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

Present
Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
Matthew Erickson
Johanna Fernandez
Shannon Lane
Amy Lestinsky
Allyson Wuerth
Melissa Zaldo

Administration
Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Call to Order

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

Election of Board Officers

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to move to the election of Board officers then return to the regular agenda. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to accept nominations for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Angelo Amato was nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Lane, seconded by Erickson that the nominations for Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane to open balloting for the position of Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Chairperson	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Angelo Amato Received	9

Angelo Amato is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Chairperson.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane to accept nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Amy Lestinsky was nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Zaldo that the nominations for Vice Chairperson be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane to open balloting for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

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Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Vice-Chairperson	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Amy Lestinsky Received	9

Amy Lestinsky is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to accept nominations for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Shannon Lane is nominated and accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky that the nominations for Secretary be closed. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to open balloting for the position of Secretary. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Written ballots were distributed and collected. Results are:

Teller's Report for Board Secretary	Votes
Number of Votes Cast	9
Necessary for Election (majority)	5
Shannon Lane Received	9

Shannon Lane is elected as the Bethany Board of Education Secretary.

PTO Report

None. Tom Reed- Swale will cover this in the Principal's Report.

Public Comment

EJ Maher, 648 Litchfield Turnpike, Bethany, thanked the Board for its service and wished new Board members good luck. Mr. Maher also stated that he would like the Board to reconsider the changes to a policy and by-law presented for second read.

Minutes

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the November 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. *The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Lane, Lestinsky), 4 abstain (Erickson, Fernandez, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Committee Reports

Finance:

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 Operating Budget through November 30, 2025. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Mrs. Lestinsky reported that the budget surplus at this time last year was $124,456.

Mrs. Lestinsky reported that the ramp/stairs project has been fully paid for and reminded the Members that landscaping was taken out of the project budget and that it is recommended to hold off on that right now until after the upcoming security assessment.

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Unfinished Business

Motion by Amato to accept the recommended adoption of Policies 6120 and 6161.1, the recommended revisions to ByLaw 9000 and Policies 6140, 6141, and 6161, and no revisions to Policies 3542.1, 3542.22, 3542.42, and 6141.32.

Mrs. Bradford provided a summary of the recommended changes to the Board.

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to postpone the vote on the second read of the policies to the January meeting. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

New Business

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso, to approve the schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for January 2026 through January 2027 pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 1-225. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd welcomed the new BOE members.

Mrs. Byrd reported that on December 1, 2025, PK-6 enrollment was 432 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared a reminder of the budget workshop scheduled for December 11th at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the 250th Committee.

Mrs. Byrd reported on some confusion among families and staff on December 23rd being a full day.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lestinsky to amend the 2025-2026 calendar to reflect December 23, 2025 as a minimum day. *The motion carries 9 yes.*

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum and Special Services.

Principal Report

Mr. Reed-Swale reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events, as well as PTO updates.

Chairman Report

None

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 1

On Zoom: 7

Donna Ricciardi

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved: January 14, 2026

APPROVED