

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream**  
**August 14, 2024**

**Present**

Susan Bradford  
Joseph Cafasso  
John Paul Garcia  
Shannon Lane  
Caroline Leary  
Amy Lestinsky

**Administration**

Kai Byrd  
Cheryl Kiesel  
Tom Reed-Swale

**Absent**

Angelo Amato  
EJ Maher  
Shawn Uscilla

**Call to Order**

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m.

**PTO Report**

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events planned for the 2024-2025 school year, and encouraged families to join PTBoard and Facebook.

**Public Comment**

Naomi Rosenstein, 30 N. Humiston Drive, spoke about the need for the BCS K.I.D.S program.

**BCS Community Response**

Mrs. Byrd shared a timeline of the response from the District regarding the ongoing criminal matter and resources that have and will be provided to assist families.

Mrs. Byrd presented information on the new BCS K.I.D.S before and after school program and took questions from Board members.

**Minutes**

**Motion** by Cafasso, seconded by Leary to accept the June 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla) and 1 abstain (Lestinsky).*

**Committee Reports**

The committees have not met recently.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

**Motion** by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to accept the policies for revision or no revision as recommended. *The motion carries 6 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

**Superintendent Report**

Mrs. Byrd reported that the current enrollment is 412, but explained that there are several families that have not completed registration as of today.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update:

- The resignation of three Specials teachers, three Classroom teachers, the RBT, a Paraeducator, and a BCS Office Clerk.
- The retirement of an Administrative Assistant.
- The hiring of two Specials teachers, two Classroom teachers, three Custodians, and three Paraeducators.
- The other open positions are in the process of being filled.

**Director Report**

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum & Special Services.

**Principal Report**

Mr. Reed-Swale thanked Kevin and the custodial staff for getting the building ready for staff and students for the start of the school year.

Mr. Reed-Swale shared some end of summer tasks being accomplished at the school and provided some dates for upcoming events.

**Chairman Report**

Mr. Garcia reviewed with Board members the multiple drawings/options for construction to be done to the ramp and stairs at the front of the school.

**Communications**

None.

**Public Comment**

Jennifer Searles, 134 N. Humiston Drive, thanked everyone for the resources being provided to families and how quickly they were provided, asked about the plan to address issues with math for incoming 6th grade students, asked how much time is spent testing students, and asked to consider rotating periods for Team Summit.

Naomi Rosenstein, 30 N. Humiston Drive, thanked everyone for their hard work on the BCS K.I.D.S program and had a few questions regarding the program.

Valerie Hallstrom, 204 Fairwood Road, expressed gratitude for the proposed BCS K.I.D.S. program and provided suggestions on the collaboration with J.C.C.

Gunnar Lauer, 53 Lacey Road, thanked the District for their hard work on the BCS K.I.D.S. program and for the communication provided. He requested more information on the circumstances involving the ongoing criminal matter.

Johanna Fernandez, 108 Gaylord Mountain Road, thanked the Board for offering the BCS K.I.D.S program, expressed a need for the program, and had questions regarding the timeframe of when it will begin.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Visitors in Attendance**

**In Person: 14**

**On Livestream: 35**

*Donna Ricciardi*

Donna Ricciardi  
Recording Secretary

Approved 9/11/2024