

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, April 23, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

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

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, M. Duff, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, B. Foulk

Board Members Absent: L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, K. Harrison, R. Renner

BHS Representative: None

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

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

The Board recognized Jackeline Barbosa, BHS Senior, for her actions in stopping the school bus from a potential accident after the bus driver collapsed. The Board also recognized Iris Will, BHS Sophomore, and Nikolette Landor, BHS Sophomore, who called 911.

Gifts to the Schools:

Bethel High School

- 16 Gift baskets for the NEASC visiting committee, Linda Anderson, Bethel, CT.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. *April 2, 2009*

<p>Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of April 2, 2009. Seconded by B. Foulk Motion Carried Unanimously</p>

4. **BHS Representatives Report**

None

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5. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

Dr. Chesley informed the Board the Bethel Public Schools have been named one of the "100 Best Communities for Music Education in America." Dr. Chesley thanked the faculty and students for their hard work.

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to add to the agenda Item #9 – Budget Revision Discussion.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously**

6. **Correspondence**

- Letter from Paul Szatkowski, Vice Chairman, Bethel Republican Town Committee, requesting information regarding airing a video of the Board of Finance Budget Hearing on Bethel's Education Access Channel 26.
- Letter to Paul Szatkowski, Vice Chairman, Bethel Republican Town Committee, from Dr. Chesley responding to the request.
- Letter from Joseph J. Cirusuolo, Ed.D., Executive Director, CAPPS to Governor Jodi Rell regarding Education Cost Sharing funding.

7. **Audience Participation**

Bill Hillman, 86 Walnut Hill Rd, recommended the Board use any excess funds from the 2008-2009 fiscal year to refund pay-to-play fees.

8. **Consent Calendar**

- A. ***Health Services Report – March***
- B. ***Tuition Contracts Report – March***
- C. ***Enrollment Summary – April***

(Please note: Items on the Consent Calendar are submitted by the administration as routine administrative business that needs Board acceptance or consent but not a formal motion for approval.)

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

9. **Budget Revision Discussion**

Ms. Yonsky told the Board a meeting with administrators was held for proposed budget cuts. The administrators were concerned about programs in each of their schools and everyone worked together to come in at a zero percent increase for the 2009-2010 school year.

The plan includes a reduction in head count of 11.13 FTE's, insurance savings of \$541,782, separation incentive to staff savings, not replacing a school psychologist and speech language position after retirement, a reduction of .5 administrator, salary give backs from administration and non-union central office and systemwide employees, several teachers, and 3 paraprofessionals.

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Revised Budget for 2009-2010 as of April 23, 2009.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Knickerbocker said he is concerned about moving backwards. This is not a budget that maintains the quality of education. He will support the budget and asked that it be supported but recognize this is counter to the goals the Board has set in the past.

The Board discussed Connecticut Statue 10-262i. The statue says that a school budget cannot be less than a 0% increase. If this should occur, the Town is to be penalized \$2 in State aid for each \$1 shortfall that is in the approved budget.

Mr. Carlsen stated this fact should be made at the Town meeting so that people are aware of the fact there are consequences. Ms. Yonsky said the Board of Finance is aware of this law.

10. **Reports to the Board**
 - A. ***Curriculum***
 1. ***BMS Power Standards – Approval***

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to table to the May 7, 2009 Board meeting.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

2. *SRBI Presentation*

Dr. Jordan, Associate Superintendent, presented the Scientific Research-Based Interventions Plan to the Board. The plan is a federal mandate and must be submitted by June 2009. Dr. Jordan said this is a mandate without a lot of funding. Some of the ARRA funds and Title I funds will be used. Some SPED funds will also be used for more support where needed. The SRBI plan addresses both the academic issues and social and emotional issues. SRBI is data driven and support is based on need even if the student is not SPED. Dr. Jordan explained the components of SRBI and the Tiers of Intervention.

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the SRBI Plan.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

B. Facilities
1. Facilities Subcommittee Report

Mr. Duff informed the Board the Facilities Subcommittee is waiting for an Engineers report on the boilers. He said there will be a time when the boilers will need to be replaced and recommends avoiding cast iron boilers. He recommends using stainless steel boilers that allow for expansion. Mr. Duff said when the report comes in everyone will have a better idea of the fix and the Board can make a recommendation to the Town.

11. **Adjourn**

<p>Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by M. Knickerbocker Motion Carried Unanimously</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder