

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting**

AGENDA

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

Bethany Community School Learning Commons

[Live Stream Link](#)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Student Recognition (Policy 1170)

- a. Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Award Recipients

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. [Submit a public comment online](#) to be read at the next available opportunity.

5. Approval of Minutes (Bylaw 9326)

- a. February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Action Item

6. Committee Reports (Bylaw 9132)

- b. ACES
- c. Curriculum
- d. Facilities
- e. Finance
 - i. Report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through February 28, 2023 Action Item
- f. Negotiations
- g. Policy
- h. Transportation

7. **Unfinished Business (Bylaw 9300)**
 - a. None.
8. **New Business (Bylaw 9300)**
 - b. Child Care Leave of Absence Action Item
 - a. Board of Education Goals Mid-Year Review
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
14. **Regular Meeting Reconvenes**
15. **Meeting Adjourned**

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Meeting Minutes

It is recommended under APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Recommended Motion:

- a. Move the Bethany Board of Education accept the February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
February 8, 2023

Present

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Shawn Uscilla
Lynette White arrived at 6:33 pm
Namita Wijesekera arrived at 6:34 pm

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Call to Order

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

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Presentation

The BCS Steering Committee members gave a presentation on Student Winter Data and answered Board member questions.

Public Comment

Kathryn Sylvester, 55 Old Amity Road.
Catherine Erickson, 91 Sperry Road.
Robert White, 579 Bethmour Road.
James Bruni, 62 Humiston Drive.

Minutes

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Garcia to accept the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Committee Reports

ACES:

Mr. Maher provided an update.

Curriculum:

The committee met in February and discussed Curriculum and Professional learning and viewed the Student Data Presentation.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Finance:

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through January 31, 2023 as presented. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Dr. Pittenger further reported with an update on the ARP/ESSER III grant projects, 2023-2024 Budget, and the Audit.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Wijesekera to adopt the Superintendent's Spending Plan for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$7,538,595. *The motion carries unanimously.*

Dr. Pittenger introduced Susan Bradford, BOE member-elect. Mrs. Bradford spoke about herself and her reasons for seeking a seat on the Bethany Board of Education.

Motion by Garcia, seconded by White to appoint Susan Bradford to fill the Bethany Board of Education vacancy created by Angel Irigoyen's resignation with the term expiring at the end of 2023 in accordance with state statute. *The motion carries 5 yes (Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla, White, Wijesekera), 3 abstain (Amato, Maher, Pittenger).*

New Business

None.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on January 31, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 430 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that Kindergarten projections are around 55 students at this time and 45 have pre-registered for the fall of 2023.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the newly hired Music Teacher, Grade 4 Teacher, and Paraprofessional.

Mrs. Byrd shared the status of the frozen and burst water pipe in the nurse's office and the pavilion project.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel 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. Mr. Reed-Swale's report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated the BOE Spring Open Forum will be scheduled for late March or early April.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Shannon Lane, 168 Miller Road.
Gina Teixeira, 34 Hi Ann Court
Anya Reed, 58 North Humiston Road.
Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Finance Committee Report of Expenditures and Adjustments

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

The attached report represents the adopted 2022-2023 Operating Budget with encumbrances through February 28, 2023.

Recommended Motions:

- i. Move that the Board of Education accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through February 28, 2023.

Bethany Board of Education
Operating Budget 2022-2023 Summary - as of February 2023

	Adopted Budget	Revised Budget	YTD July-June	Forecast	Var\$ Jan	Var% Jan	Var\$ Feb	Var% Feb
General Education								
Salaries								
Certified	\$2,027,620	\$2,027,620	\$1,003,888	\$1,958,810	\$ 68,810	3.39%	\$ 68,810	3.39%
Curriculum (Supplemental)	\$43,033	\$43,033	\$15,975	\$43,033	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Non-Certified	\$325,500	\$325,500	\$129,695	\$325,500	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Nurse	\$52,883	\$52,883	\$26,404	\$52,883	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Total Salaries	\$2,449,036	\$2,449,036	\$1,175,961	\$2,380,226	\$ 68,810	2.81%	\$ 68,810	2.81%
Benefits	\$529,045	\$529,045	\$241,124	\$362,423	\$ 69,785	13.19%	\$ 166,622	31.49%
Services								
BCS	\$5,230	\$5,230	\$89,945	\$5,230	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Curriculum	\$93,220	\$93,220	\$86,752	\$95,210	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (1,990)	-2.13%
IT	\$66,300	\$66,300	\$21,647	\$75,500	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (9,200)	-13.88%
Total Services	\$164,750	\$164,750	\$198,344	\$175,940	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (11,190)	-6.79%
Supplies								
BCS	\$51,989	\$51,989	\$34,571	\$51,989	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Curriculum	\$38,600	\$38,600	\$28,196	\$38,600	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
IT	\$102,800	\$102,800	\$89,236	\$102,800	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Total Supplies	\$193,389	\$193,389	\$152,004	\$193,389	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Other								
BCS	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$440	\$1,300	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Curriculum	\$1,003	\$1,003	\$190	\$1,003	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
IT	\$42,600	\$42,600	\$46,204	\$48,231	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (5,631)	-13.22%
Total Other	\$44,903	\$44,903	\$46,834	\$50,534	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (5,631)	-12.54%
Subtotal	\$3,381,124	\$3,381,124	\$1,814,267	\$3,162,513	\$ 138,595	4.10%	\$ 218,611	6.47%
Special Education								
Salaries	\$1,301,701	\$1,301,701	\$727,057	\$1,243,019	\$ 58,682	4.51%	\$ 58,682	4.51%
Benefits	\$340,576	\$340,576	\$166,040	\$249,220	\$ 68,719	20.18%	\$ 91,356	26.82%
Services	\$245,396	\$245,396	\$137,711	\$275,396	\$ (30,000)	-12.23%	\$ (30,000)	-12.23%
Supplies	\$28,769	\$28,769	\$11,604	\$31,515	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (2,746)	-9.54%
Other	\$3,186	\$3,186	\$10,238	\$11,397	\$ (8,211)	-257.73%	\$ (8,211)	-257.73%
Subtotal	\$1,919,628	\$1,919,628	\$1,052,651	\$1,810,548	\$ 89,189	4.65%	\$ 109,080	5.68%
Operations and Overhead								
Salaries	\$1,024,163	\$1,024,163	\$635,304	\$1,024,163	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Benefits	\$237,805	\$237,805	\$139,538	\$213,179	\$ 21,569	9.07%	\$ 24,626	10.36%
Services	\$168,265	\$168,265	\$109,713	\$172,195	\$ (3,930)	-2.34%	\$ (3,930)	-2.34%
Supplies	\$39,300	\$39,300	\$21,773	\$39,300	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Utilities (Electricity)	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$64,092	\$100,000	\$ (15,000)	-17.65%	\$ (15,000)	-17.65%
Facilities and Maintenance	\$116,550	\$116,550	\$63,666	\$116,550	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Student Transportation	\$281,759	\$281,759	\$170,255	\$ 281,759.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Other	\$24,100	\$24,100	\$13,045	\$ 23,893.73	\$ 1,600	6.64%	\$ 206	0.86%
Subtotal	\$1,976,942	\$1,976,942	\$1,217,386	\$ 1,971,039.39	\$ 4,239	0.21%	\$ 5,902	0.30%
Total	\$7,277,693	\$7,277,693	\$4,084,303	\$6,944,100	\$232,023	3.19%	\$ 333,593	4.58%

excess cost =
#1 rcv'd=
#2 rcv'd =
Total =

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members
From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent
Date: March 8, 2023
Re: Child Care Leave Request

It is recommended 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, shall grant a Child Care Leave of Absence.

Attached is a letter from Victoria Andrejcsk, Speech & Language Pathologist, requesting a Child Care Leave extension for the entire 2023-2024 school year per the contract.

Recommended Motion:

- a. Move the Bethany Board of Education grant a Child Care Leave of Absence Extension to Victoria Andrejcsk for the entire 2023-2024 school year.

Victoria Andrejcsk
31 Franklin Street
Trumbull, CT 06611



February 25, 2023

Bethany Board of Education
44 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06524

Dear Bethany Board of Education, Mrs. Byrd, and Mrs. Carpenter,

In accordance with the BEA Contract, I am requesting to extend my Child Care Leave through the 2023-2024 school year to continue caring for my son at home.

Sincerely,

Victoria (Tori) Andrejcsk
Speech-Language Pathologist
Bethany Community School

CC: Sue Carpenter, BOE Executive Assistant & Human Resources Director
Kai Byrd, Superintendent
Tom Reed-Swale, Principal
Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services, Curriculum, & Instruction



Bethany Public School District

Board of Education Operational Goals

2022-2023

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.

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 themselves 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.
- Board members will attend and participate in meetings and subcommittee meetings as scheduled.

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Superintendent Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- Enrollment Update
- Kindergarten Projections
- Personnel Update

**BETHANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
2022-2023 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY**

Grade (Sections)	08/31/2022*	09/30/2022*	10/31/2022*	11/30/2022*	12/31/2022*	01/31/2023*	02/28/2023*
PK	27	26	27	27	27	29	31
K (3)	44	43	43	43	43	42	42
1 (3)	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
2 (3)	54	54	54	54	53	53	53
3 (4)	71	72	73	73	73	73	74
4 (3)	65	66	66	66	66	65	65
5 (3)	64	65	65	65	65	65	64
6 (2)	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
TOTAL (21)	428	429	431	431	430	430	432

* Six Open Choice students included.

2021-2022 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

Grade (Sections)	08/31/2021*	09/30/2021*	10/31/2021*	11/30/2021*	12/31/2021*	01/31/2022*	02/28/2022*
PK	16	17	19	22	23	23	23
K (3)	50	49	50	50	51	51	51
1 (3)	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
2 (4)	66	66	66	66	67	66	66
3 (3)	57	57	57	58	59	59	59
4 (3)	58	59	59	60	60	60	61
5 (2)	40	40	42	43	43	43	43
6 (3)	49	49	50	51	51	51	52
TOTAL (21)	387	388	394	401	405	404	406

*Five Open Choice students included.

One OOD student is not included above.

2020-2021 ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

Grade (Sections)	08/31/2020*	09/30/2020*	10/31/2020*	11/30/2020*	12/31/2020*	01/31/2021*	02/28/2021*
PK	16	16	16	16	17	17	17
K (3)	54	53	53	53	53	52	52
1 (4)	62	61	61	61	61	61	61
2 (3)	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
3 (3)	55	55	55	56	56	57	56
4 (2)	39	40	40	40	40	40	40
5 (3)	48	48	48	48	48	47	47
6 (2)	43	43	43	43	43	44	44
TOTAL (20)	370	369	369	370	371	371	370

* One Staff Member & Five Open Choice students included.

Two OOD students are not included above.

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Cheryl Kiesel

Date: March 8, 2023

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

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **Curriculum**
 - Professional Development
 - Grant Update

- **Special Education**
 - Department Updates

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Tom Reed-Swale

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Principal's Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- Steering Committee Update
- BCS Happenings

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: March 8, 2023

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 2022-2023 mid-year goals and that Kai Byrd is invited to attend.