. The Board agreed to the allocation of the Safety and Security Grant funds in the amount of \$96,894.27 to continue the project.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Technology:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

ACES:

Mr. Maher will be attending a meeting tomorrow and discussed the agenda items to be addressed.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Seaton to accept revisions to Policies 1330, 4112.6/4212.6, 4115, 4121/4221, 4148/4248, 5132, 5141, 5145.15, 6114.1, 6141.311, 6162.51, Bylaws 9273, and 9311 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Gaw, Uscilla).*

Motion by White, seconded by Fox to adopt Policies 4118.237/4218.237, 5132.1, 6114.82, 6142.102, and 6142.103 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Gaw, Uscilla).*

Motion by White, seconded by Fox to delete Policies 4118.112/4218.112, 4118.113/4218.113, 5141.3, 5145.5, 5145.6, and 6135 for first reading as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Gaw, Uscilla).*

New Business

Motion by Maher, seconded by Seaton to approve the Bethany Public School District Calendar for 2021-2022 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Gaw, Uscilla).*

Motion by Seaton, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for January 2021 through January 2022 pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-21. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Gaw, Uscilla).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray reported that on November 30, 2020, PK-6 enrollment was 370 students.

Mrs. Murray stated, at this time, the Kindergarten enrollment projection is at 50 students with 3 sections.

Mrs. Murray reported that 3 staff members and 1 student have had confirmed cases of COVID. All of these cases were exposed outside of school. She continues to work closely with QVHD, medical advisor, and school nurse.

Mrs. Murray provided the Board with an overview of the budget process along with an outline of the journey to arrive at a 1.42% increase, at this time. Mrs. Byrd and Mrs. Murray presented a reorganization proposal for the Board's consideration. The Board did not feel there was a need for a Budget workshop.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on the status of snow days. BOWA Superintendents are leaning toward remote learning on snow days. Mrs. Murray would like to continue with traditional snow days so teachers, parents, and students can take a breath. The Board supported Mrs. Murray's decision to maintain the traditional snow days. She will bring the decision back to the BOWA Superintendents.

Director Report

Mrs. Byrd 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. His report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated that he will be working on an article for the January 2021 Bethany Bulletin with Mrs. Murray.

Public Comment

Amy Lestinsky, High Road. Excellent idea to move to remote learning the week Thanksgiving break and was hoping the same would occur after the holiday break. School and District communications have been excellent.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved January 13, 2021

APPROVED