

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
March 13, 2024

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Caroline Leary
EJ Maher, arrived at 6:36 p.m.
Shawn Uscilla, arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Shannon Lane
Amy Lestinsky

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6.32 p.m.

Student Recognition

Katerina Borrego and Nico Goncalves were recognized as the 2023-2024 SCASA Superintendent Award Recipients.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Leary to accept the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Maher, Uscilla), 2 absent (Lane, Lestinsky).*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on March 6, 2024. They received an update on Curriculum and Professional Learning and viewed a presentation on the math program for 5th and 6th grade students.

Facilities:

The committee met on March 12, 2024 and received an update on Building and Grounds projects.

Finance:

Motion by Maher, seconded by Cafasso to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through February 29, 2024, as amended. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Maher, Uscilla), 2 absent (Lane, Lestinsky).*

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Motion by Bradford, seconded by Leary to approve the Superintendent’s submission of the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan to the CSDE , as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato,Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Maher, Uscilla), 2 absent (Lane, Lestinsky).*

Motion by Garcia, seconded by Maher to accept the policies for revision for first reading. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Maher, Uscilla), 2 absent (Lane, Lestinsky).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on February 29, 2024, PK-6 enrollment was 450 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that enumeration by the town is currently showing 47 students to be kindergarten age for next school year.

Mrs. Byrd provided an personnel update. The vacant BOE Executive Assistant and Paraprofessional positions have been filled and the Business Manager position has been posted.

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

Mr. Garcia asked Board members for feedback on holding a BOE Spring Open Forum.

Board members agreed to hold a BOE Open Forum in the fall and provide a questionnaire to families beforehand.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road
Naomi Rosenstein, 30 N. Humiston Drive
Octavio Goncalves, 35 Timber Lane

Executive Session

Motion by Maher, seconded by Cafasso that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s 2023-2024 mid-year goals and that Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Maher, Uscilla), 2 absent (Lane, Lestinsky).*

Present

- Angelo Amato
- Susan Bradford
- Joseph Cafasso
- John Paul Garcia
- Caroline Leary
- EJ Maher
- Shawn Uscilla

Other

- Kai Byrd

Absent

- Shannon Lane
- Amy Lestinsky

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Donna Ricciardi
Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary

Approved April 10, 2024

APPROVED