

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **October 4, 2007**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: Larry Craybas, Mimi Herald

Administrative Attendance: Gary Chesley, Janice Jordan, Teri Yonsky, Linda Pica, Pam Chapman, Pat Cosentino, Dan DeBlois, Derek Muharem, Kevin Smith, Chris Troetti

M. Knickerbocker, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m.

1. **Call to Order**

A. Roll Call for Quorum

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, J. DeRosa, M. Knickerbocker, A. Pedone, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: F. De Nigris, S. Holmberg, W. Kingston, S. Peterson

BHS Representatives: T. Reisini, Y. Monda

B. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

2. **Approval of Minutes**

A. September 27, 2007

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of September 27, 2007.
Seconded by J. DeRosa
AYE: S. Carlsen, J. DeRosa, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner
NAY: None
Abstain: A. Pedone
Motion Carried

3. **Correspondence**

None.

4. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

1. Summer School Report

Linda Anderson, Summer School Director, reported to the Board on the success of the Summer School program. Over 800 students attended the 19 day program this year. Extended learning programs were offered for K-8 students. K-3 students attended reading, writing, and math classes for students falling just below grade level or falling far below grade level. There were 188 K-8 students in reading and writing and 161 K-8 students in math. 45 K-4 ESL learners attended.

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

A Pre-K Skills program was offered for students who fell below goal on their Kindergarten screening. This program focused on the skills they need to be successful in Kindergarten. Students are re-screened at the end of the program. 31 students attended this program and their scores increased or doubled.

Summer Counts program was open to all incoming Kindergarten students. This program familiarized the students with the school, routines, and buses. 111 students attended. A Preschool Art and Music program was also offered. 38 students attended.

Enrichment programs were also offered. There were 73 different classes including high school makeup classes. The enrichment programs are self funded.

The summer school budget started with about \$3,000 from last year and received \$61,000 in registration fees. \$57,000 went to teacher salaries leaving \$4,000 for start up in summer 2008.

Tatyana Reisini, Senior Class Representative, reported the senior class is involved with planning homecoming and the first overnight ski trip. She said the cafeteria is completed and everyone is enjoying the construction and getting excited about seeing it completed.

Yeji Monda, Junior Class Representative, reported the juniors are taking AP courses this year.

2. Report on NEASC

Pam Strout and Mary Fernand, the faculty co-chairpersons of the BHS accreditation committee, presented the standards for accreditation and the process that is required.

Dr. Chesley said Dr. Gray-Bennett was impressed with the work already done. Dr. Gray-Bennett taped an interview show for Channel 26 with Ms. Cosentino. The show will air on Friday, October 5, 2007 at 7:00 a.m., Saturday at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and on Monday at 7:00 a.m., 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Gray-Bennett said once she receives a letter from Pat Cosentino, Principal, that the renovation project has been completed she will recommend that Bethel High be removed from probation at the NEASC Commission meeting in January 2009.

Dr. Jordan informed the Board the next Professional Development day is October 9, 2007. The high school staff will be involved in the NEASC self study workshop. The middle school will be involved in an Understanding by Design workshop and the elementary schools will be learning the technology for the new report cards. There will be a district wide workshop for Pandemic Flu.

Dr. Jordan informed the Board the Office of Civil Rights requested an update on items that were not in compliance. Dr. Jordan met with Bob Germinaro, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds and Gerald Roche, Building Committee Chairman and went over the status of each item. There are many items that have not yet been completed due to the construction.

5. **Audience Participation**

None.

6. **Reports to the Board**

A. Curriculum

1. AP Trip to Europe

Mrs. Rosemary Pardalis and Ms. Marjorie Overmeir reviewed their trip to Europe in the 2006 school year with 46 European, Art History, and Geography AP students from both Danbury High School and Bethel High School. They are planning to go to London, Normandy, and Paris this spring.

**Motion by A. Pedone: Move to approve trip AP trip to Europe in 2008.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously**

2. Trip to Spain

Ms. Laura Ross presented a proposed 11 day trip to Spain for 25 students to take place after the end of the school year in June.

**Motion by A. Pedone: Move to approve trip to Spain in 2008.
Seconded by J. DeRosa
Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. BMS AYP Plan

Dr. Smith, Principal, reviewed the middle school annual yearly progress plan.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the BMS AYP Plan as presented by Dr. Smith.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

4. High School Alternative Program

Mrs. Linda Pica, Director of Special Education and Lisa Breault explained the expansion of the PM Studies program. Students who are able to make the commitment are able to succeed and graduate.

5. K-5 Power Standards

Dr. Jordan reviewed the latest changes in the Power Standards.

B. Finance

1. First Quarter Budget Transfers

**Motion by A. Pedone: Move to approve the budget transfer of \$52,736.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously**

2. Fixed Assets

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to authorize the purchase of the Fixed Asset Module for the BudgetSense accounting software.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move that Policy 3440 – Inventories, be sent to the Policy Subcommittee for review.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. Student Activity Accounts

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to authorize release of Student Activity account information by the Director of Fiscal Services to the Board of Finance.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

4. Salary Account

**Resolved the board authorizes the Director of Fiscal Services to discuss with the Board of Finance the Salary Vacancy/Turnover Savings for 2007/2008.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

7. Adjourn

**Motion by J. DeRosa: Move to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.
Seconded by A. Pedone
Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Paré
Board Recorder