

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

Present

John Paul Garcia
Angel Irigoyen
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
Chris Pittenger, Chair
Shawn Uscilla arrived at 6:38 pm
Lynette White, Secretary
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd

Absent

Angelo Amato
EJ Maher

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Presentation

Avery Gartman and Karen Wolujewicz from Quinipiack Valley Health District gave a COVID update presentation and answered questions from Board members.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 2 absent (Amato, Maher).*

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mrs. Murray provided an update on the Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan and answered questions from Board members.

Mrs. Byrd gave a presentation on the American Rescue Plan and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant and answered questions from Board members.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray reported that on August 11, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 395 students.

Mrs. Murray stated that Fred Bartolini and his crew have been working feverishly to clean and set up the school and are on track for the reopening of school.

Mrs. Murray reported that she is still in the process of gathering information for the 5-Year Facility Plan and anticipates presenting the plan to the Board for approval in the fall.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on personnel that have resigned, were hired, or are in process.

Mrs. Murray announced the creation of a new program called Design Lab which will now be a fifth special for students.

Mrs. Murray stated that the 2020-2021 budget has been closed out and reported on the status of the remaining funds.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated that a communication from the Board will be sent to the school community at the end of September.

Dr. Pittenger announced that Colleen Murray was nominated as Superintendent of the Year.

Communications

Mrs. Murray stated that she received communication that she was nominated as Superintendent of the Year and is humbled beyond words.

Public Comment

Julia Strong, 150 Crestwood Road. Mrs. Strong thanked the Board and administration for focusing on curriculum and instruction and the progress that has been made. She stated that she trusts the administration to make the right decisions for students. Mrs. Strong would like to see the performing arts reinstated and that students be allowed to cross-cohort. Mrs. Strong was concerned about the loss of the guidance counselor position. Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the restructuring of the department.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved September 1, 2021

APPROVED