

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BOE Meeting Room and via Zoom
April 8, 2026

Present

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

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Tom Reed-Swale

Absent

Susan Bradford

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

Brooke Hemperly, 422 Downs Road, Bethany, presented the BOE members with thank you notes from her Girl Scout Troop expressing their thanks for the Board's hard work on the budget.

Minutes

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Zaldo to accept the March 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Bradford).*

Student Recognition

Mrs. Byrd recognized Mason Schuchmann and Alice Vanderberg as the 2025-2026 SCASA award recipients.

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on April 1, 2026. Mr. Amato provided an update.

Policy:

The committee met on April 7, 2026 and Mr. Erickson provided an update.

Finance:

The committee met on April 7, 2026 and Mrs. Lestinsky provided an update.

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

Unfinished Business

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Zaldo to approve the Recommended Revisions to Bylaw 9000 as indicated by the Board attorney. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Bradford).*

New Business

Mrs. Byrd explained the Healthy Food Option and the Exemption for Food and Beverage Items to the Board.

Motion by Amato, seconded by Zaldo to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Healthy Food Option detailed above for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Bradford).*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Fernandez to approve the Connecticut State Department of Education's Exemption for Food and Beverage Items detailed above for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Lestinsky, Wuerth, Zaldo), 1 absent (Bradford).*

Mrs. Byrd introduced the Bethany Public Schools Strategic Plan Committee and thanked them for their time, care, and commitment involved in shaping the work that went into the plan.

Several Strategic Plan Committee members presented the plan to the Board.

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that as of March 31, 2026, PK-6 enrollment was 433 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared the process of the Principal Search Committee.

Director Report

This report was covered in the Curriculum Committee Report by Mr. Amato.

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 7:25 pm

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 18

On Zoom: 4

Donna Ricciardi

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 5/13/2026