

Minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **November 18, 2010**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance:

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, T. Yonsky, D. DeBlois, K. Brooks, B. Kirmil, K. Gombos, P. Chapman, C. Troetti

L. Craybas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

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

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, A. Mannion (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), M. O'Brien, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison, C. McCorkindale

BHS Representative: M. Osorio, Senior

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ***November 4, 2010***

**Motion by J. DeRosa: Move to approve the minutes of November 4, 2010, as corrected: Motion on CABA Resolution on Student Assessment was carried with L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, A. Mannion, M. O'Brien, voting Aye and S. Carlsen voting Nay.**

**Seconded by: S. Carlsen**

**AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, M. O'Brien**

**NAY: none**

**Abstain: R. Renner**

**Motion Carried**

3. **Correspondence**

**None**

4. **BHS Representative Report**

Melissa Osorio, Senior, updated the Board on activities at BHS. Students heard a presentation on Rachel's Challenge, a Columbine victim, and elected a group of students to foster the qualities of kindness to others at BHS. Homecoming held on the new field on November 4<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. The Boys Soccer Championship game will be held tomorrow night against Montville. The Wild Cat Hour gives club members a chance to meet and discuss their various club activities. DECCA will hold a blood drive. The Semiformal will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

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**5. Administrative/Board Member Update**

S. Carlsen attended the CABE Delegate Assembly this afternoon. Both recommended changes submitted by the Bethel Board of Education were passed.

Mathew Correia, Language Arts teacher at Johnson School gave an update on the topic of the gender gap in student performance as requested by S. Carlsen. Mr. Correia gave an overview of the literature and several examples of strategies being employed in Bethel to address this situation. His presentation highlighted:

- Literacy: Background information
- What research says on the topic
- What teachers need to know
- Suggested classroom practice.
- Video – Boys’ Voices

Mr. Correia will update the Board and will share his Masters thesis, when completed, on this subject.

**6. Audience Participation**  
**none**

**7. Reports to the Board**

**A. Review of the Vision for the Bethel Public Schools**

**1. “The Vision for the Middle School (pages 35-39)**

Dr. Smith, Middle School Principal, was unable to attend the Board meeting. P. Chapman, Assistant Principal, indicated the Middle School continues to work on improving writing skills. They are also trying to include books on the summer reading list that will be of interest to boys. L. Craybas indicated that he would like to have seen the Vision Statement for the Middle School include getting Middle School students ready for High School. Ms. Chapman indicated that there are many programs and initiatives in place to do just that. The Middle School and High School administration have been proactive in making sure that students are successful in transitioning to High School.

L. Craybas indicated that he did not see a specific goal for special education students. In Goal #4, intervention methods are to identify all students in need. Implicit are special education students. It is a homogeneous approach.

**2. “The Vision for R.M.T. Johnson School” (pages 39-42)**

Dr. Gombos, Johnson School Principal, highlighted the success of the after-school programs. She also informed the Board of the Peer Observation program that allows teachers to observe each other and then have honest dialog about the observation.

L. Craybas indicated he would like to see milestones in the Vision Statements to show the progress we are making and how we know when we reach a goal.

**3. "The Vision for Frank A. Berry and Anna H. Rockwell Schools"  
(pages 43-47).**

K. Brooks, Principal, Berry School, and B. Kirmil, Principal, Rockwell School, highlighted the importance of having students actively participate in the classroom community and the focus on keeping students interested in curriculum by allowing them to make choices, and under teacher supervision, expounding on those choices. The extended-day Kindergarten class is going well.

**B. Facilities**

**1. Feasibility Study**

**Motion by M. Duff: The Board of Education accepts the short list of architectural firms as presented by the Facilities Subcommittee and directs the Administration to arrange interviews of said firms.**

**Seconded by S. Carlsen**

**Aye: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, A. Mannion, R. Renner**

**Nay: none**

**Abstain: M. O'Brien**

**Motion Carried**

M. Duff indicated the short list of five firms is DRA, Silver Petrucelli, Quisenberry Arcari, Kaestle Boos Associates and Antinozzi Associates. M. Duff requested that Dr. Chesley and L. Craybas collaborate and define the goals of the feasibility study and reiterate those goals to the full Board before the interview process begins. T. Yonksy will try to set up interviews the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Long-Term Capital Plan**

**Motion by M. Duff: Move to accept the Five-year Capital Project Plan submitted November 2010 (as revised 11/17/2010) and submit to the Board of Selectmen prior to November 30, 2010, as required by Town Charter**

**Seconded by J. DeRosa**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**8. Adjourn**

**Motion by R. Renner: Move to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.**

**Seconded by A. Mannion**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Spillane  
Board Recorder