

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
April 6, 2022

Present

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Lynette White, Secretary
Namita Wijesekera arrived at 6:35 pm

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Jacqueline Nathman

Absent

Angel Irigoyen
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

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

PTO Report

Mrs. Crisanti reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the March 9, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Garcia, seconded by White to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2021-2022 Operating Budget through March 31, 2022 as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Curriculum:

The committee did not meet in April.

Facilities:

The committee met and discussed the Pavilion Project, Building and Grounds Maintenance updates, the Gymnasium Air Conditioning Project, and the Ventilation Study.

Ad Hoc Facilities:

The committee is scheduled to meet on April 19th.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

ACES:

No report.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Murray provided an update on the steps she has taken in developing COVID metrics as directed by the Board. She provided Draft metric guidelines that would follow the New Haven County COVID-19 Community Levels.

New Business

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Healthy Food Option for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Amato to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Exemption for Food and Beverage Items for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera to shorten the student school year from 182 to 181 days allowing the last of school for students to be Thursday, June 16, 2022. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Lestinsky to consider revisions to Policies 1331, 4118.231/4218.231, 5114, 5131.111, 5131.7, 6144, 6151, 6164.11, 6173, 7211, and Bylaw 9000 for first reading as revised. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by White, seconded by Amato to consider deletion of Policies 4118.237/4218.237, 5132.1, and 6172.61 for first reading. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Murray reported that on March 31, 2022, PK-6 enrollment was 410 students.

Mrs. Murray is projecting 52 Kindergartners for next year. At this time, 42 students have pre-registered.

Mrs. Murray provided an update on recently hired staff and current job openings.

Mrs. Murray announced the Kristen Cushing 5K Color Run/Walk and Health Fair on May 6th with all proceeds going toward upgrading the BCS track and memorial benches.

Director Report

Mrs. Byrd reported on Curriculum and Special Services. Her report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Principal Report

Ms. Nathman reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events on behalf of Mr. Reed-Swale. Mr. Reed-Swale's report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated that the Spring Open Forum was well attended and mentioned the topics that were discussed.

Dr. Pittenger reminded Board members of upcoming event dates.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing the Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction and that Colleen Murray, Kai Byrd, and Sue Carpenter are invited to attend. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Attendance

Present

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

Administration

Colleen Murray
Kai Byrd
Sue Carpenter

Absent

Angel Irigoyen
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to appoint Cheryl Kiesel to the Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction for the Bethany Public School District effective July 1, 2022. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 3 absent (Irigoyen, Maher, Uscilla).*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Susan Carpenter
Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved May 11, 2022