

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **November 19, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Cosentino, D. Muharem, D. DeBlois, K. Smith, R. Germinaro and Linda Pica

Wm. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

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**NOV 23 2009**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK**

1. **Call to Order**

A. ***Roll Call for Quorum***

Board Members Present: Wm. Kingston, S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner, M. Duff

Board Members Absent: C. McCorkindale, J. DeRosa, K. Harrison

BHS Representative: Isabelle Minor

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ***November 5, 2009 – Regular Meeting***

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on November 5, 2009.**

**Seconded by: L. Craybas**

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

**Abstention: M. Knickerbocker**

3. **Correspondence**

None

4. **Board Recognition**

Dr. Chesley presented Matt Knickerbocker and William Kingston, who are retiring from the Board, the traditional gift of the school bell. Dr. Chesley thanked these two men for their service and wished them well in their future endeavors.

5. **BHS Representative Report – Isabelle Minor, Senior**

Isabelle spoke about several eventss that have/will take place at the BHS:

- Fund raisers for the student diagnosed with brain cancer. There was a band competition on Saturday, November 14, and a pasta dinner on Friday, November 20. All proceeds will go to this student and his family.

- Play, "HARVEY" being presented by the "ON STAGE PLAYERS".
- Financial Aid Night to guide parents and students on college funding.
- Blood Drive on November 20. Volunteers must be 17 or older.
- National Art Honor Society Induction.
- National Honor Society Induction – 36 new members.
- Band competition – took 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- Musical, "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" – Auditions Monday, November 23. Offering free tap lessons.
- Thanksgiving morning – Football game against Brookfield.

6. **Audience Participation:** None

7. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

- Dr. Jordan spoke briefly about the requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers since the BEST program has been disbanded. We have established a TEAM Coordinating Committee which has been in place since the summer which will bring our mentors up to speed.
- Dr. Jordan spoke about the two focus groups held here at Central Office in collaboration with WESCONN. Dr. Smith conducted the first focus group which included 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year teachers asking specific questions on their preparedness during their pre-service; and how well were they prepared by their colleges to manage classrooms/manage data. The 2<sup>nd</sup> focus group, conducted by Dr. Jordan, consisted of experienced teachers who were asked similar questions to get their feedback on how they felt our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year teachers were prepared. We want to improve our teacher orientation for new teachers and give feedback to all colleges we hire from to improve their teacher preparation program.

8. **Consent Calendar**

- A. *Health Services Report – October .*
- B. *Tuition Contrats Report – November*
- C. *Maintenance Report – Update from Bob Germinaro*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Consent Calendar.**

**Seconded by: S. Carlsen**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

There were a few items discussed related to the Consent Calendar

- Comment on the number of pneumonia cases by M. Duff.
- We had a surge of H1N1 flu at BHS, but 4 remaining schools have a low count. As long as students can get vaccination, the hope is the cases remain minimal.
- L. Craybas commented on three items on the Facility Report Update:
- In preparation for winter, priority on plowing Whittlesey.

- L. Craybas commented on installing a window in the Johnson School office for security purposes. B. Germinaro replied that it is reflected in the new 460 account.
- L. Craybas opened a discussion regarding the breakdown of the gym floors at the middle school. Teri Yonsky stated that the facilities are Town of Bethel buildings used by schools for their extra curricula activities and by Bethel community groups. There are things in place to safeguard our assets. There is a cut-off schedule in place for usage of building while custodians are on duty so they have enough time to complete their tasks. It was mentioned that Park and Recreation should share some of the maintenance cost (which they do not do now). Park and Recreation does share in the custodial cost when they use our buildings.

9. **Reports to the Board**

a. *Facilities*

1. *Capital Plan*

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| <p><b>Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Capital Plan as amended</b><br/><b>Seconded by: S. Carlsen</b><br/><b>Motion Carried Unanimously</b></p> |
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Items discussed regarding the Capital Plan:

- Replace aging classroom windows to improve energy efficiency. L. Craybas was concerned about evacuation in an emergency situation. Mentioned that emergency egress windows were needed.
- Renovate the lighting racks in the middle school auditorium. Lighting over the audience is bad – cannot write or read by it. Need improved house lighting.
- BHS field lighting. S. Carlsen asked if this was a safety issue for the players. Dr. Chesley responded that he spoke to Bartlett’s office for a grant which we will eligible for.
- Corrosion to the sprinkler system at the middle school
- Replacing boiler at Johnson School.

***B. Finance***

1. *Technology Lease Renewal*

- T. Yonsky supplied Board with memo regarding Technology Leases and direction that Bethel Public Schools is headed with regard to technology.
- There were 13 items listed on a potential purchase memo, not all 13 are attainable.
- We want to maximize flexibility and maximize our budget – strategic plan.
- Our priority is teaching, with the use of SMARTBoards, we have seen much improvement.

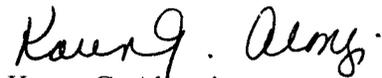
- T. Yonsky received input from Tech Department and an Administrator from every building asking, “What is the next thing your building needs for instructional impact.”
- E.g., BMS identified that Math has been impacted by SMARTBoards, their next priority is Science Department.
- Dr. Chesley mentioned the potential use of Kindles in the school system. Not only as a tool for students to read, who ordinarily would not, but also to save money on textbooks, as books can be downloaded to the Kindle.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the Technology Leases memo dated November 19, 2009 as stated.  
Seconded by: M. Knickerbocker  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**10. Adjourn**

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.  
Seconded by: M. Duff  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen G. Alongi  
Board Recorder