

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, January 22, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

1. **Consideration of Preliminary Draft of NEASC Standards Reports**  
**Executive Session anticipated pursuant to**  
***CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(1)***

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

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison

Administrators: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, P. Cosentino

Attendance: P. Strout, NEASC Committee Co-Chair

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 26 2009**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to come out of Executive at 7:29 p.m.**  
**Seconded by: S. Carlsen**  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Cosentino, D. DeBlois,  
B. Kirmil, L. Pica, K. Smith

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7: 32 p.m.

2. **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***

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to add agenda items:**  
**#8 C: Finance**  
**1. Budget Transfers**  
**2. 403 (b) Retirement Fund**  
**Seconded by M. Knickerbocker**  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. **Approval of Minutes**  
A. *January 8, 2009*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009 as corrected.**

**Seconded by B. Foulk**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

4. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

**Motion by R. Renner: Move to authorize the Board Chairman to send letter to the Board of Finance on behalf of the Board of Education.**

**Seconded by J. DeRosa**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Dr. Jordan informed the Board the high school Applied Science Department experienced an all day audit of the Perkins Grant. They received commendations on the preparation of documents. The auditors were pleased with their holistic vision and the number of female students taking technology education courses, the number of males taking child development courses, and the support of special learners. Recommendations were to structure a student success four-year plan, upgrade equipment to industry standards, create another computer lab for the marketing class, and improve the amount of cold storage in the foods lab.

Dr. Jordan said we are applying for an innovation grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Robotics and \$40,000 for the student success plan.

Teri Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, told the Board she received a call from Homeland Security informing her their security grant was cut from \$5 million to \$2 million. Mrs. Yonsky said the Bethel Public Schools are still on the list.

5. **Correspondence**

- Email to Senator Boucher from Bill Kingston, Board Chairman, regarding ideas for proposed legislation designed to help the Board meet the challenges in the upcoming budget.
- Email to Board of Education from Dr. Chesley regarding the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 budget issues.
- Letter to the Communication Workers of America, Local 1103, AFL-CIO, CLC (Bethel Paraprofessionals) from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.

- Letter to the Teamsters Local Union No. 677 from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the School Nurses' Association of Bethel from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Bethel Education Association from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Bethel Administrators' Association from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to Phillip Gallagher, Chairman, Board of Finance, regarding the online availability of minutes and agenda, and email distribution of the district e-newsletters.
- Memo to Phillip Gallagher, Chairman, Board of Finance, regarding letters sent to unions requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Communication Workers of America, Local 1103, AFL-CIO, CLC (Bethel Paraprofessionals) from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations for the possibility of two furlough days, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations for the possibility of two furlough days, due to the current economic situation.
- Letter to the Teamsters Local Union No. 677 from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations for the possibility of two furlough days, due to the current economic situation.
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- Letter to the Bethel Administrators' Association from Dr. Chesley requesting to re-open their agreement with the Bethel Board of Education for negotiations for the possibility of two furlough days, due to the current economic situation.

## 6. **Audience Participation**

Oliva Fragiano, BMS Student, Maddie Bedder, BMS student, Roberto Howard, BMS Student, T.J. Larsen, BMS Student, and Alevero Mesa, BMS Student, spoke to the Board about how Mr. Bill Benzing touched their lives and requested the BMS softball field be named in his honor.

The students submitted to the Board hundreds of letters from BMS students requesting the BMS softball field be named the William E. Benzing Field.

7. **Consent Calendar**

- A. *Health Services Report – November, December*
- B. *Tuition Contracts Report – December, January*
- C. *Enrollment Summary – December, January*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Consent Calendar.  
Seconded by B. Foulk  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

8. **Reports to the Board**

A. *Policy*

1. *Second Reading:*

- *Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process*

Mr. Craybas informed the Board the Policy Subcommittee recommends approval of Policy 5114 by the Board.

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.  
Seconded by S. Carlsen  
Motion Failed**

Mr. Duff expressed concern about some of the weapon definitions listed in the policy and recommended changes be made. Mr. Knickerbocker asked that the Board seek legal counsel on any changes.

Dr. Jordan noted that she spent three hours with legal counsel reviewing the policy before presenting it to the Board.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to table Policy 5114 to January 29, 2009.  
Seconded by J. DeRosa  
AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, B. Kingston,  
R. Renner  
NAY: M. Knickerbocker  
Motion Carried**

B. *Curriculum*

1. *Presentation – Applied Studies*

Mrs. DeRosa and Dr. Jordan reviewed the Applied Studies program with the Board. Applied Studies assists students in deciding what path to take and what courses to take. Some courses offered are Intro to Business (9<sup>th</sup> grade), Intro to Individual and Family Development, Mechanical Design 2, Microsoft Office Specialist. Dr. Jordan is working

with the Counseling Department starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to begin the Student Success Plan and then when students are in the high school they will do a four-year plan to focus their coursework over the four years.

**2. Textbook Presentations**

- *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law*
- *Sociology In Our Times*
- *A History of the Modern World*
- *Psychology – Principles and Practice*

Mrs. DeRosa presented the textbooks to the Board. The textbooks are available for review in the Board offices until February 5, 2009.

**3. Technology Plan Goals**

Dr. Jordan reviewed with the Board the Technology Plan goals about professional development, telecommunications, and accountability.

**C. Finance**

**1. Budget Transfers**

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve budget transfers 10/1/08-12/30/08 as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee and delineated in the schedules given by the Director of Fiscal Services.**

**Seconded by B. Foulk**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**2. 403(b) Retirement Plan**

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve 403(b) Retirement Plan as written.**

**Seconded by M. Knickerbocker**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.**

**Seconded by R. Renner**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**