

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom Webinar
June 9, 2021

Present

Doreen Fox
John Paul Garcia
Lisa Gaw
EJ Maher
Chris Pittenger, Chair
Dorothy Seaton, Vice Chair
Lynette White, Secretary
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Presentation

Bethany First Selectman, Paula Cofrancesco, presented retiring Board members Doreen Fox, Lisa Gaw, and Dorothy Seaton with proclamations thanking them for their service.

PTO Report

A PTO report was given by Amy Lestinsky. Mrs. Lestinsky reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Gaw to accept the May 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Gaw, seconded by Garcia to adopt the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2020-2021 Operating Budget through May 31, 2021 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Mrs. Murray further reported that she and Chris Pittenger attended the Board of Finance meeting last night and received their approval to allow up to two percent of the 2020-2021 operating budget from unexpended funds be deposited into the Non-lapsing Fund 10-248a account to be used for future educational purposes. The consensus of the Board is that the full balance of unexpended funds up to 2% be deposited into the non-lapsing account.

Mrs. Murray also stated that the non-lapsing 10-248a account was transferred to an interest-bearing Municipal Investment Reserve Account.

Curriculum:

The committee has not met recently and will reconvene in September.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently and will reconvene in the Fall.

Ad Hoc Facilities:

Mr. Garcia reported the committee met to conduct a facilities walkthrough. The committee then met to determine facilities priorities to develop the 5-year Facilities Plan.

Policy:	The committee has not met recently and will reconvene in the Fall.
Technology:	The committee has not met recently and will reconvene in the Fall.
Transportation:	The committee has not met recently and will reconvene in the Fall.
ACES:	Mr. Maher discussed recent topics from ACES.
Unfinished Business	None.
New Business	None.
Superintendent Report	<p>Mrs. Murray reported that on May 31, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 375 students.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray reported 48 kindergartners have pre-registered for the 2021-2022 school year. At this time, total projected K-6 enrollment is 377 students.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray announced the Bethany Education Association officers for the next school year are Kim Wolcott, President, Michelle Schwenger, Vice President, Jaime Bowen, Treasurer, and Nina Brewer, Secretary.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray announced that paraprofessional, Maulana Melton was named the 2022 BCS Staff Member of the Year, and Melissa Rakowski was named the 2022 BCS Teacher of the Year.</p> <p>Mrs. Murray provided an update regarding the details of the American Rescue Plan's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. She has met with all stakeholders and will use the results of those meetings along with the results of the staff and family surveys to inform the plan.</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	<p>Dr. Pittenger thanked Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Gaw, and Mrs. Seaton for their service to the Board and that they will be missed.</p> <p>Dr. Pittenger announced the BOE Retreat will be held in-person on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.</p>
Communications	Reviewed and on file in the Board of Education Office.
Public Comment	Amy Lestinsky, 140 High Road. Mrs. Lestinsky thanked the BOE members and wished them well on behalf of outgoing PTO officer, MaryGrace Crisci.
Executive Session	Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Seaton 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. <i>The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).</i>

Attendance

Present

Doreen Fox
John Paul Garcia
Lisa Gaw
Chris Pittenger
Dorothy Seaton
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray

Absent

EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Seaton that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's 2021-2022 contract include a 4% base salary increase, a \$5,000 annuity increase, 10 carryover vacation days, and a severance pay clause for unused sick days. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Maher, Uscilla).*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved July 14, 2021

APPROVED