

**BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 23, 2026
5:00 p.m.**

Present

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

Administration

Kai Byrd

Absent

Susan Bradford

Call to Order

Mr. Amato called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2026-2027 Budget Discussion

Mr. Amato explained that the Town Board of Finance is requesting a reduced increase to the adopted 2026-2027 Board of Education budget increase of 7.49%.

Mr. Amato shared the proposed changes by Mrs. Byrd to reduce the 2026-2027 Board of Education budget increase to 4.70%.

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Fernandez to accept the proposed BOE budget revisions for a total 4.70% increase for the 2026-2027 school year.

Mrs. Byrd answered several questions from BOE members regarding the proposed changes.

The motion carries 5 yes (Amato, Erickson, Fernandez, Lane, Wuerth), 3 no (Cafasso, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 1 absent (Bradford)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance Virtually: 12

Donna Ricciardi

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Recording Secretary

Approved 4/8/2026