

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

Present

Susan Bradford
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

Kim Wolcott, BEA President.

Minutes

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by White to accept the February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 4 yes (Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 1 abstain (Bradford), 4 absent (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

ACES:

Mr. Maher provided an update from a recent meeting.

Curriculum:

The committee met and received an update on Curriculum and Professional Learning.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Finance:

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through February 28, 2023 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla).*

Dr. Pittenger further reported with an update on the ARP/ESSER III grant projects and the Audit. Mr. Maher commented that the Board does a very good job of being fiscally responsible.

Negotiations:

Paraprofessional Negotiations will begin in late March.

Policy:

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

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Wijesekera to deny, with regret, a Child Care Leave of Absence Extension to Victoria Andrejcsk for the entire 2023-2024 school year. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla). Mr. Maher stated this was a hard decision to make and based his decision on the recommendation of the Superintendent and it is what is best for children.*

The BOE conducted a mid-year review of its Operational Goals and discussion ensued.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on February 28, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 432 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that Kindergarten projections are around 55 students at this time and 49 have pre-registered for the fall of 2023.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the newly hired Fourth Grade Teacher and changes to the custodial staff.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the Pavilion project and stated the Running Track Paving Project has gone out to bid.

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 held on March 28th from 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom.

Dr. Pittenger stated the Spotlight Spectular will be held in May but a date has not been set. This event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank teachers and staff.

Dr. Pittenger stated the Town has not requested any change to the Board's 2024-2025 budget at this time.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Maher that the 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. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Amato, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla).*

Present

Susan Bradford
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger, Chair
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Other

Kai Byrd

Absent

Angelo Amato
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:08 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter
Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved May 10, 2023

APPROVED