



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman*  
*Richard C. Straiton, Selectman*  
*Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman*

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A"

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Selectman Richard Straiton and Selectman Paul Szatkowski. Also in attendance were members of the Board of Finance, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Department Budget Presentations

#### **450 - Board of Education**

**Fiscal Year 2016-2017 request      \$43,684,271**

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Christine Carver, Superintendent of Schools, Kristin Brooks, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Theresa Yonksy, Director of Fiscal Services presented the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 request in the amount of \$43,684,271.

They noted that again this year, the biggest drivers to their budget were the cost of health insurance, salaries, transportation and special education tuition. Health insurance represents a -3.75% decrease; Salaries are an increase 3.35%, Transportation 2.25%, and Special Education – a 0% increase. While they were able to decrease the benefits line, contractual salaries increased.

They shared the Board of Education goals which include: utilizing research-based intervention models to close achievement gaps, provide opportunities for authentic STEM experiences so students can develop critical thinking and problem solving

skills, expand opportunities for personalized learning in grades K-12, establish a comprehensive Human Capital Management System to attract, develop and retain exceptional educators, engage parents, guardians and community in the education process and ensure that the functionality, appearance and safety of our school buildings, and the security of students mirror the educational values and aspirations we hold for Bethel's children.

They shared how early intervention through the literacy model has worked and the need to incorporate the same model with mathematics.

They introduced the Pathways concept and how it is being incorporated into our curriculum at the High School. Pathways are an opportunity to increase engagement, increase marketability at competitive colleges, reduce cost of colleges for families, develop competitive employees based on regional needs and promote college and career readiness.

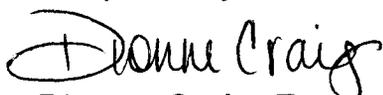
**460 - BOE – Maintenance**  
**Fiscal Year 2016-2017 request                      \$501,165**

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Christine Carver, Superintendent of Schools, Kristin Brooks, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Robert Germinaro, Facilities Supervisor and Theresa Yonksy, Director of Fiscal Services presented the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 request in the amount of \$501,165

There was an increase in 207-B Outside Contractor Funding, Mr. Germinaro explained the difficulties of keeping service contractors that are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. He also explained that some of the items in the Preventative Maintenance Contracts are the bleachers and basketball goals/hoops at the High School. He explained some items will go under the five year capital plan highlighting critical projects.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Paul Szatkowski, made a motion, which was seconded by Richard Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Dionne Craig, Recording Secretary