

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, D. Burns, D. Arre, M. Rutledge, C. Sipala

M. O'Brien, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Kara DiBartolo:	Absent
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present, arrived 7:05 PM
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Absent
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Present

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.
2022 MAR 29 P 12:54

1. Call to Order

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Dr. Carver announced the *2022 Friends of Bethel Award* and the *CHAMP Award* recipients. The Bethel Public Schools has been blessed not only with outstanding staff and volunteers within the system but also with community members who have shown dedication and commitment to the Town and schools. These awards are presented annually to recognize individuals for their continuous contributions to the Bethel Public Schools, demonstrating a positive influence in uniting school and community.

The District has chosen Nicholas Hoffman to receive the 2022 Friends of Bethel Award. The District has chosen Melanie O'Brien to receive the 2022 CHAMP Award.

Move to recess at 7:05 PM. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

2.B. Board Member Appreciation Month

3. Consent Calendar

3.A. Approval of Minutes

3.A.1. February 15, 2022

4. Correspondence

- Correspondence - Voting on Masks - A. Martinez
- Press Release - Feb 25 Guidelines - CDC's Updated COVID-19 Monitoring & School Bus Masking Requirements
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - I need some copies of documents from 2-15-22 BOE meeting - P. Antolini
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Documents Requested from BOE Meeting 2-15-22 - Response

5. Public Comment

The Board meeting called back to order at 8:58 PM by Board Chair, Melanie O'Brien.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, D. Burns, D. Arre, M. Rutledge, C. Sipala

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Present
Mr. Scott Clayton: Present
Kara DiBartolo: Absent
Mr. Bill Foster: Present, arrived 9:05 PM
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Absent
Mr. Daniel Nostin: Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Present

6. Administrative/Board Member Update

6.A. Board Chairperson Update

6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver updated the Board on the following:

Parent University

Last Thursday we hosted the second session in our Parent University Series, on Internet Safety with Scott Driscoll. He provided parents with an overview of existing dangers with access to technology and strategies to keep children safe. This was sponsored in collaboration with the Bethel Police Department.

On April 6th, we will be bringing in a Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Catherine Stiener-Adair to run two separate sessions for parents

- Elementary Parents: The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age
- Secondary Parents: Is Tech Addictive? From Distraction to Obsession to Addiction

We are also bringing in Dr. Steiner-Adair to work with our PPS Staff, our Middle School students and our BMS and BHS faculty. Here are the topics she will be covering:

- PPS: Stomach Aches, Sleepless Nights, and Stressed for Success: The Spectrum of Stress and Anxiety in Children
- Students: When Did Cruel Get Cool: Understanding Relational Aggression On and Off Line
- Faculty: What is Acceptable, Responsible or Honorable? Using Tech as an Ally to Create a Caring and Creative School Culture

Strategic Planning Update:

We have set up a Strategic Planning Committee meeting on May 2nd from 4:00-6:00 PM. At that meeting, we will be doing a comprehensive data review of student outcomes. We believe that information will create a post-pandemic baseline going forward, setting new targets. We will also be giving the Developmental Asset Survey to our 8-12 graders in the next few weeks. As a reminder, the last time we administered the survey was in 2019.

Turf Project Update: The Turf project will begin on May 1st. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-August

District Dashboard Update: We added a Family Resources section to the District Dashboard. This section provides quick links to some important family resources. Some of those resources include our new SEL site for parents, our curriculum site, etc.

Enrollment Update: Our enrollment as of March 1st was 3215. We continue to add students. In looking at the enrollment patterns by school, the most change was at the preschool level. This makes sense given that we have to serve students with disabilities by their third birthday.

School Time Schedules for 2022-2023

We have been talking with First Student about a new three-tier bus schedule for next year to alleviate the traffic. Our biggest traffic issues are with the combination of MS/HS runs. We will not have the funding for the additional officers next year. Here is what First Student and I have come up with as potential drop off times: Dr. Carver sent an email to parents last week indicating that we will be adjusting the bell schedule for next year. Dr. Carver provide a draft schedule.

Residency Regulations Update - *Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement*

For informational purposes, the Administration made some revisions ***Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement*** for our processes in our registration process and annual verification of residency. Connecticut state law (C.G.A Sec. 10-184) requires that to attend a school in a district, the child must reside in that district. Reside means where the child physically lives.

1. Families with leases need to provide updated leases when the lease expires.
2. Month-to-month affidavits, a new process to provide-dated paperwork annually.
3. Living with a Bethel resident will require phone numbers to verify with the landlord, Bethel resident, etc.

Falsifying documentation will result in the district withdrawing the student, reporting the fraud to the Bethel Police Department, and charging tuition. Families who meet the criteria of Homeless under McKinney Vento, are advised to contact Dr. Sipala, our Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education and Homeless Liaison.

Applied to the State for the Science of Reading Act Pilot

Dr. Carver has been strongly advocating for the pilot. She feels the district has a good chance.

2021 & 2022 Graduation Rates

There are two different published graduation rates. There's Bethel High School and what the State publishes on Edsight. The big difference is the state tracks 4 yr. cohort graduations (start & finish at BHS in 4 years). They also include students with disabilities that might be receiving education services beyond that 4-year time period, up to age 21. They are calculated at that 4-year rate. Looking at just BHS it is 96-97% consistently. With students with disabilities calculated in that number differs from year to year and that number drops a little because you have a group of students that will be with us until they are 21. Last year Hispanic and black student drop out rate was at 0%.

Mock Car Crash will take place on April 20th at BHS at 10 AM to raise awareness about driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Students and first responders will reenact a real accident scene. The following departments are involved in this demonstration: The Bethel Police Department, The Bethel Fire Department, The Stony Hill Fire Department, The New Milford Police Department, The Danbury Police

Department, and the Redding Police Department. A helicopter will fly over and land in the lower field as a mock "life star" response to the scene.

6.B.1. 2021-2022 BOE District Data Sheet

Move to TABLE the remainder of the agenda through 7.B.1.a. - ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE - PROJECT CLOSE-OUT Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Policy

7.A.1. Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement

7.A.2. First Reading

7.A.2.a. Regulation 2120 Organizational Chart

7.A.2.b. Policy 2130 - Job Descriptions

7.A.2.c. Policy & Regulation 2131 Superintendent of Schools

7.A.2.d. Policy 2141 Recruitment and Retention of the Superintendent of Schools

7.A.2.e. Policy 2142 Evaluation of the Superintendent

7.A.3. Second Reading/Approval

7.A.3.a. Policy 1416 - Fiscal Authorities

7.A.3.b. Policy 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property

7.A.3.c. Policy 2000 - Concept and Roles in Administration

7.A.3.d. Policy 2111 - Equal Employment Opportunity

7.A.3.e. Policy 2112 - Professional Learning

7.A.3.f. Policy 2113 - Grievance Procedures - Title IX

7.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

7.B.1. Facilities

**7.B.1.a. ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/
UPDATE - PROJECT CLOSE-OUT**

Dr. Carver informed the Board the CO has been issued for the projects effective March 9th. The Public Building Site Committee accepted the projects as substantially complete. She provided the minutes to the March 9th Public Building Site Committee meeting and the Perkins Eastman Certificates for Substantial Completion from Rockwell School and Johnson School.

It now requires the action of the Board of Education to vote on a similar motion this evening. To allow the final filing, close out with the state, and trigger the audit. Dr. Carver provided the cash flow report that includes any additional site work to be completed. The Johnson Tracking Budget and Rockwell Tracking Budget.

The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Anna H. Rockwell School State Project # 009-0058 RNV as complete and authorizes the filing of the final State of Connecticut payment request with the Office of School Construction. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Ralph M.T. Johnson School State Project # 009-0059 RNV as complete and authorizes the filing of the final State of Connecticut payment request with the Office of School Construction. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

8. Recommended Executive Session

8.A. *CT General Statutes 1-200(6)(b) Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security*

Tabled

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 9:16 AM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder