

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting**

AGENDA

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

Bethany Community School Gymnasium

**ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE MASK EVEN IF
VACCINATED.**

MISSION STATEMENT

We inspire and empower children to thrive in the world of tomorrow.

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Presentation

- a. Karen Wolujewicz and Avery Gartman, Quinnipiack Valley Health District

3. Public Comment (Policy 1120 & Bylaw 9325)

The Board of Education welcomes public comment. Individuals or groups may address the Board concerning any subject which is within the Board's jurisdiction. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of fifteen minutes to each subject matter. The speaker is requested to state their name and address.

4. Approval of Minutes (Bylaw 9326)

- a. July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting..... Action Item

5. Unfinished Business (Bylaw 9300)

- a. None.

6. New Business (Bylaw 9300)

- a. Safe Return Plan Discussion
- b. American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant Discussion

7. Superintendent Report (Policy 2500)

8. Chairman Report (Bylaw 9121)

9. Correspondence (Bylaw 9300)

10. Public Comment (Policy 1120 & Bylaw 9325)

The Board of Education welcomes public comment. Individuals or groups may address the Board concerning any subject which is within the Board's jurisdiction. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of fifteen minutes to each subject matter. The speaker is requested to state their name and address.

11. Meeting Adjourned

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent *CM*

Date: August 11, 2021

Re: Meeting Minutes

It is recommended under APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Recommended Motion:

- a. Move the Bethany Board of Education accept the July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021

Present

Angelo Amato
 John Paul Garcia
 Angel Irigoyen
 Amy Lestinsky
 EJ Maher via phone, departed at 6:15 pm
 Chris Pittenger
 Shawn Uscilla
 Lynette White
 Namita Wijesekera via phone at 6:10 pm,
 arrived in-person at 6:45 pm

Administration

Colleen Murray

Absent

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Election of Board Officers

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia to move to the election of Board officers then return to the regular agenda. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by White to accept nominations for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*

Garcia nominated Christopher Pittenger, seconded by White. Christopher Pittenger accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Murray, seconded by Lestinsky that the nominations for Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by White to open balloting for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Wijesekera).*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Chris Pittenger Received	9
1. Angelo Amato	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Angel Irigoyen	
4. Amy Lestinsky	
5. EJ Maher (verbal via phone)	
6. Christopher Pittenger	
7. Shawn Uscilla	
8. Lynette White	
9. Namita Wijesekera (verbal via phone)	

Christopher Pittenger is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Chairperson.

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Amato to accept nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

White nominated Amy Lestinsky, seconded by Irigoyen. Amy Lestinsky accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Angelo, seconded by Irigoyen that the nominations for Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to open balloting for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Amy Lestinsky Received	8
1. Angelo Amato	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Angel Irigoyen	
4. Amy Lestinsky	
5. Christopher Pittenger	
6. Shawn Uscilla	
7. Lynette White	
8. Namita Wijesekera (verbal via phone)	

Amy Lestinsky is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to accept nominations for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Irigoyen nominated Lynette White, seconded by Lestinsky. Lynette White accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Amato that the nominations for Secretary be closed. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to open balloting for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Lynette White Received	8
1. Angelo Amato	
2. John Paul Garcia	
3. Angel Irigoyen	
4. Amy Lestinsky	
5. Christopher Pittenger	
6. Shawn Uscilla	
7. Lynette White	
8. Namita Wijesekera (verbal via phone)	

Lynette White is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Secretary.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia that the Board of Education enters into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Contract and that Superintendent Colleen Murray and Susan Carpenter, Human Resources Coordinator and BOE Executive Assistant be invited to attend. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Attendance

Present

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Angel Irigoyen
Amy Lestinsky
Chris Pittenger
Shawn Uscilla
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray
Susan Carpenter

Absent

EJ Maher

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes, 1 absent (Maher).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray reported that on June 11, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 375 students.

Mrs. Murray reported that as of July 14, 2021, PK-6 enrollment for 2021-2022 is 398 students. The Board discussed Kindergarten enrollment which Mrs. Murray will watch closely to determine if instructional aides would need to be hired.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on summer maintenance, cleaning, and painting at the school. She also welcomed BOE members to the new BOE office and thanked them for their support of the project.

Mrs. Murray mentioned the 5-Year Facility Plan should be drafted by September.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on staff that have been hired, candidates that are in the interview process, and jobs that have been posted. The job opening for a Spanish teacher has been difficult to fill. Discussion ensued regarding options if the District is unable to fill the Spanish position.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on the status of the 2020-2021 budget. There is an anticipated surplus of approximately \$157,000. Approximately \$143,000 will be allocated to the 2% non-lapsing account with approximately \$14,000 returned to the Town.

Mrs. Murray discussed the Safe Return to Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan and is awaiting future guidance from the state. Discussion ensued regarding masks, desk shields, and cohorting. The District will try to align with BOWA following recommendations from the District Medical Advisor and local health departments.

Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Byrd are working on the American Rescue Plan/ ESSER III grant application and are awaiting project estimates. She also discussed grant funds would be used to offset additional staff and programs.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger asked if the Board would like to meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2021. At this time, the meeting will be held pending further guidance from the state regarding the Safe Return Plan.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

None.

Professional Development

Dr. Pittenger, Mrs. Murray, and Mrs. Carpenter provided the Board members with a binder of information including a Board of Education Handbook, Bylaws, Committee membership and meeting schedules, communication references, and the Board Goals. Dr. Pittenger and sitting Board members discussed the materials and provided additional insight to the new Board members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent *CM*

Date: August 11, 2021

Re: Superintendent Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- Enrollment Update
- Facilities Update
- Personnel Update
- Design Lab
- 2020-2021 Budget Final Update

**BETHANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
2021-2022 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY**

Grade	JUL 14, 2021*	AUG 11, 2021*
PK	18	18
K	54	51
1	53	51
2	66	66
3	58	58
4	58	56
5	41	43
6	50	52
TOTAL	398	395

* Five Open Choice students included.
One OOD student is not included above.