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

Present
Angelo Amato, Chair, arrived at 6:31 pm
Susan Bradford
Joseph Cafasso
Johanna Fernandez
Amy Lestinsky
Melissa Zaldo

Administration
Kai Byrd
Cheryl Kiesel
Jackie Nathman

Absent
Matthew Erickson
Allyson Wuerth

Call to Order

Mrs. Lestinsky called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m.

PTO Report

None

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Motion by Zaldo, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the October 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. *The motion carries 4 yes (Amato, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 2 abstain (Bradford, Cafasso), 2 absent (Erickson, Wuerth)*

Committee Reports

Facilities:

The committee met on November 10, 2026. Joseph Cafasso shared an update.

Finance:

The committee met on November 10, 2026. Amy Lestinsky shared the October 2026 finance report.

Motion by Cafasso, seconded by Lestinsky to accept the report of expenditures and adjustments to the 2026-2027 Operating Budget through October 31, 2026. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 2 absent (Erickson, Wuerth)*

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion by Amato, seconded by Cafasso to approve a Child Care Leave of Absence to Hanna Kane when her maternity leave ends through the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. *The motion carries 6 yes (Amato, Bradford, Cafasso, Fernandez, Lestinsky, Zaldo), 2 absent (Erickson, Wuerth)*

Superintendent Report

Mrs. Byrd reported that on September 30, 2026, PK-6 enrollment was 409 students.

Mrs. Byrd provided a personnel update.

Mrs. Byrd shared that the 5-year Facilities Plan Committee is continuing to seek members.

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Mrs. Byrd shared information regarding an upcoming nationwide research initiative called Community Conversation on Confidence in Public Education.

Mrs. Byrd provided 2 calendar versions to the BOE members for their review prior to the vote at the December meeting.

Mrs. Byrd took a moment to thank all Veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Director Report

Ms. Kiesel provided a report on Curriculum and Instruction and Special Services.

Principal Report

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

Chairman Report

Mr. Amato shared that there may be someone interested in filling the BOE vacancy. Mr. Amato will reach out to the Town to get more information on the next steps in the process.

Communications

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Visitors in Attendance

In Person: 0

On Zoom: 3

Donna Ricciardi
Recording Secretary

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