

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BOE Meeting Room and via Zoom
January 14, 2026

Present

Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
Matthew Erickson (on Zoom)
Shannon Lane
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
Allyson Wuerth
Melissa Zaldo

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Angelo Amato, Chair

Call to Order

Mrs. Lestinsky called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m.

PTO Report

Tom Reed-Swale provided the PTO report as requested by Jeanette Savo.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Lane to accept the December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. *The motion carries 8 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Amato).*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

Covered by Ms. Kiesel in Director's Report

Facilities:

The committee met on January 13, 2026 and Mr. Cafasso provided an update.

Finance:

The committee met on January 13, 2026 and Mrs. Lestinsky provided an update.

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Zaldo to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 operating budget through December 31, 2025. *The motion carries 8 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Amato).*

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Lane to postpone the approval of Policies 6120, 6161.1, 6140, 6141, 6161, 3542.1, 3542.22, 3542.42, 6141.32 and Bylaw 9000 until further review by the Policy Committee. *The motion carries 8 yes (Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Amato).*

New Business

Mrs. Byrd presented Version 1 of the 2026-2027 Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that as of December 31, 2025, PK-6 enrollment was 435 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the 2024-2025 District Annual Report was submitted to the Town.

Mrs. Byrd reminded the BOE members about Elected Officials day on February 3rd at Amity Middle School, Bethany.

Mrs. Byrd informed the Board that the annual IAQ assessment was performed and results can be found on the website.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet next week.

Mrs. Byrd reported that the school is undergoing an energy audit in conjunction with the Town. When a final report is received, it will be shared with the Board.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on the most recent Curriculum Committee meeting and provided an update 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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 0

On Zoom: 2



Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 2/11/2026