

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on August 25, 2016, in Board of Education Conf. Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, T. Yonsky, M. Rutledge, M. Vose, D. Arre, S. Budris

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

Board Members Present: Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

**Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman
Mr. Scott Clayton
Mr. Larry Craybas
Mr. Bill Foster
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman
Mrs. Kristen Lacey
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien
Mrs. Robin Renner**

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Courtney Martin

Updated Attendance:

**Mrs. Kristen Lacey was updated to present at: 7:15 PM
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman was updated to present at: 7:15 PM**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Gift to the School System: Bethel High School - 60" television to the High School Media Center, Courtney Martin, Bethel.

Congratulations to BHS Sophomore, Audrey Garcia, on her appointment to the 2016-2017 State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE). The Council gives Connecticut students a voice in education planning and enables the State Board of Education, the commissioner of education, State Department of Education personnel, the governor, and state legislators to become familiar with high school students' perspectives on key issues. It is truly an honor to be selected to represent your peers with these various constituencies.

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TOWN CLERK**

3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES

3.A. Presentation - Technology Plan Update

Dr. Brooks and Dr. Vose presented the Technology Plan. Although no longer required by the State Department of Education, the Bethel Public Schools wanted to create a three-year Technology Plan to support the district's Strategic Plan. Key initiatives in the Technology Plan include use of a blended learning approach to instruction, use of Power School Student Information System and Power School Assessments & Analytics to drive instruction, and continuing to develop the infrastructure to support a blended learning environment. Teacher leaders from across the district were involved in the process. Professional learning will be provided and monitoring of the district's Tech Plan through surveys, observations, and meetings will occur periodically through the life of the Tech Plan.

4. Consent Calendar

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.A.1. June 21, 2016 - Special Meeting

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|---|--------|
| Motion Passed: Move to approve the minutes of June 21, 2016 - Special Meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mrs. Robin Renner. | |
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

4.A.2. June 23, 2016 - Regular Meeting

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|---|---------|
| Motion Passed: Move to approve the minutes of June 23, 2016 - Regular Meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mrs. Robin Renner. | |
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Abstain |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Abstain |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

4.A.3. July 7, 2016 - Special Meeting

Motion Passed: Move to approve the minutes of July 7, 2016 - Special Meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

5. Correspondence

- Email from Jane Gangi, resident, regarding SBAC and Common Core
- Letter from BOE Chair to Jane Gangi, regarding SBAC and Common Core
- Letter from Elliott Landon, Mediator, regarding services
- Email from Jane Gangi, resident, regarding SBAC and Common Core #2
- Email from Jane Gangi, resident, regarding SBAC and Common Core #3
- Email from Jane Gangi, resident, regarding SBAC and Common Core #4
- Email from Patrick Bower, regarding New Fairfield Schools (video:New Fairfield Schools)

6. Audience Participation

None.

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

7.A. CABE/CAPSS Convention

To take advantage of the early bird discount for registration, we need to know if any Board Members would like to attend the 2016 CAPSS/CABE Convention. Please let Sue Pare know by August 31st.

7.B. 2016 Education Law Summaries

CABE annually publishes a legislative summary. There are several new pieces of legislation which have policy implications.

7.C. 2015-2016 SAT Results

Dr. Carver informed the Board for the first time, in March of 2015, all 11th graders took the revised Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as a state assessment. This is the first administration of the new assessment, which is aligned to the Core State Standards. Therefore, the assessment results cannot be compared to previous administrations of the exam. In addition, this is the first time that all students have been required to take the test, with the exception of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The administration is extremely proud of the results. 78.9% of our 11th graders met or exceeded proficiency in ELA and 57.2% in mathematics. BHS student results far exceeded the state and were at the top of their District Reference Group. Dr. Carver reviewed the summaries of the scores and comparisons to the DRG's.

7.D. 2015-2016 Smarter Balanced Results

Dr. Carver informed the Board the administration is very proud of the overall results, most notably in mathematics, the district's focus area. Overall as a district, in mathematics, we grew 13.1% , the state grew 3.9%. In literacy, we grew 4.1%. The state grew 3.3%. Our focus and hard work is beginning to pay off! Dr. Carver reviewed the cohort comparison. In both literacy and mathematics, there was significant growth, with mathematics being higher. Dr. Carver also reviewed the DRG comparison. The district was third in our DRG in literacy and tied for 10th in mathematics. There is a significant improvement from last year. Lastly, Dr. Carver reviewed a regional comparison. She noted that most communities in our region, with the exception of New Milford and Danbury, are DRG A and B. None-the-less, Bethel was highly competitive.

7.E. Advanced Placement (AP) Results 2016

Dr. Carver was pleased to announce that our 2016 Advance Placement Scores. We are again very proud of the results. Some highlights:

- We increased the number of exams taken (to 427 in 2016), with excellent results.
- 71% of those students received a score of 3 or higher, which can provide college credit at most colleges and universities. This is an increase from 2015.
- The number of students taking exams continues to remain high.
- We saw some big increases in scores in Calculus BC
- Physics is an area needing increased focus. We are very proud of the staff at BHS and their diligence in maintaining high levels of student achievement while continuing to expand AP opportunities.

7.F. Snack Shed Update

Dr. Carver informed the Board she and Mr. Troetti would like to expand and use the space for our culinary program to enhance it for curricular use. Currently, the snack shed is not equipped to meet the needs of any type of curricular expansion. Like most area high schools, we would like to use the facility to provide the opportunity for students to have experiences (on a smaller scale) with restaurant management and maintenance, commercial cooking, and food service. To accomplish this goal, over time, we will need to install equipment in the shed. We will be partnering with All Sports Booster Club to financially support some of the renovations. In reality, most activities in

the shed are under the purview of the district. At a meeting with Park and Rec. we determined collaboratively that it would make more sense for the district to have the oversight of the space.

8. Reports to the Board

8.A. Policy

8.A.1. 5113R - Student Attendance & Truancy

Dr. Carver spoke to the Board about the revisions to the Student Attendance & Truancy regulation. Regular attendance at school on a daily basis is critical for optimal academic performance. Over the past year, the District Safe School Climate Team, which serves as our District Attendance Review Team, reviewed our attendance regulations and made revisions. The revised attendance regulation aligns with current Connecticut State Statute and guidelines for best practice.

8.B. Finance

8.B.1. Budget Transfers

Motion Passed: The Board of Education moves to approve the budget transfers made for June 2016 as presented passed with a motion by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman and a second by Mrs. Kristen Lacey.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

Motion Passed: The Board of Education moves to deposit \$163,206 into the Unexpended funds account as recommended by administration passed with a motion by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman and a second by Mrs. Kristen Lacey.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

8.B.2. End of Year & ED001

Mrs. Yonsky spoke to the Board about closing end of year and submitting the ED001.

8.C. Personnel

8.C.1. Appointments/Resignations

Motion Passed: Move accept the Appointments/Resignations as outlined passed with a motion by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman and a second by Mrs. Melanie O'Brien.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

8.C.2. Job Descriptions

8.C.2.a. Administrative Assistant to the Director of Teaching and Learning and Director of Instructional Technology

Motion Passed: Move to approve the revisions to the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Teaching and Learning and Director of Instructional Technology job description passed with a motion by Mrs. Robin Renner and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

8.C.2.b. Literacy/Mathematics Interventionist Tutor

Motion Passed: Move to approve the Literacy/Mathematics Interventionist Tutor job description passed with a motion by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

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|------------------------|-----|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |

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|----------------------|--------|
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

8.D. Facilities

8.D.1. AD-HOC JS/RS Renovation Committee Update

Dr. Carver gave the Board an overview of the committee meeting on August 22nd. The goal is to get the application to the state by June 2017 with a referendum in September 2017. Mrs. Yonsky will get out a RFQ, firms will be narrowed to four (4) and will present at the committee level, and then the committee will come to the Board with recommendations. A Community Outreach, Alignment & Communication committee meeting has been scheduled for September 1, 2016 to discuss a communication plan.

8.D.2. Turf Field Update

Dr. Carver updated the Board on the Turf Field. A committee, made up of representatives from the district, community, parents and youth sports organizations met with the Milone and MacBroom to provide input for the feasibility study. The feasibility study was conducted and representatives from the firm came back and presented to the same committee. The representatives reviewed all of the fields which were considered and fields that were ruled out for a variety of reasons. They then presented architectural drawings and cost proposals for Rockwell Field and the stadium field. After that meeting, Mr. Craybas, Mrs. Yonsky and Dr. Carver met with the First Selectman and Comptroller to come up with a plan for a the stadium field. Dr. Carver gave an overview of that plan and provided architectural renderings and preliminary cost estimates.

9. Action Item

9.A. 2016-2017 Board of Education Goals

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|---|--------|
| Motion Passed: Move to approve the 2016-2017 Board of Education Goals Focus Areas as outlined passed with a motion by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman and a second by Mrs. Melanie O'Brien. | |
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

10. Recommended Executive Session

Motion Passed: Move to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 PM passed with a motion by Mrs. Robin Renner and a second by Mrs. Melanie O'Brien.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

10.A. CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(2) Personnel

Motion Passed: Move to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 PM passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

Motion Passed: Move to grant an unpaid leave of absence for the 2016-2017 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

11. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Move to adjourn at 8:55 PM passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman | Yes |
| Mr. Scott Clayton | Yes |
| Mr. Larry Craybas | Yes |
| Mr. Bill Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Nicholas Hoffman | Yes |
| Mrs. Kristen Lacey | Yes |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin | Absent |
| Mrs. Melanie O'Brien | Yes |
| Mrs. Robin Renner | Yes |

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder