

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
December 11, 2024

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane
Caroline Leary
Amy Lestinsky
Shawn Uscilla, arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

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.

Presentation

Mr. Reed-Swale and Ms. Nathman gave a presentation on Student Achievement and fielded questions from Board members.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lane to accept the November 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher), 1 abstain (Lestinsky)*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on December 4, 2024. They received an update on Curriculum and Professional Learning and viewed the student achievement presentation

Finance:

Motion by Lane, seconded by Uscilla to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through November 30, 2024. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher).*

Policy:

The committee met on December 10, 2024 and will present policies for at the next Board of Education meeting for first reading.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Leary to approve the mandated revisions to policies 4000.1 and 5145.44 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Leary to approve retirement of policy 5145.53 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Motion by Leary, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the recommended revisions to policies 5141.211 and 6146.2 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Leary to approve the technical revisions to policy 5133 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Leary to approve the no revisions to policies 6000, 6114, 6115, 6141.312, 6161.2 as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Uscilla to table the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Bethany Public School District Calendar. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

New Business

Motion by Leary, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the January 2025 through January 2026 Board of Education meeting dates. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 absent (Maher)*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on November 30, 2024, PK-6 enrollment was 434 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

Mr. Garcia thanked school administrators for their hard work and dedication and congratulated them on the student achievement scores and their outstanding progress.

Communications

None

Public Comment

Mrs. Zaldo, 191 Beacon Road, commented in favor of eliminating February break.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 1

On Livestream: 5

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved: January 8, 2025