

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BOE Meeting Room and via Zoom
September 10, 2025**

Present

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

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angelo Amato
EJ Maher
Shawn Uscilla

Call to Order

Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m.

PTO Report

None

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Lane to accept the July 3, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 5 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Lestinsky), 1 abstain (Leary), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Lane to accept the August 13, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 4 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Lane, Leary), 2 abstain (Garcia, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on September 3, 2025. Caroline Leary shared a Curriculum & Professional Learning update.

Facilities:

The committee met on September 9, 2025. Amy Lestinsky shared a Building and Maintenance Project update.

Finance:

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Leary to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2024-2025 Operating Budget through June 30, 2025, and to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 Operating Budget through July 2025 and August 2025. *The motion carries 6 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

Motion by Leary, seconded by Lestinsky to approve the request to transfer the 2024-2025 operating budget surplus in the amount of \$60,432 to the BOE 10-248a account. *The motion carries 6 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

Transportation:

The committee met this evening and discussed transportation updates.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The Policy Committee met on August 12, 2025 and is recommending the following policies with revisions/no revisions for first read:

Motion by Leary, seconded by Lestinsky to accept Policies 1600, 2100, 2130, 2141, 2400, 3120, 3150, 3231, and 3520.13 with recommended revisions and Policy 3320 with no revision for first reading. *The motion carries 6 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Garcia, Lane, Leary, Lestinsky), 3 absent (Amato, Maher, Uscilla).*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on August 31, 2025, PK-6 enrollment was 424 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared an update on the Strategic Planning Committee.

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 thanked Shawn Uscilla, Kai Byrd, Tom Reed-Swale and the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Garcia expressed his gratitude for living in a town with so much support from the community.

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 0

On Zoom: 4


Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 10/8/2025