

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
September 11, 2024

Present

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

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

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.

Public Comment

Johanna Fernandez, 108 Gaylord Mountain Road, asked questions about the BCS K.I.D.S program and stated the need for the program to be offered to all families.

Minutes

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky), 1 abstain (Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on September 4, 2024. They received an update on Curriculum and Professional Learning.

Facilities:

The committee met on September 10, 2024 and received an update on Building and Grounds projects. They agreed on the design for the upcoming construction project for the front of the school. They discussed potential capital improvement projects.

Finance:

Motion by Leary, seconded by Cafasso to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through June 30, 2024. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Motion by Lane, seconded by Garcia to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through July 31, 2024. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lane to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through August 31, 2024. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Transportation:

The committee met this evening and discussed transportation updates.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Leary to approve the revisions to policies 4117.5, 3250, 3510, 3560, 3000, 3280, 3313, 3324, 3514, 3524.1, 3533, 3541.23, 5113, and Bylaw 9110, as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

Motion by Maher, seconded by Cafasso to accept policies 3110, 3221, 3313.1, 3326.1, 3434, 3435, 3440, 3450, 3513.1, 3513.2, 3516.3, 3532, 3543.311, 4113.6/4213.6, 4147.1/4247.1, as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Maher), 1 absent (Uscilla).*

New Business

None

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on August 31, 2024, PK-6 enrollment was 430 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided an personnel update stating the Registered Behavior Therapist is currently the only open positon.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the BCS K.I.D.S Program and answered questions from Board members.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum and Special Services.

Principal Report

Mr. Reed-Swale reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events.

Chairman Report

Mr. Garcia stated that the Fall BOE Open Forum will be on Wednesday, October 9th immediately following the BOE meeting. It will follow the same format as the Spring Open Forum, being offered in a hybrid format.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Jessica Pagonis, 348 Sperry Road, questioned the timeline of when the District initiated planning for the BCS K.I.D.S Program and reiterated that many parents need child care options, not just those who attended the Parks and Rec program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 7

On Livestream: 16

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary