

**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

Approved March 8, 2023