

BETHANY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
BOE Meeting Room and via Zoom
September 9, 2026

Present

Angelo Amato
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
Matthew Erickson
Johanna Fernandez
Amy Lestinsky
Allyson Weurth
Melissa Zaldo

Administration

Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Jackie Nathman

Absent

Call to Order

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

PTO Report

None

Public Comment

None

Minutes

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum:

The committee met on September 9, 2026. Angelo Amato shared a Curriculum & Professional Learning update.

Facilities:

The committee met on September 8, 2026. Joseph Cafasso shared a Building and Maintenance update.

Finance:

The committee met on September 8, 2026. Amy Lestinsky shared the June 2025, July 2026, and August 2026 reports.

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2025-2026 Operating Budget through June 30, 2026. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo).*

Motion by Lestinsky, seconded by Zaldo to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2026-2027 Operating Budget through July 31, 2026. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo).*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2026-2027 Operating Budget through August 31, 2026. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo).*

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lestinsky to approve a Child Care Leave of Absence to Lauren Pilon through the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo).*

The Policy Committee met on June 10, 2026 and is recommending the following Bylaws and Policies with no revisions/revisions for first read:

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Fernandez to accept for first read no revisions to Bylaws 9120, 9121, 9122, 9123, 9124 and Policies 4113, 4116, 4131/4231, and 5126. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo)*

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Amato to accept for first read the recommended revision to Policy 5000. *The motion carries 8 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Erickson, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Weurth, Zaldo)*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on August 31, 2026, PK-6 enrollment was 408 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd reminded the Board that teacher contract negotiations will take place this school year with the initial meeting scheduled for the end of September. Mrs. Byrd outlined the process and will provide the Board with updates.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel reported on Curriculum, Special Services, and Grants.

Principal Report

Ms. Nathman reported on BCS's recent and upcoming events.

Ms. Nathman shared that Paraeducator Sherry Morse is one of 4 finalists for the 2027 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award.

Chairman Report

Mr. Amato shared that Bethany is part of the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) regional educational support center and that one of our Board members should serve on their governing board. Joseph Cafasso agreed to serve on the ACES board and provide a report at each BOE meeting.

Mr. Amato reminded the Board about the Fall Open Forum that was previously discussed. The Board agreed to hold the Fall Open Forum at 7 pm on October 14th after the BOE meeting. It will have the option of in person or on Zoom.

Mr. Amato discussed Shannon Lane's resignation from the BOE.

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 0

On Zoom: 0

Donna Ricciardi

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary
Approved 10/14/2026

APPROVED