

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Webinar**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81068684373?pwd=R0Zqa1krc3JDK1dSMGloWIZ5aEFVdz09>

Passcode: 6z17Lj

**By Phone**

1-646-558-8656, Webinar ID: 810 6868 4373, Passcode: 976411

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. 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.

**3. New Business (Bylaw 9300)**

- a. Discussion of COVID Related Policies and Practices
- b. Plan on Mask Practice..... Anticipated Action Item(s)
- c. Plan on Implementation of Mask Practice ..... Anticipated Action Item
- d. Policy 4118.237/4218.37 – Face Coverings in School .... Anticipated Action Item
- e. Policy 5132.1 – Face Coverings in School..... Anticipated Action Item
- f. Policy 6172.61 – Remote Learning ..... Anticipated Action Item

**4. Public Comment (Policy 1120 & Bylaw 9325)**

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**5. Meeting Adjourned**

# Memorandum

To: Board of Education Members  
From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent  
Date: February 23, 2022  
Re: New Business



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It is recommended that under NEW BUSINESS:

**Possible Motions based on Scheduled Discussion:**

- b. Plan on Mask Practice
  - Version 1. Move that masks become optional in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law, effective February 28, 2022.
  - Version 2. Move that mask use will continue to be required in the Bethany Public School District until April 22, 2022.
  - Version 3. Move that mask use will continue to be required in the Bethany Public School District until the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
  - Version 4. Move that the Superintendent shall develop and implement a metrics-based system to regularly reassess the requirement for mask use in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law.
- c. Move that the Board of Education instruct the Superintendent to develop and publicly communicate metrics for the requirement of mask use in the Bethany Public School District based on publicly available health data and to evaluate these health metrics on a weekly basis, and to instruct and empower the Superintendent to suspend policies 4118.237/4218.237 and 5132.1 when indicated by these metrics.
- d. Move that the Board of Education suspend Policy 4118.237/4218.237 effective February 28, 2022, due to changes in the state mandate, until such time the Policy Committee makes further recommendations on such policy to the Committee of the Whole.
- e. Move that the Board of Education suspend Policy 5132.1 effective February 28, 2022, due to changes in the state mandate until such time the Policy Committee makes further recommendations on such policy to the Committee of the Whole.
- f. Move that the Board of Education suspend Policy 6172.61 effective February 28, 2022, until such time the Policy Committee makes further recommendations on such policy to the Committee of the Whole.

**Face Coverings in School**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and the community during a pandemic/epidemic when instructed by public health officials. As such, and in accordance with requirements and guidelines issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education or public health officials, the Board requires that all individuals entering the school building, a Bethany Public School District (District) facility, or a District transportation vehicle wear an appropriate face covering. An appropriate face covering shall consist of a cloth mask or disposable procedure-style mask that completely covers the individual's nose and mouth. An appropriate face covering shall not include neck gaiters, bandanas, or exhalation valve masks. Any individual who presents for entrance into the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle who is not wearing an appropriate face covering shall be provided an appropriate face covering by the District.

Compliance with this policy shall be mandatory for all individuals while in the school building, District facility, and/or District transportation vehicle unless an applicable exception applies. Any individual who refuses to wear an appropriate face covering at all times while in the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle shall be denied admission and/or required to leave the premises, unless an applicable exception applies. In addition, failure to comply with this policy may lead to disciplinary action for students and staff, and exclusion from school property for members of the community, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, Board policies, and/or administrative regulations.

All individuals participating in or attending any school-sponsored activities must wear an appropriate face covering, whether or not those activities occur in the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle unless an applicable exception applies or the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health department, determines that face coverings are not required for intramural athletes participating in certain intramural athletic activities.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to promulgate administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

*Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together,*  
Connecticut State Department of Education, as amended

Policy adopted: December 9, 2020

Source: Shipman

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Source: Shipman

**Remote Learning**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) plans to provide remote learning options in the event that the Bethany Public School District (District) must be closed due to an emergency health situation. The plans will allow the school to operate remotely while continuing to provide meaningful instructions to students through the use of a variety of instructional resources.

The Board seeks to ensure fluid operation during a time when in-person classes must be reduced or canceled due to a health emergency, as well as provide equitable access for all students. A remote learning day is a school day where students have an opportunity to explore and engage in meaningful learning experiences that are:

- a. aligned to the curriculum,
- b. connected to standards, and
- c. relevant to the current instructional sequence.

While nothing replaces the genuine human interactions that happen authentically in the classroom between students and teachers, remote learning will support continuity of instruction in the event of a health-related closure.

The Board directs to the Superintendent to promulgate Administrative Regulations in furtherance of this policy.

Legal Reference:        Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

Policy adopted:        August 12, 2020