

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BOE Meeting Room and via Zoom
February 11, 2026

Present

Angelo Amato, Chair
Joseph Cafasso
Matthew Erickson
Johanna Fernandez
Shannon Lane
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
Melissa Zaldo

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Susan Bradford
Allyson Wuerth

Call to Order

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

PTO Report

Jeanette Savo reported on upcoming PTO events.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Amato to accept the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. *The motion carries 6 yes (Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 1 abstain (Amato), 2 absent (Bradford, Wuerth)*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

Covered by Ms. Kiesel in Director's Report

Policy:

The committee met on February 10, 2026 and Mr. Erickson provided an update.

Finance:

The committee met on February 10, 2026 and Mrs. Zaldo provided an update.

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 operating budget through January 31, 2026. *The motion carries 7 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 2 absent (Bradford, Wuerth).*

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Byrd presented Version 2 of the 2026-2027 Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan with an increase of 7.49% and emphasized that this is not the final number.

New Business

None

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that as of January 31, 2026, PK-6 enrollment was 434 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet at the end of the month.

Mrs. Byrd provided an update on the Energy Audit and the Security Assessment. Results will be shared with the Board when received.

Mrs. Byrd spoke about Elected Officials Day.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the new legislative session has begun. Mrs. Byrd will keep the Board informed on any legislation that may impact the District.

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

Mr. Amato alerted the Board members that some BOE emails might be mistakenly going to spam.

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 1

On Zoom: 2



Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 3/11/2026