

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons and via Live Stream
June 12, 2024

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane
Caroline Leary

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Amy Lestinsky
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.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Motion by Amato, seconded by Leary to accept the May 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Bradford to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2023-2024 Operating Budget through May 31, 2024, as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

Policy:

The committee met on June 11, 2024 and will present policies at the next Board of Education meeting for first reading.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Leary, seconded by Cafasso to accept the policies for revision as recommended. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

New Business

Motion by Amato, seconded by Leary to grant a Child Care Leave of Absence to 3 certified staff. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd recognized Pre-K Teacher, Kerrie Payne as the BCS Teacher of the Year and Facilities Supervisor, Kevin Fallon as the BCS Staff Member of the Year.

Mrs. Byrd reported that on May 31, 2024 the Pre-K to Grade 6 enrollment was 450.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update:

- The resignation of two paraprofessionals

- The retirement of the IT & Facilities Clerk
- The hiring of a new third grade teacher
- The hiring of two paraprofessionals
- Potential candidate for the 5th grade teacher position

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum & Special Services.

Principal Report

Mr. Reed-Swale reported on BCS's end of the year events.

Mr. Reed-Swale recognized Elakiya and Elango Krishnamoorthy, Sam and Paul Bloch, Luke Pilcavage, and Indigo Ratner who attended the Connecticut State Invention Convention.

Mr. Reed-Swale further recognized that Elakiya and Elango were invited to the U.S. Nationals in Michigan in June 2025 for their invention.

Mr. Cafasso asked for more information on the PBIS award system. A discussion followed.

Chairman Report

Mr. Garcia commended everyone involved in organizing the 6th Grade Graduation.

Mr. Garcia suggested canceling the July Board of Education meeting and the Board agreed.

Mr. Garcia asked the Board their thoughts on the BOE contributing to the travel expenses of the students attending the National Invention Convention competition.

Mr. Amato proposed starting a grant that students/families can apply for to offset the cost of traveling to events where they represent the school. The Board Members will consider this.

Communications

None.

Public Comment

Melissa Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road, reaffirmed how the students like coach buses.

Executive Session Motion by Garcia, seconded by Amato to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation, Contract, and Salary, and Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane
Caroline Leary

Other

Kai Byrd

Absent

Lestinsky
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's 2024-2025 salary agreement to include a one year contract extension to 2027, a 4% base salary increase, and 8

carryover vacation days. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary), 3 absent (Lestinsky, Maher, Uscilla).*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 5

On Livestream: 8

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary

APPROVED