

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
March 12, 2025**

Present

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

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angelo Amato
EJ Maher

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Student Recognition

Before Mrs. Byrd recognized the students, in honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, she thanked the Board for their service and dedication to students and staff.

Mrs. Byrd recognized Silvia Bartels and Julianna Searles as the 2024-2025 SCASA Award Recipients.

PTO Report

Ms. Ricciardi read an update from the PTO.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Uscilla to accept the February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 6 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 1 abstain (Leary), 2 absent (Amato, Maher)*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on March 5, 2025. An update will be provided in Ms. Kiesel's report.

Finance:

Motion by Garcia seconded by Cafasso to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through February 28, 2025. *The motion carries 7 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 2 absent (Amato, Maher)*

Facilities:

The committee was scheduled to meet on March 11, 2025, but the meeting was postponed due to a lack of a quorum.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Uscilla, seconded by Lane to adopt the Superintendent's recommended Spending Plan for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$8,207,602. *The motion carries 7 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla), 2 absent (Amato, Maher)*

New Business

Motion by Leary, seconded by Lestinsky to accept Policy 3171.1 for recommended retirement for first reading, Policies 1250, 1312, 1316, 1321, and 1330 for Recommended Revision for first reading, and Policies 1220, 1311.1, 1321.2, 1322, 1324 for No Revision for first reading. The motion carries 7 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla, 2 absent (Amato, Maher).

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on February 28, 2025, PK-6 enrollment was 435 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd reported that the 2025-2026 budget was approved for \$8,207,602 with an increase of \$258,584 or 3.25% over the 2024-2025 budget.

Mrs. Byrd stated that there is no plan for BCS to move forward with the before school program past this school year.

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

None

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Motion by Lane, seconded by Leary that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year goals and Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 7 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky, Uscilla, 2 absent (Amato, Maher).*

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

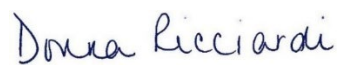
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 10

On Livestream: 10


Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved March 12, 2025