

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream**  
**April 10, 2024**

**Present**

Angelo Amato  
Susan Bradford  
Joseph Cafasso  
John Paul Garcia  
Shannon Lane, arrived at 6:32 p.m.  
Caroline Leary  
Amy Lestinsky  
Shawn Uscilla

**Administration**

Kai Byrd  
Cheryl Kiesel  
Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent**

EJ Maher

**Call to Order**

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

**PTO Report**

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes**

**Motion** by Cafasso, seconded by Uscilla to accept the March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Leary, Uscilla), 2 abstain (Lane, Lestinsky), 1 absent (Maher).*

Mr. Garcia requested that any public comment at future meetings is summarized in the minutes.

**Committee Reports**

**Curriculum:**

The committee met on April 3, 2024. They received an update on Curriculum and Professional Learning.

**Facilities:**

The committee has not met recently, but Mr. Uscilla provided an update on a recent walk-through of the building and grounds.

**Finance:**

**Motion** by Uscilla, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through March 31, 2024, as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla ), 1 absent (Maher).*

**Unfinished Business**

**Motion** by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to approve the revisions to Policies 1118, 4118.11/4218.11, 5145.4, 5111 as presented. The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)

**New Business**

**Motion** by Bradford, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Healthy Food Option for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher).*

**Motion** by Amato, seconded by Leary to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Exemption for Food and Beverage Items for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher).*

**Superintendent Report**

Mrs. Byrd reported that on March 31, 2024, PK-6 enrollment was 448 students.

Mrs. Byrd stated that current enumeration numbers indicate that there are 57 students eligible for kindergarten next school year.

Mrs. Byrd stated that, at this time, there is no plan to reduce the current number of kindergarten sections given that the incoming numbers mirror the enrollment numbers from last year.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update. The Business Manager position has been filled by Donna Ricciardi.

**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 presented the option for holding an Open Forum directly after May’s Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Garcia reaffirmed the Board of Education’s support for the teachers and staff at Bethany Community School.

**Communications**

None.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Donna Ricciardi  
Recording Secretary

Approved May 8, 2024