

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Zoom Webinar**  
**April 7, 2021**

**Present**

Christopher Pittenger, Chair  
Lisa Gaw  
EJ Maher  
Lynette White, Secretary  
Namita Wijesekera

**Administration**

Colleen Murray  
Kai Byrd  
Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent**

Doreen Fox  
John Paul Garcia  
Dorothy Seaton  
Shawn Uscilla

**Call to Order**

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

**Student Recognition**

Mrs. Murray recognized Megan Rojee and Matthew Crisci for being chosen as the 2021 SCASA Superintendent's Award recipients.

**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 Wijesekera, seconded by Gaw to accept the March 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 3 yes, 2 abstain (Gaw, Maher), 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

**Committee Reports**

**Finance:**

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera to adopt the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2020-2021 Operating Budget through March 31, 2021 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

Mrs. Murray further reported on Grant funds received or in process and gave an update on the the 2021-2022 Budget Town Meeting dates.

**Curriculum:**

The meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum.

**Facilities:**

The committee met and an Ad Hoc Facilities Committee has been formed and will meet by the end of April.

**Policy:**

The committee has not met recently.

**Technology:**

The committee is scheduled to meet on May 12th.

**Transportation:**

The committee has not met recently.

**ACES:**

None.

## Unfinished Business

**Motion** by White, seconded by Pittenger to approve the revisions to Policies 3250, 3260, 3440, 3542.31, 4118.14/4218.14, 5120, 6115, 6141.312, 6141.32, 6146.2, 6161, and 6171.2 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

**Motion** by White, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the adoption of Policies 3541.23 and 4113.6/4213.6 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

**Motion** by White, seconded by Gaw to approve the deletion of Policies 3240, 3516, and 3541.4 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

## New Business

**Motion** by Wijesekera, seconded by Maher that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-215f, the Bethany Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students at Bethany Community School and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, the school cafeteria, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

**Motion** by Wijesekera, seconded by Maher that the Bethany Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, volleyball games and school plays are events but volleyball practices and play rehearsals are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera that Long-term Teacher Substitute, Bethany Griffin, not be renewed as a long-term substitute for the 2021-2022 school year upon the expiration of her assignment at the end of the 2020-2021 school year and the Superintendent is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Fox, Garcia, Seaton, Uscilla).*

## Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray reported that on March 31, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 373 students.

Mrs. Murray reported 45 kindergartners have pre-registered for the 2021-2022 school year. Thirteen of those pre-registered were not on enumeration.

Mrs. Murray informed the Board that the last day of school for students will be a full day on Friday, June 11, 2021 and staff will report to work on Monday June 14, 2021 as their last day of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Murray reported on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II funds. She has been working with the Director and Principal to complete the application process and planning student and parent events to further achievement gaps and academic learning loss.

**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 the Board of Finance has not provided any feedback on the 1.73% budget proposal.

Dr. Pittenger announced the BOE Spring Open Forum will take place on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

**Communications**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
Susan L. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

Approved May 12, 2021

APPROVED