

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
October 11, 2023

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Amy Lestinsky
EJ Maher
Chris Pittenger
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera arrived at 6:41 pm

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

John Paul Garcia
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Dr. Pittenger called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A moment of silence was held for the Israel victims.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by White to accept the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White), 1 abstain (Amato), 3 absent (Garcia, Uscilla, Wijesekera).*

Committee Reports

ACES:

Ms. Bradford reported on the meeting where the focus was on enrollment and the Executive Board was elected.

Curriculum:

The committee met and received an update on Curriculum, Professional Learning, and the Math program.

Facilities:

The committee has not met recently.

Finance:

Motion by Maher, seconded by Wijesekera to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through September 30, 2023 as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 2 absent (Garcia, Uscilla).*

Policy:

The committee has not met recently.

Transportation:

The committee has not met recently.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Maher, seconded by Amato to adopt the 2023-2024 Board of Education Goals as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 2 absent (Garcia, Uscilla).*

New Business

Motion by Pittenger, seconded by Maher to approve the contract between the Bethany Education Association and the Board of Education effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Lestinsky, Maher, Pittenger, White, Wijesekera), 2 absent (Garcia, Uscilla).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on September 30, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 445 students.

Mrs. Byrd announced newly hired staff members.

Mrs. Byrd stated the 2024-2025 budget timeline.

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 BCS events. Mr. Reed-Swale's report is on file in the BOE Packet.

Chairman Report

Dr. Pittenger stated the Fall Open Forum will be held on October 24, 2023 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Dr. Pittenger encouraged Board members to attend the CABE Conference on November 17 and 18, 2023 in Mystic.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Shannon Lane, 168 Miller Road.
Jamie Stirling, 20 Miller Road.
Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road
James Bruni, 62 Humiston Drive.

Executive Session

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

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Amy Lestinsky
Chris Pittenger
Lynette White
Namita Wijesekera

Other

Kai Byrd

Absent

John Paul Garcia
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Susan L. Carpenter
Recording Secretary