

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom Webinar
May 12, 2021

Present

Doreen Fox
John Paul Garcia
Lisa Gaw
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair left at 7:00 pm
Dorothy Seaton, Vice Chair
Lynette White, Secretary

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Shawn Uscilla
Namita Wijesekera

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation

A presentation was given on School Improvement by Steering Committee Members.

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 Gaw to accept the April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 2 abstain (Fox, Seaton), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Gaw, seconded by White to adopt the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2020-2021 Operating Budget through April 30, 2021 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera)*

Mrs. Murray further reported on tuition funds received and the American Rescue Plan, and additional grant funds. She also provided the Board with information regarding allowable deposits into a 10-248a Non-Lapsing Account. The Board supported her recommendation to deposit up to 2% of the operating budget surplus into the existing 10-248a account. Mrs. Murray will notify the Town Board of Finance that the BOE would like to be added to their June 8, 2021 meeting agenda.

Curriculum:

Mrs. Fox reported that the committee met earlier today and received an update on curriculum programs, math curriculum, professional learning, and the Equity Team.

Facilities:

Mr. Garcia reported that the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee will be meeting on May 19, 2021 and May 26, 2021 to begin working on the 5-year Facilities Plan.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Technology:	Mr. Maher reported that the committee met earlier today and received an update on technology.
Transportation:	The committee has not met recently.
ACES:	Mr. Maher reported that ACES will be meeting tomorrow and continue discussing magnet school programs.
Unfinished Business	None.
New Business	None.
Superintendent Report	<p>Mrs. Murray reported that on April 30, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 371 students.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray reported 48 kindergartners have pre-registered for the 2021-2022 school year. Seventeen of those pre-registered were not on enumeration.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray stated that the United States Department of Agriculture has extended waivers for the 2021-2022 school year. She indicated that Bethany intends to provide free breakfast and lunch to all BCS students in the next school year.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray announced that the District would be receiving another \$429,000 under the American Rescue Plan and ESSER III Grant. She stated that the Grant application deadline is attainable the Return to School Plan timeline is challenging.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray shared that Remote Learning is not mandated for the 2021-2022 school year. However, a final determination for BCS will be made prior to the beginning of the new school year and communicated in the Return to School plan.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray announced that the work in the Annex continues with an anticipated move-in date of late June/early July.</p>
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	Mrs. Murray spoke on behalf of Dr. Pittenger. She stated that Dr. Pittenger will be reaching out to Board members soon to discuss plans for the July Board Retreat.
Communications	Reviewed and on file in the Board of Education Office.
Public Comment	None.

Executive Session

Motion by Seaton, seconded by Garcia that the Board of Education enters into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation and Employment Contract Timelines and that Superintendent Colleen Murray is invited to attend. *The motion carries 6 yes, 3 absent (Pittenger, Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Attendance

Present

Doreen Fox
John Paul Garcia
Lisa Gaw
EJ Maher
Dorothy Seaton
Lynette White

Administration

Colleen Murray

Absent

Chris Pittenger
Shawn Uscilla
Namita Wijesekera

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved June 9, 2021

APPROVED