

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
December 13, 2023**

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane
Caroline Leary
Amy Lestinsky
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Call to Order

Mrs. Lestinsky called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Election of Board Officers

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Garcia to move to the election of Board officers then return to the regular agenda. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Leary to accept nominations for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

John Paul Garcia nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Lestinsky that the nominations for Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Bradford to open balloting for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
John Paul Garcia Received	8

John Paul Garcia is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Chairperson.

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Cafasso to accept nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Angelo Amato nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Lestinsky that the nominations for Vice-Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Lestinsky to open balloting for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Angelo Amato Received	9

Angelo Amato is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Bradford to accept nominations for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Caroline Leary nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Cafasso that the nominations for Secretary be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Lestinsky to open balloting for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chair	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Caroline Leary Received)	9

Caroline Leary is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Secretary.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Rd

Minutes

Motion by Maher, seconded by Amato to accept the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented and amended. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Usiclla to modify the agenda to discuss the BOE Administrative assistant position. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Uscilla to have the Superintendent post, interview and hire someone to serve as the Board of Education Administrative Assistant. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Committee Reports

ACES:	No report.
Curriculum:	The committee did not meet but Mr. Maher shared that Unified Sports is an outstanding program that brings a great deal of value to students at Bethany Community School.
Facilities:	The committee has not met but during their previous meeting they received updates on buildings and ground projects including roof repairs and HVAC.
Finance:	Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through November 30, 2023 as presented. <i>The motion carries 9 yes.</i>
Policy:	The committee has not met.
Transportation:	The committee has not met.
Unfinished Business	<p>Mrs. Byrd presented options for the 2024-2025 calendar.</p> <p>Motion by Garcia, seconded by Amato to amend the agenda to discuss Board of Education meeting dates and locations. <i>The motion carries 9 yes.</i></p> <p>Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Amato to accept the 2024-2025 calendar with a full February break to align with the Amity Calendar. <i>The motion carries 9 yes.</i></p>
New Business	<p>Motion by Garcia, seconded by Leary to table all new business regarding policies and policy discussions to a future meeting after the new Policy committee is formed. <i>The motion carries 9 yes.</i></p>
Superintendent Report	<p>Mrs. Byrd reported that on November 30, 2023, PK-6 enrollment was 449 students.</p> <p>Mrs. Byrd announced three resignations.</p> <p>Mrs. Byrd stated the 2024-2025 budget process is underway. The current projected increase is 6.62%</p>
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	No report
Communications	None.
Public Comment	Paula Cofrancesco, 27 North Humiston Drive
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.