

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, February 7, 2008**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: Jen Larsen, Jess Loscalzo, Elaine O'Keefe, Janice Stevenson

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, T. Yonsky, J. Jordan, D. DeBlois, B. Germinaro, K. Gombos, B. Kirmil, G. Lawlor, L. Pica, K. Smith

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

1. **Call to Order**
 - A. ***Roll Call for Quorum***

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, M. Duff, K. Harrison (arrived 7:45 p.m.) B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: J. DeRosa, B. Foulk

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

2. **CABE 2007 Award of Excellence for Educational Communications**

A representative from CABE will be attending the March 6, 2008 Board meeting to present the awards.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. ***January 31, 2008***

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of January 31, 2008.

Seconded by R. Renner

AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, M. Duff, B. Kingston, R. Renner

NAY: None

Abstain: M. Knickerbocker

Motion Carried

3. **Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence**

A. ***Gifts to School System***

- Berry School – Set of 22 books donated by One Book Too Many, Bethel, CT
- BHS, Chorus, - \$100 donated by the Bethel Chamber of Commerce, Bethel, CT

Dr. Jordan, Associate Superintendent, thanked the Board members who attended and contributed to the Bethel Education Foundation's Barnum Ball held February 2, 2008. Dr. Jordan said the event was extremely successful. The Foundation netted about \$22,000.

4. **Correspondence**

None

5. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

Mr. Duff spoke about the three elementary schools he and Mr. Craybas visited. Mr. Duff said Berry School is in great condition. However, the other schools are starting to show their wear and tear and two of the schools need maintenance mandated for ADA compliance.

Dr. Chesley informed the Board the asbestos reading at Bethel High School came back at levels acceptable by law.

6. **Audience Participation**

Bill Hillman, 86 Walnut Hill Road, thanked the administration for their quick response in notifying parents about the asbestos situation at the high school. Mr. Hillman recommends cutting half of the new proposals in the 2008-2009 budget and for the Board to look at the capital money in the 460 account.

Jen Larsen, 128 Grassy Plain St., requests the Board keep the 6th grade foreign language teacher and put back the para's at the kindergarten level at each school.

7. **Reports to the Board**

A. *Finance*

1. **2008-2009 Education Budget Discussion**

Ms. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, reviewed several questions presented by the Board about the 2008 – 2009 budget (attached). The Board and administration discussed custodial costs, paras, the 5th grade teaching position, printing costs at the high school, high school technology position and technology needs. The Board will continue this discussion at the next Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, February 11, 2008.

8. **Adjourn**

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:15 p. m.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder