

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

Present

Angelo Amato, Chair
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
Matthew Erickson
Shannon Lane
Amy Lestinsky, Vice Chair
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.

PTO Report

Jeanette Savo provided a PTO update.

Public Comment

Ms. Ricciardi read a public comment submitted online on 2/26/2026 from Vivian Wiater asking the Board to comment on what day the last day of school will be given the recent snow days.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Cafasso to accept the February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 abstain (Bradford).*

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

Mr. Amato shared that the March 4, 2026 Curriculum Committee meeting was canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

Facilities:

The committee met on March 10, 2026 and Mr. Cafasso provided an update.

Finance:

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

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Zaldo to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 operating budget through February 28, 2026. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Unfinished Business

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to approve the Recommended Adoption of Policies 6120 and 6161.1 *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 No (Bradford).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Lane to postpone the approval of Bylaw 9000 until clarification from the attorney. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to approve the Recommended Revisions to Policies 6140, 6141, and 6161. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to approve No Revisions to Policies 3542.1, 3542.22, 3542.42, and 6141.32. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Mrs. Byrd presented Version 3 of the 2026-2027 Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to adopt the Superintendent's recommended Spending Plan for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$8,822,585. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

New Business

None

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that as of February 28, 2026, PK-6 enrollment was 434 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the strategic planning committee is working on its proposed plan and it will be presented at the next BOE meeting as a first read.

Mrs. Byrd updated the BOE members that the Security Assessment report has been delayed due to the bad weather.

Mrs. Byrd recognized the Board members in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

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.

Mr. Reed-Swale announced his resignation from BCS effective June 30, 2026. He shared the reason for this decision and some memories of his times at BCS

Chairman Report

Mr. Amato thanked Mr. Reed-Swale for his leadership and dedication to the BCS community.

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Lane to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Mid Year Goals and Kai Byrd is invited to attend. *The motion carries 9 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo).*

Reconvene

Moved from Executive Session and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:55 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 3

On Zoom: 8

Donna Ricciardi

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 4/8/2026

APPROVED