

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021

Present

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
EJ Maher via phone at 6:37 pm, departed 6:55 pm
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Namita Wijesekera via phone, arrived in person at 6:48 pm

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angel Irigoyen
Shawn Uscilla
Lynette White, Secretary

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Student Recognition

Matthew Stewart, Giavanna Charbonneau, Kate Cushing, and Gabe Dittmann were recognized for participating and Trevor Rostowsky was recognized as the award recipient for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Project.

PTO Report

Mrs. Crisanti reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Appointment

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Wijesekera that the Bethany Board of Education hereby elects Kai Byrd to the office of Bethany Superintendent of Schools pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 10-157 and that the Board further authorized Chairman Pittenger to finalize and execute an employment agreement with the new Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the Board, to include a beginning date of July 1, 2022 and terms of employment. *The motion carries 6 yes, 3 absent (Irigoyen, Uscilla, White).*

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the November 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through November 30, 2021 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

Mrs. Lestinsky further reported on the American Rescue Plan/ESSER III Grant Update, 2022-2023 Budget, and the audit.

Curriculum:

The committee met on December 7, 2021 and discussed curriculum programs and professional learning.

Facilities:

The committee met on December 7, 2021 and received a presentation on the Outdoor Classroom project by Architect Rob White, discussed building and grounds updates and the Five-Year Facilities Plan.

- Ad Hoc Facilities:** The committee has not met recently
- Policy:** The committee is presenting policies for second read tonight under Unfinished Business.
- Transportation:** The committee has not met recently.
- ACES:** None.

Unfinished Business **Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the revisions to Policies 1140, 1212, 1250, 1316, 1411, 1600, 2130, 2400, 3520.13, 3524.2, 3543.31, 4111/4211, 4111.1/4211.1, 4118.11/4218.11, 4131, 5111, 5118, 5124, 5126, 5131.911, 5141, 5141.5, 5145.2, 5145.4, 5145.511, 6112, 6171, 6171.2, Bylaw 9273, 9325, and 9327.1 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the adoption of Policy 1321.2 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

New Business **Motion** by Wijesekera, seconded by Amato to approve the proposed Bethany Public School District calendar for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for January 2022 through January 2023 pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-21 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes, 4 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla, White).*

Superintendent Report Mrs. Murray reported that on November 30, 2021, PK-6 enrollment was 401 students.

Mrs. Murray is projecting 55 Kindergartners for next year. At this time, 19 students have pre-registered.

Mrs. Murray notified the Board that a First Grade Teacher, two Lunch Aides, and a substitute Custodian have been hired. Two paraprofessional positions have been posted.

Mrs. Murray provided updates on Project COVID DeteCT, Screen & Stay, and the BCS Pediatric Vaccine Clinic.

Mrs. Murray announced that we are now collecting vaccine cards for students to assist with contact tracing.

Mrs. Murray discussed the outdoor pavilion, cafeteria refrigerator, and HVAC assessment projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Grant are all in process.

Mrs. Murray reported that the 2022-2023 Budget work is ongoing and is currently at a 0.63% increase. She anticipates this being adjusted to 0%.

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	None.
Communications	Reviewed and placed on file.
Public Comment	None.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Susan Carpenter
Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved January 12, 2022

APPROVED