

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Zoom Webinar**  
**March 9, 2022**

**Present**

Angelo Amato  
John Paul Garcia  
Angel Irigoyen  
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair  
EJ Maher  
Christopher Pittenger, Chair arrived at 6:33 pm  
Lynette White, Secretary arrived at 6:33 pm  
Namita Wijesekera

**Administration**

Colleen Murray  
Kai Byrd  
Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent**

Shawn Uscilla

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Lestinsky called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Presentation**

The Steering Committee members gave a presentation on mid-year school improvement data.

**PTO Report**

Mrs. Crisanti reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes**

**Motion** by Lestinsky, seconded by Garcia to accept the February 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

**Motion** by Lestinsky, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the February 23, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

**Committee Reports**

**Finance:**

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through February 28, 2022 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

**Curriculum:**

The committee did not meet in March.

**Facilities:**

The committee is scheduled to meet on March 22, 2022.

**Ad Hoc Facilities:**

The committee is scheduled to meet in April.

**Policy:**

The committee met last night and will bring policies to the Board in April.

**Transportation:**

The committee has not met recently.

**ACES:**

Mr. Maher provided an update on the happenings at ACES.

## Unfinished Business

Mrs. Murray provided an update on the steps she has taken in developing COVID metrics as directed by the Board. She provided the data and points that are being focused on. Mrs. Murray will continue to provide ongoing information.

## New Business

The Board conducted a mid-year review of their goals. The Board has requested that Mrs. Murray schedule a Board Retreat as soon as practicable.

**Motion** by Garcia, seconded by Amato to grant a Child Care Leave of Absence to Katherine Beeman, following her maternity leave to the end of the 2021-2022 school year. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

## Superintendent Report

In recognition of BOE Appreciation Month and on behalf of the staff and students at BCS, Mrs. Murray expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Bethany Board for their dedication and service. In honor of the Board, a book, *The Thank You Letter*, by Jane Cabrera, has been donated in their honor to the BCS Learning Commons collection.

Mrs. Murray reported that on February 28, 2022, PK-6 enrollment was 406 students.

Mrs. Murray is projecting 55 Kindergartners for next year. At this time, 37 students have pre-registered.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on recent resignations, the hiring process, and leaves of absence.

Mrs. Murray stated that a Request for Proposal has been submitted for the Food Service contract.

Mrs. Murray provided a COVID update including transitioning to optional mask use, New Haven County data, BCS vaccination rates, and positive cases. Weekly testing continues for students and she is working on adding staff members. Vaccination clinics have been scheduled for March and April.

## 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 that a Spring Open Forum has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2022 and will be held via Zoom.

## Communications

None.

## Public Comment

Shannon Gluse, 337 Wooding Hill Road. Concerned about the BCS COVID Metrics requiring masking of students.

Amber Durkin, 58 Perkins Road. Concerned about the BCS COVID Metrics requiring masking of students.

## Executive Session

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky that the Board of Education enters 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. *The motion carries 7 yes, 1 absent (Uscilla).*

**Attendance**

**Present**

Angelo Amato  
John Paul Garcia  
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair  
EJ Maher  
Christopher Pittenger, Chair  
Lynette White, Secretary  
Namita Wijesekera

**Administration**

Colleen Murray

**Absent**

Angel Irigoyen  
Shawn Uscilla

**Reconvene**

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

**Business**

**Motion** by Pittenger, seconded by Amato to grant a leave of absence to Eileen Babbitz in accordance with the Paraprofessional contract. *The motion carries 6 yes, 2 absent (Irigoyen, Uscilla).*

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.



Susan L. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

Approved April 6, 2022

APPROVED