

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
May 10, 2023

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky
EJ Maher
Chris Pittenger
Lynette White arrived at 6:46 pm

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Shawn Uscilla
Namita Wijesekera

Call to Order

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

Student Recognition

Jacob Searles and Julian Vanderberg were recognized as the 2022-2023 SCASA Superintendent Award Recipients.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

Naomi Rosenstein, 30 N. Humiston Drive

Minutes

Motion by Amato, seconded by Maher to accept the March 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Garcia, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 abstain (Amato, Lestinsky), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the April 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 4 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky), 3 abstain (Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Committee Reports

ACES:

No report was available.

Curriculum:

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

Facilities:

The committee met and received an update on Building and Grounds projects.

Finance:

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget through April 30, 2023 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Negotiations:

Paraprofessional Negotiations have begun. Teacher Negotiations will meet in June.

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

Motion by White, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the revisions to Policies 4112.6/4212.6, 4112.8/4212.8, 4115.3, 4116.2, 4119/4219, 5120, 5145.12, 6114.1, and 6114.81 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Motion by White, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the adoption of Policies 4116.4 and 4116.5. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Motion by White, seconded by Amato to approve the deletion of Policy 5141.231. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Maher to approve the technical, non-substantive revisions to Policies 0100, 1120, 1317, 3524, 4000.1, 4112.61/4212.61, 4115, 4117.5, 4118.6/4218.6, 4121/4221, 4134/4234, 4148/4248, 5131.3, 5132, 5141.22, 5142, 5142.1, 5145.14, 5145.15, 5145.44, 5145.71, 6114.8, 6114.82, 6141.311, 6141.3291, 6142.102, 6142.103, 6146.22, 6153, 6162.51 and Bylaws 9311, 9312, 9313, and 9400. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

New Business

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the adoption of the Connecticut State Department of Education Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan Flexibilities for the 2023-2024 school year. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on April 30, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 434 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that Kindergarten projections are 56 students at this time. She recommends adding instructional aides but the final decision will not be made until July.

Mrs. Byrd announced recent resignations and newly hired staff members.

Mrs. Byrd recognized the teachers and thanked them for their dedication and hard work.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum and Special Services. Her report is on file in the BOE Packet. Ms. Kiesel recognized the excellence of the BCS staff.

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. Mr. Reed-Swale also recognized the staff.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger thanked teachers and staff for their contributions to the school.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Shannon Lane, 168 Miller Road
Paula Cofrancesco, 27 N. Humiston Drive

Executive Session

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Garcia that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation and Employment Contract Timelines and that Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Garcia, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 2 absent (Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky
EJ Maher
Lynette White

Other

Kai Byrd

Absent

Shawn Uscilla
Namita Wijesekera

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.


Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary

Approved June 14, 2023

APPROVED