

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, November 6, 2008**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: Jen Larsen

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

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

1. ***October 16, 2008***

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of October 16, 2008.
Seconded by L. Craybas
Motion Carried Unanimously

3. **Board Recognition**

- The Board congratulated Dan DeBlois and his Technology team on winning the **CABE Award of Excellence for Education Communications** contest in the following categories: **Special Project (AV): Award Winner** – Bethel Public Schools – **Primitive Technologies**; **Special Project: Honorable Mention** – Bethel Public Schools – **Digital Student Posters**; **Honorable Mention** – Bethel Public Schools – **A Survival Guide for New Teachers**
- The Board congratulated Gary Lawlor and Pat Deuschle on winning an Honorable Mention in the **CABE Award of Excellence for Education Communications** contest in the Course Selection Guide category.
- The Board recognized the amount of labor and materials donated for the new planting done around the school's sign turning into BMS, Johnson, and Rockwell by Mark Fancher of Shakespeare's Garden in Brookfield and by Dick Kolwicz. The Board recognized the successful Bethel High School homecoming bonfire celebration due to the significant contribution of the following firemen: Bill Cadella, Dave Broadhurst, Dan Frederick, Anthony Rongetti, and William Milkovic. They displayed the true spirit of community involvement and Bethel pride. A special thanks was given to Mr. Michael J. Connors, Assistant Fire

Marshall, Town of Bethel, for his professional technical advisory in the planning of the event.

- The Board congratulated Coach Mari Lerz and the Bethel High Volleyball team which claimed the championship of the Southwest Athletic Conference.
- The Board congratulated all fall sports teams for doing well this season and the progress they have made.

Gifts to the School System:

Systemwide - 20" Intel iMac with 2 GB of RAM and 250 GB internal hard drive,
Mr. & Mrs. Greene, Bethel, CT

4. Correspondence

- Letter to New England Association of Schools and Colleges from Dr. Chesley requesting Bethel High School be removed from probationary status.
- Letter to Barry Curina, Town Comptroller from Teri Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services regarding Dyed Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel for buses.
- Letter from Danuta Thibodeau, Executive Director, Education Connection congratulating Dr. Chesley for the four awards in CAFE's Award of Excellence for Education Communications contest the district received.

Mr. Lawlor spoke to the Board about the Alumni Association Committee meeting recently held. The committee discussed starting a "Sports Hall of Fame." The committee will come up the criteria to be included and discussion for naming different parts of the building. The committee would then bring recommendations to the Board.

5. Audience Participation

Bob Legnard, 11 Evergreen Drive, made a recommendation regarding naming the gym. Mr. Legnard also said he would be willing to serve on the Alumni Association Committee.

Jen Larsen, 128 Grassy Plain, complimented the administration and staff on the technologies being used in the Johnson School classrooms in a real world way. Mrs. Larsen commented the NELMS Report for Bethel Middle School was understated. She is also very happy with what is being done in the middle school.

Dr. Jordan reviewed the Professional Development Day workshops available to staff on November 10, 2008. She informed the Board the Technology Plan is under revision and needs to be completed by the end of December.

6. Consent Calendar

1. Health Services Report - August/September

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Health Services Reports.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously**

2. Tuition Contracts Report – October

**Motion by B. Foulk: Move to accept the Tuition Contracts Reports.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. Enrollment Summary - October

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Enrollment Summary.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously**

4. Facilities Work Order Status Report

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Facilities Work Order Status Report.
Seconded by J. DeRosa
Motion Carried Unanimously**

The Board discussed maintenance and the high school renovation project.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to authorize the Board of Education Chairman to write a letter to the High School Building Committee.
Seconded by J. DeRosa
Motion Carried Unanimously**

7. Reports to the Board

A. Finance

1. Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services reviewed with the Board the 2009-2010 budget process meeting dates.

Mr. Kingston, Chairman, requested a Board of Education meeting be scheduled the last week of June as close to June 30th as possible. Mr. Knickerbocker recommended a special meeting as close to June 30th as needed.

2. Explanation of Excess Costs

Ms. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, and Mrs. Pica, Director of Special Education explained the Excess Costs Grant for State reimbursement for high cost students.

B. Policy Review

1. Policy 3160

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to refer Policy 3160 to the Policy Subcommittee for review.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

C. Personnel
1. Appointments

None.

Mr. Kingston spoke with the Board about subcommittees and asked that Board members email Sue Paré their interests for the next subcommittee appointments in December.

9. Discussion of Priorities

Dr. Jordan reviewed the six statements related to the Board's priorities which are based on the discussion by the Board of Education meeting held on October 16, 2008. Dr. Jordan asked the Board to email any concerns or revisions to her.

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m.
Seconded by B. Foulk
Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Recommended Executive Session
CT General Statutes 1-18a(e)(2)
1. Superintendent's Evaluation
2. Board's Self Evaluation

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison

Attendance: G. Chesley

Motion by R. Renner: Move that the Board of Education come out of Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.
Seconded by B. Foulk
Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Dr. Chesley's evaluation letter.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

11. Adjourn

Motion by J. DeRosa: Move to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.
Seconded by B. Kingston
Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder