# BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting

# REVISED AGENDA (In person to Remote due to weather)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:30 p.m.

#### Zoom Webinar

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85625369397?pwd=SWFndnh1dlJBVW9rWXVkU1RuUTdDQT09 Passcode: VT9h9M

#### By Phone

1-646-558-8656, Webinar ID: 856 2536 9397, Passcode: 866744

#### **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. Student Achievement by BCS Steering Committee Members
- 3. PTO Report
- 4. 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.

- 5. Approval of Minutes (Bylaw 9326)
  - a. February 9, 2022 Regular Meeting...... Action Item
  - b. February 23, 2022 Special Meeting ...... Action Item
- 6. Committee Reports (Bylaw 9132)
  - a. Finance
    - i. Report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through February 28, 2022...... Action Item

b. Curriculum c. Facilities d. Ad Hoc Facilities e. Policy f. Transportation g. ACES 7. **Unfinished Business (Bylaw 9300)**  a. COVID Metrics Discussion 8. **New Business (Bylaw 9300)** a. Board of Education Goals Mid-Year Review b. Child Care Leave ..... Action Item 9. **Administrative Reports (Policy 2500)** a. Superintendent b. Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction c. Principal 10. Chairman Report (Bylaw 9121) 11. Correspondence (Bylaw 9300) 12. 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. 13. Executive Session a. Superintendent Goals Mid-Year Review b. Personnel - Leave of Absence 14. Regular Meeting Reconvenes 

15. Meeting Adjourned

To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Meeting Minutes



## It is recommended under APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#### **Recommended Motion:**

- a. Move the Bethany Board of Education accept the February 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
- b. Move the Bethany Board of Education accept the February 23, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

# BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Webinar February 9, 2022

**Present** 

Angelo Amato John Paul Garcia Angel Irigoyen Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair EJ Maher Christopher Pittenger, Chair Shawn Uscilla Lynette White, Secretary Namita Wijesekera **Administration** 

Colleen Murray Kai Byrd

Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent** 

None

Call to Order

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

**PTO Report** 

Mrs. Lestinsky reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

**Public Comment** 

Kimberly Wolcott, BEA President. The BEA is in favor of BCS students

and staff continuing to wear masks.

Shannon Gluse, 337 Wooding Hill Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking

BCS students.

Nicole Wetmore, 40 Woods Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS

students.

Stefanie Wells, 54 Rainbow Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS

students.

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS

students.

BOE Secretary, Lynette White read a Public Comment submitted by Russell Stutsky, 45 Cedar Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS

students.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinksy, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the January 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion carries 8 yes,

1 abstain (Uscilla).

**Committee Reports** 

Finance:

<u>Motion</u> by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through January 31, 2022 as presented. *The motion carries* 

unanimously.

**Curriculum:** 

The committee met on February 2, 2022 and discussed curriculum programs, professional learning, equity, and received a presentation on the Boost Program and highlights on school-wide benchmark data.

Facilities:

The committee is scheduled to meet on April 5, 2022.

Ad Hoc Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Policy:

The committee is scheduled to meet on March 8, 2022.

**Transportation:** 

The committee has not met recently.

ACES:

None.

**Unfinished Business** 

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to adopt the Superintendent's recommended Spending Plan for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$7,277,693. The motion carries unanimously.

**New Business** 

The Board held a robust discussion on COVID-related school policies.

The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting on February 23, 2022 to make a decision on current COVID policies including masking and contact tracing. The Board directed Mrs. Murray to conduct a parent and staff survey on masking and to gather data to inform the Board's decision-making at the February 23, 2022 meeting. The Board agreed that cohorting can be discontinued effective as soon as practicable

during outdoor recess.

**Superintendent Report** 

Mrs. Murray reported that on January 31, 2022, PK-6 enrollment was 404 students.

Mrs. Murray is projecting 55 Kindergartners for next year. At this time, 32 students have pre-registered.

Mrs. Murray reported on the American Rescue Plan/ESSER III Grant Projects.

Mrs. Murray notified the Board that the Director position has been posted and applications are under review. She further reported that 2 employees are on a leave of absence.

Mrs. Murray stated the BCS Steering Committee has met several times over the course of the last month and are working on a mid-year data presentation and will bring the Equity Team to the BOE for a presentation in either April or May.

**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**

Dr. Pittenger stated the Bethany Finance Committee will be notified of the Board's adopted budget.

Dr. Pittenger reminded the Board members that the February 23, 2022 Special Meeting topic was originally intended to be about the State Partnership Health Care Plan but will now be about the COVID-related policies and practices.

Dr. Pittenger stated that a Spring Open Forum has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

#### **Communications**

None.

#### **Public Comment**

Amber Durkin, 58 Perkins Road. Thankful for ending recess cohorting and to consider sixth graders switching classrooms.

Susan Marsh, 285 Sperry Road. Thankful for all the school has done and is in support of ending cohorts and unmasking students.

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road. Thankful for the Board's robust discussion and for administration keeping BCS open. She reiterated she strongly supports student masking becoming optional.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter Recording Secretary

## BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting Minutes Via Zoom Webinar February 23, 2022

**Present** 

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Angel Irigoyen
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Shawn Uscilla arrived at 6:40 pm
Lynette White, Secretary
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Colleen Murray Kai Byrd Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent** 

None

**Call to Order** 

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Public Comment** 

Nicole Wetmore, 48 Woods Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Jennifer Searles, 134 North Humiston Drive. Spoke in favor of keeping masks for BCS students.

Rick Altice, 286 Bear Hill Road. Spoke in favor of keeping masks for BCS students.

Stefanie Wells, 54 Rainbow Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Shannon Gluse, 337 Wooding Hill Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Andre Puleo, 36 Knollwood Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Adam Carbone, 233 Amity Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

David Grimes, 22 Woods Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

Steve Wampler, 54 Rainbow Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

BOE Secretary, Lynette White read Public Comments submitted by:

- Matthew Carlson, 12 Earley Court. Spoke about the masking preferences of the BCS teachers.
- Brian Fournier, 21 Rainbow Road. Spoke about mask requirements for unvaccinated students and no masking for vaccinated students.
- Shannon Lane, 168 Miller Road. Spoke about staff feeling safe coming to work and consideration for immunocompromised PreK students.
- Russell Stutsky, 45 Cedar Road. Spoke in favor of unmasking BCS students.

#### **New Business**

Mrs. Murray reviewed data that was provided to the Board prior to the meeting upon their request.

The Board held a robust discussion on COVID-related school policies. Each BOE member shared their views and opinions on student masking.

**Motion** by Garcia, seconded by White that masks become optional in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law, effective February 28, 2022.

<u>Motion Amendment</u> by Pittenger, seconded by none, to amend the motion that masks become optional in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law, effective March 14, 2022. *The amended motion was not seconded and failed.* 

Motion Amendment by Wijesekera, seconded by Pittenger, to amend the motion that masks become optional in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law, effective April 22, 2022 and to instruct the Superintendent to develop a metric-driven system to guide the use of masks in response to changing public data from that point forward. The amended motion failed 1 yes (Wijesekera), 7 no (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White).

Original Motion by Garcia, seconded by White that masks become optional in the Bethany Public School District, insofar as is permitted by state and federal law, effective February 28, 2022. The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White), 1 no (Wijesekera).

<u>Motion</u> by Garcia, seconded by Maher to instruct the Superintendent to develop a system of metrics based on publicly available health data to guide future decisions about mask usage in the Bethany Public School District in the event of future worsening of the COVID pandemic. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, White), 2 no (Uscilla, Wijesekera).* 

<u>Motion</u> by Lestinsky, seconded by Garcia 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. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White), 1 no (Wijesekera).* 

Motion by Maher, seconded by Garcia 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. The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White), 1 no (Wijesekera).

Motion by Amato, seconded by Irigoyen 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. The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Garcia, Irigoyen, Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla, White, Wijesekera).

#### **Public Comment**

Amber Durkin, 58 Perkins Road. Thankful for the hard work of the Board of Education and Superintendent.

David Grimes, 22 Woods Road. Thanked the Board for a job well done.

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road. Thanked the Board for making the difficult decisions and for keeping the meeting civil.

Naomi Rosenstein, 30 North Humiston Drive. Asked the Board what the protocol will be for bullying those that wear masks.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Susan L. Carpenter Recording Secretary

To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Finance Committee Report of Expenditures and Adjustments

It is recommended that under COMMITTEE REPORTS, (a) Finance:

#### **Recommended Motion:**

i. Move that the Board of Education accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through February 28, 2022.



		Operating		Board of Education Board of Educ		ebruary 20	<u>22</u>	 T		
	Adopted	Revised	YTD		Var\$ Va		Var%	Var% Var\$		<u>∨ar%</u>
	Budget	Budget	July-June	Forecast	5.00	Jan	Jan	<del> </del>	Feb	Feb
General Education								<del> </del>		1_00
Salaries							121-121-121-121-121-121-121-121-121-121	-		
Certified	\$2,130,753	\$2,093,890	\$974,037	\$1,913,000	\$	180,890	8.64%	\$	180,890	8.64%
Curriculum (Supplemental)	\$29,700	\$26,500	\$26,709	The second section of the second section is the second second second section is the second section of the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the second section is the second section in the second section in the section is the section in the section in the section is		(209)	-0.79%		(209)	-0.79%
Non-Certified	\$328,222	\$246,756	\$146,432	The state of the s	_	(17,203)	-6.97%	residential	(17,203)	-6.97%
Nurse	\$49,852	\$51,552	\$22,930			2,915	5.65%		2,915	5.65%
Total Salaries		at a			30876		7. 19.1 (2.1.1)	H		
	\$2,538,527	\$2,418,699	\$1,170,108	\$2,252,305	\$	166,394	6.88%	\$	166,394	6.88%
Benefits	\$608,150	\$545,865	\$333,425	\$515,865	\$	econolium ec	0.00%	\$	30,000	5.50%
Services					SALE IN	Andreas Consul	Active More assets as a			
					3450		al a Company of the company			
BCS	\$4,800	\$79,944	\$10,510		4.00	10,000	12.51%	\$	10,000	12.51%
Curriculum	\$51,006	\$54,206	\$43,360	\$54,206	\$	a described	0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
IT	\$45,750	\$45,750	\$25,833	\$45,750	S		0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
Total Services	\$101,556	\$179,900	\$79,703	\$169,900		10,000	5.56%	\$	10,000	5.56%
Supplies					1.5					
BCS	\$52,419	\$52,419	\$28,802	\$52,419	1000	The second of the second		_		
				, , , , , , ,	\$		0.00%	\$	•	0.00%
Curriculum	\$7,889	\$7,889	\$779	\$7,889	\$		0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
IT	\$15,400	\$100,920	\$84,289	\$100,920	\$		0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
					3			-		
Total Supplies	\$75,708	\$161,228	\$113,869	\$161,228	\$	•	0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
Other					1274					
BCS	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$630	\$1,300	<u> </u>		0.00%	-	-	0.00%
Curriculum	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$0	\$1,825			0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
IT	\$41,500	\$41,500	\$27,888	\$41,500		•	0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
Total Other	\$44,625	\$44,625	\$28,518	\$44,625	\$		0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
Subtotal	\$3,368,566	\$3,350,317	\$1,725,624	\$3,143,923	\$	176,394	5.26%	\$	206,394	6.16%
Special Education					2 1.00		an Turk ben'ilaya, 502.			
Salaries	\$1,216,466	\$1,218,819	\$697,012	\$1,280,073	\$	(61,254)	-5.03%		(04.054)	-5.03%
Benefits	\$342,816			and the second s	_	CALL CAPTUR SPECIALIST	0.00%	\$ \$	(61,254)	
Services	\$405,901	\$307,609 \$406,591	\$206,443 \$197,911	\$307,609 \$406,591	<b>. .</b>	• 1			-	0.00%
Supplies	\$17,982	\$17,982					0.00%	orane on	•	0.00%
			\$11,609	\$17,982	<u> </u>		0.00%		-	0.00%
Other	\$1,110	\$1,110	\$1,038	\$1,110		-	0.00%	-	-	0.00%
Subtotal	\$1,984,275	\$1,952,111	\$1,114,013	<b>\$2,013,365</b>	\$	(61,254)	-3.14%	\$	(61,254)	-3.14%
Operations and Overhead					South					
Salaries	\$897,553	\$1,008,951	\$618,403	\$1,005,699		3,252	0.32%	\$	3,252	0.32%
Benefits	\$245,787	\$258,322	\$142,543	\$214,117	•	15,000	5.81%	s	44,205	17.11%
Services	\$224,845	\$139,325	\$74,987	\$139,325	-	10,000	0.00%		77,200	0.00%
Supplies	\$39,500	\$42,500	\$25,811	\$42,500		1.5	0.00%		-	0.00%
Utilities (Electricity)	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$51,949	\$100,000				MARKET CO.		0.00%
Facilities and Maintenance	\$116,100	\$91,100	\$43,881	\$100,000			0.00%		- 1	
Student Transportation	\$269,185	\$269,185			<u> </u>		0.00%	\$	-	0.00%
			\$161,511		\$	*	0.00%		-	0.00%
Other	\$15,675	\$29,675	\$17,951		\$	(22,825)	-76.92%	\$	(22,825)	-76.92%
Subtotal	\$1,888,645	\$1,939,058	\$1,137,037	\$ 1,914,425.92	\$	(4,573)	-0.24%	\$	24,632	1.27%
COVID						,				
BCS-COVID	\$0	\$0	\$2,633	\$2,633	\$	(2,630)		\$	(2,633)	
Curriculum COVID	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$	- 2		\$		
IT-COVID	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0				\$		
SpEd COVID	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		4-		\$		
BOE-COVID	\$0	\$0 \$0	\$60		_	· Jane		-	(60)	
				\$60	1.4	(60)		\$	(60)	
Sub Total	\$0	\$0	\$2,693	\$2,693	\$	(2,690)		\$	(2,693)	
Total	\$7,241,486	\$7,241,486	\$3,979,366	\$7,074,406	\$	107,877	1.49%	\$	167,079	2.31%



## **Bethany Public School District**

## **Board of Education Operational Goals**

2021-2022

These goals reflect the **Board's priorities for its own operation**. Goals for the District and the Bethany Community School are reflected in the District Goals, the Superintendent's Goals, and the Bethany Strategic Plan 2020.

#### Goal #1

The Board will maintain a focus on high standards of learning, social development, and emotional support for all of our children, with continual improvement.

- Monitor student achievement through the examination of multiple sources of data regularly throughout the school year.
- Engage in regular dialogue with administration about both areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
- Continually strive to support a well-rounded education for all students that takes into account their individual strengths, interests, and needs.
- Continually support the social, emotional, and physical needs of our students, both because these are
  important goals in and of themse ves and because social, emotional, and physical health is essential for
  optimal learning.

#### Goal #2

The Board will continue and augment efforts in communication and outreach to staff, parents, students, and the broader community.

- Schedule and conduct Board of Education Open Forums two times a year.
- Encourage public attendance and participation, including by teachers and staff, at Board meetings.
- Communicate important issues to the school community, through letters and other mechanisms as appropriate, throughout the school year.
- Ensure the presence of Board members at major school events, to maintain the visibility and availability of Board members.

#### Goal #3

The Board will seek to enhance its efficacy and efficiency through professional development.

- Institute a structured orientation for new members to familiarize them with their roles and responsibilities as Board members.
- Continually seek out opportunities for professional development to enhance understanding and ability to function as effective Board members.

#### Goal #4

The Board will perform all of its duties with the highest ethical standards.

The Board will be cognizant of the importance of confidentiality of both students and staff.

To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: New Business



#### It is recommended that under NEW BUSINESS:

Per the Professional Agreement between the Bethany Board of Education and the Bethany Education Association Article XII, Section D, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, must approve a Child Care Leave of Absence. Attached is a letter from Katherine Beeman requesting a Child Care Leave of Absence following her maternity leave to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

#### **Recommended Motions:**

b. Move that the Board of Education grant a Child Care Leave of Absence to Katherine Beeman, following her maternity leave to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Sue Carpenter
BOE Executive Assistant Human Resources
Bethany Public School District
44 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06524

RE: Maternity Leave-Child Care Leave Act

Dear Sue Carpenter,

Following my maternity leave, I am requesting to extend my leave of absence through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. I would like to take the remaining portion of this time as unpaid leave through the Child Care Act.

At this time, it is my hope to return to work at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kate Beeman Kate Beeman

cc: Ms. Colleen Murray

cc: Ms. Kai Byrd

cc: Mr. Tom Reed-Swale

To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Superintendent Report

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#### **Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Enrollment Update

- Personnel Update
- Food Service Request for Proposals
- OVID Update

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

Grade	AUG 26, 2021*	SEP 30, 2021*	OCT 31, 2021*	NOV 30, 2021*	DEC 31, 2021*	JAN 31, 2022	FEB 28, 2022
PK	16	17	19	22	23	23	23
K	50	49	50	50_	51	51	51
1	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
2	66	66	66	66	67	66	66
3	57	57	57	58	59	59	59
4	58	59	59	60	60	60	61
5	40	40	42	43	43	43	43
6	49	49	50	51	51	51	52
TOTAL	387	388	394	401	405	404	406

<sup>\*</sup> Five Open Choice students included.
One OOD student is not included above.

To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction Report

## **Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

#### • Curriculum

- o Report Cards
- o Professional Development Update
- o Grants Update

## Special Education

- o Extended School Year (ESY)
- o Enrollment Update



To: Board of Education Members

From: Tom Reed-Swale

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Principal's Report

## **Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Steering Committee Update

BCS Happenings



To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Executive Session



### It is recommended under EXECUTIVE SESSION:

#### **Recommended Motion:**

a. Move the Bethany Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's 2021-2022 mid-year goals and a Staff Leave of Absence and that Colleen Murray is invited to attend.

To: Board of Education Members

From: Colleen Murray, Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2022

Re: Business



#### It is recommended that:

#### **Recommended Motion:**

a. Move that the Board of Education grant a Leave of Absence to Eileen Babbitz in accordance with the Paraprofessional contract.