

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
April 5, 2023

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Amy Lestinsky
Shawn Uscilla
Namita Wijesekera

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

John Paul Garcia
EJ Maher
Christopher Pittenger
Lynette White

Call to Order

Mrs. Lestinsky called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

Shannon Lane, 168 Miller Road.
Dawn Stark, 539 Litchfield Turnpike.

Minutes

Tabled until the May 10, 2023 meeting.

Committee Reports

ACES:

Mrs. Bradford provided an update from a recent meeting.

Curriculum:

The committee met and received an update on Curriculum, Professional Learning, and viewed a presentation from the Spanish Teacher.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Finance:

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Uscilla to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through March 31, 2023 as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Negotiations:

Paraprofessional Negotiations will begin in April. Teacher Negotiations will begin in June.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Motion by Uscilla, seconded by Wijesekera to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Healthy Food Option for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Uscilla, seconded by Amato to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Exemption for Food and Beverage Items for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Uscilla, seconded by Wijesekera to shorten the student school year from 182 to 181 days allowing the last day of school for students to be Wednesday, June 14, 2023. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Uscilla to accept the policies for revision for first reading. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the policies for adoption for first reading. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Uscilla to accept the policy for deletion for first reading. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Motion by Wijesekera, seconded by Uscilla to accept the policies that have technical revisions or no changes for first reading. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Uscilla, Wijesekera), 4 absent (Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on March 31, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 433 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that Kindergarten projections are around 55 students at this time and 53 have pre-registered for the fall of 2023.

Mrs. Byrd announced the newly hired part-time custodian and 3 staff resignations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the Gymnasium Air Conditioning, Pavilion, and Running Track Paving Projects.

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

Mrs. Lestinsky stated the Spotlight Spectacular will be held on May 17th to celebrate staff and encouraged BOE members to attend.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter
Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved May 10, 2023

APPROVED