

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on January 29, 2015, in Board of Education Conf. Room E.

Attendance: Jen Larsen, Susan Shaner

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, T. Yonsky, D. Muharem, B. Watson, P. Chapman, T. Soucy, A. Salerno, M. Rutledge, E. DiBiase

L. Craybas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Present: Attendance Taken at 7:01 PM:

Present Board Members:

**Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman
Mr. Stuart Carlsen
Mr. Scott Clayton
Mr. Larry Craybas
Mr. William Duff
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien
Mrs. Robin Renner**

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Kristen Lacey

1. Call to Order

- 1.A. Roll Call for Quorum**
- 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance**

2. Audience Participation

Discussion:

None. Mr. Craybas asked the audience to take notes and attend the BOE workshops and bring any questions/comments regarding the 2015-2016 budget presentation.

3. Administrative/Board Member Update

- 3.A. Dr. Carver's 100-Day Plan Update**

Discussion:

Dr. Carver provided an update to objectives of her 100-Day Entry Plan. In addition to the written update, she highlighted the actions steps, progress towards objectives and key findings. Dr. Carver reviewed her entry plan objectives:

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

1. To develop relationships and a presence within the community to include: district staff, parents, municipal employees, and community members.
2. To develop a strong and positive working relationship with the Board of Education.
3. To develop a deep understanding of the systems, policies, procedures and practices within the Bethel Public Schools to identify areas of strength and areas of growth.
4. To develop the "new" leadership team that is focused on systemic improvement of the instructional core.
5. To ensure a strong opening of school (first 30 days).

Dr. Carver heard themes across the District. Parents are proud of the Bethel schools, rigorous programs, and extra-curricular activities available. Negatives she heard were the increase in relying on local taxes, concerns regarding facilities, Rockwell/Johnson Schools, and BHS renovation items. Dr. Carver has worked with the administration and staff to deepen her understanding of the Bethel Public Schools. She also is working with the BEA and has established monthly meetings. Dr. Carver has observed high quality teaching in the classrooms and has heard from staff about being overwhelmed. Dr. Carver noted this is true throughout the state.

Dr. Carver informed the Board the Strategic Planning process has begun. Dr. Carver noted the next area of growth is intervention. We have had significant growth in the of K-5 literacy. We need to focus on K-5 math, formalize SRBI, and looking at subgroups performance. We need to look at strengthening the skills of those giving interventions.

Dr. Carver spoke about technology and how managing devices is an issue. The technology staff struggles to keep up with demand for support due to the number of devices. A HelpDesk has been implemented.

Dr. Carver complimented the administration and staff on their strong commitment to student learning.

Motion Passed: Move to accept the update of the 100-Day Entry Plan passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

4. Superintendent's 2015-2016 Education Budget Presentation

Discussion:

Dr. Carver presented the 2015-2016 recommended education budget. Dr. Carver spoke to the mission and vision of the Bethel Public Schools to be a premier district. She reviewed the Points of Pride of the district and schools, parent perception data, student scores, the significant shift in student demographics, and the many successes in the Bethel schools.

Dr. Carver is recommending a 3.24% increase for the 2015-2016 Education Budget.

\$683,841 Increase to Salary Account: Increase of 2.46%

\$574,152 Increase to Benefit Accounts: Increase of 7.24%

\$29,537 Increase to Purchased Professional Services: Increase of 4.64%

\$5,011 Increase to Purchased Property Services: Increase of .99%

\$97,610 Other Purchased Services: Increase 2.42%

\$44,825 Supplies: Decrease 4.30%

\$20,412 Equipment: Increase 15.01%

\$369 Dues & Fees: Decrease 0.63%

Summary

Proposed Budget for 2015-2016: \$43,494,737

3.24% increase - (1.37% for health/1.62% for salaries)

.25% (total non-health/salaries)

Mr. Craybas, Chairman, asked Board members to email budget questions to Susan Paré and copy Board members. Questions will be answered and distributed to Board at the next workshop.

5. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Move to adjourn at 8:37 PM passed with a motion by Mr. William Duff and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman Yes

Mr. Stuart Carlsen Yes

Mr. Scott Clayton Yes

Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder