

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
January 8, 2025

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Amy Lestinsky
Shawn Uscilla, arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Shannon Lane
Caroline Leary
EJ Maher

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo reported on recent and upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

Ramya Suriyanarayananarajan, 51 Humiston Drive, spoke in favor of adding Diwali as a holiday on the school calendar.

Destiny Schilpp, 273 Beacon Road, spoke in favor of a February break and questioned why there is no recess on school days with a delayed opening.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Uscilla to accept the December 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

Committee Reports

Facilities:

The committee met on January 7, 2025. They received an update on Building and Grounds maintenance and discussed the water issues at the school.

Finance:

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Bradford to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through December 31, 2024. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Bradford to approve the 3rd Version of the proposed Bethany Public School District Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 abstain (Amato), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

New Business

Mrs. Byrd presented the Superintendent's 2025-2026 Proposed Spending Plan and answered questions from the Board.

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the policies 3100 and 4152.6 for Mandated Revision for first reading. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to accept the policies 1212, 5111, and 5141.5 for Recommended Revision for first reading. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the policies 0111, 1112, 1140, 1170, and 1210 for No Revision for first reading. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 3 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher)*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on December 31, 2024, PK-6 enrollment was 432 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum and Special Services.

Principal Report

Mr. Reed-Swale reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events and took questions from Board members.

**Chairman Report
Communications**

None
None

Public Comment

Destiny Schilpp, 273 Beacon Road, stated she does not favor conferences on Election Day, shared some opinions regarding the school calendar discussions, and reiterated that school days with delayed openings should have recess.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 4

On Livestream: No Live stream for this meeting

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary