

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting**

AGENDA

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025
6:30 p.m.**

Via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81426936664?pwd=qVCXyzdJaZw0cObnxcZSEtEqaGx3wb.1&jst=3>

Meeting ID: 814 2693 6664
Passcode: Y96926

Or Telephone

1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 814 2693 6664
Passcode: 869691

MISSION STATEMENT

We inspire and empower children to thrive in the world of tomorrow.

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. PTO Report

3. Public Comment (Policy 1120 & Bylaw 9325)

The Board of Education welcomes public comment. Individuals or groups may address the Board concerning any subject which is within the Board's jurisdiction. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of fifteen minutes to each subject matter. The speaker is requested to state their name and address. [Submit a public comment online](#) to be read at the next available opportunity.

4. Committee Reports (Bylaw 9132)

- a. Facilities
- b. Policy

5. Unfinished Business (Bylaw 9300)

- a. None

6. New Business (Bylaw 9300)

- a. 2025-2026 Lunch Price.....Action Item

7. Administrative Reports (Policy 2500)

- a. Superintendent
- b. Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction
- c. Principal

8. Chairman Report (Bylaw 9121)

9. Correspondence (Bylaw 9300)

10. Public Comment (Policy 1120 & Bylaw 9325)

The Board of Education welcomes public comment. Individuals or groups may address the Board concerning any subject which is within the Board's jurisdiction. Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of fifteen minutes to each subject matter. The speaker is requested to state their name and address.

11. Meeting Adjourned

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: August 13, 2025

Re: Meeting Minutes

It is recommended under APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Recommended Motion:

- a. Move the Bethany Board of Education accept the June 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BCS Learning Commons
June 11, 2025**

Present

Angelo Amato, arrived at 6:32 p.m.
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane, arrived at 7:22 p.m.
Amy Lestinsky

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Caroline Leary
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

PTO Report

Mrs. Zaldo gave the PTO report.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to accept the May 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

Committee Reports

Facilities:

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the North Stair project.

Finance:

Motion by Lestinsky seconded by Amato to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through May 31, 2025. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky seconded by Cafasso to approve the Federal mandates to Policies 4000.1, 5145.44, 0523, and 0112 (Version Two). *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

Motion by Amato seconded by Lestinsky to approve the State mandated new Policies 5131.9111 and 5144.12. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

Motion by Lestinsky seconded by Amato to approve the recommended revisions to Policy 1411 (Version Two). *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

Motion by Cafasso seconded by Lestinsky to approve no revisions to Policies 1340, 1412, 1416, and 1500. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla)*

New Business

None

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on May 31, 2025, PK-6 enrollment was 437 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.

Chairman Report

Mr. Garcia suggested canceling the July 9, 2025 BOE meeting and the Board members agreed.

Communications

Ramya Suriyanarayananarajan, 51 Humiston Drive, Bethany, shared gratitude to Ms. Wolcott, Mrs. Byrd, and the Board of Education for supporting her children as they represented the school at the Henry Ford Invention Convention U.S. Nationals.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation, Contract, and Salary, and Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lestinsky), 4 absent (Lane, Leary, Maher, Uscilla).*

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
John Paul Garcia
Shannon Lane, arrived at 7:22 p.m.

Other

Kai Byrd

Absent

EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Reconvene Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's 2025-2026 salary agreement to include a contract extension to 2028, a 4% base salary increase, and 12.5 carryover vacation days. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Leary, Maher, Uscilla).*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 1

On Livestream: 4

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members
From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent
Date: August 13, 2025
Re: New Business

It is recommended that under New Business:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides procedures for determining school lunch prices each school year. Based on these guidelines, I am recommending the following school lunch price increase. The cost for reduced student lunches is determined by the USDA and remains \$0.40.

Lunch Item	2024-2025	2025-2026	Price Increase
Student Meal	\$3.30	\$3.50	\$0.20

Recommended Motion

- a. Move that the Bethany Board of Education approve the school lunch price as shown above for the 2025-2026 school year.

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Kai Byrd, Superintendent

Date: August 13, 2025

Re: Superintendent Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- Enrollment Update
- Personnel Update

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Cheryl Kiesel

Date: August 13, 2025

Re: Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **Curriculum**
 - Professional Development Update

Memorandum



To: Board of Education Members

From: Tom Reed-Swale

Date: August 13, 2025

Re: Principal's Report

Under ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- Back to School Update