

Tentative minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on March 29, 2012, in Board of Education Conf. Room E.

Attendance: Jen Larsen

Administrative Attendance: P. Cosentino, P. Chapman, K. Gombos, D. Muharem, C. Troetti, L. Pica

M. O'Brien, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 07:00PM.

Board Members Present: Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

**Mr. Stuart Carlsen
Mr. Scott Clayton
Mr. Larry Craybas
Mr. William Duff
Mrs. Kristen Lacey
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien
Mrs. Robin Renner
Mr. Ted Stevenson
Mr. Bryan Terzian**

1. Call to Order

- 1.A. Roll Call for Quorum**
- 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance**

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

- 2.A. HHRA Recycling Poster Contest Winners**

Discussion:

The Board recognized this year's district winners for the HHRA recycling poster contest.

District Wide 2012 HHRA Recycling Poster Contest Winners

	St			
Grade	Mary's	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
1		Leah Horvath	Marigrace Nilson	Brooke Lohle
2		Oleg Iazzetta		
3		Alexys Garden		
4		Olivia Kent		
5		Mackenzey Garden		
6		Tiffany Saviano	Isabella Iazzetta	Hanna Mancha
7		Isabel Kent		

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TOWN CLERK

	Middle			
8		Joe Mortimer	Morgan Matthews	McKenna Leaden
	Johnson			
4		Kyra Rubin	Chad Lopes	Shivani Mendiratta
5		Eve Vucinaj	Endora McNeary	Jillian Ramey
	Rockwell			
K		Phoebe Khare	Sofiane Hilmi	Zoe Demo
1		Amelia Griswold	Kevin Cecilian	Elizabeth Clayton
2		Amel Hilmi	Lucas Binder	
3		Brianna Duffy	Alexander Vasquez	Audrey Keener
	Berry			
K		Adam Pasquale	Lexi Ozimkoski	Ben Weissmann
1		Sophia Macchi	Derek O'Brien	Emily Baldwin
2		Sarah Kenney	Damiah Grimes	Xavier Nocito
3		Julia Krepesztul	Claire Rabjohn	Julianna Figueiredo

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion Passed: Move to add Agenda Item 6C - Special Advisory Committee Update. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Kristen Lacey and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

Motion Passed: Move to add Agenda Item 10 - Executive Session to the agenda for the purpose of negotiations. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Robin Renner and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

3.A. February 23, 2012 - Regular Meeting

Motion Passed: Move to approve the minutes of February 2, 2012. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Kristen Lacey and a second by Mrs. Robin Renner.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

4. Correspondence

- Letter from NEASC to Dr. Cosentino, Principal, Bethel High School, regarding the review of the Two-Year Progress Report and the continued accreditation of BHS.

Discussion:

Dr. Cosentino, BHS Principal, reviewed the progress of the on-going items. Dr. Cosentino also noted that a change in status report needs to be made during the next report to NEASC to reflect the change in leadership in the district of both the Superintendent and BHS Principal.

5. Audience Participation

Discussion:

None.

6. Administrative Board Member Update

Discussion:

Dr. Smith congratulated Dr. Cosentino on accepting the position of Superintendent of Region 12. Dr. Smith thanked Dr. Cosentino for her contributions to the quality of education in Bethel. Dr. Cosentino leaves a legacy of development of future leaders. Mr. Craybas, Board Chair, thanked Dr. Cosentino for playing a key role in the change in culture and the variety of new programs offered to students at Bethel High School.

Irene Drake, BEA Officer, informed the Board the BEA is sponsoring a "Fill a Bus" food drive to benefit Brotherhood in Action on Saturday, March 31st from 10 AM - 2 PM. Collections from staff will be made on Monday, April 2nd.

6.A. "Learning Forward" Grant Application

Discussion:

Dr. Smith informed the Board Bethel did not receive the grant. Although they loved the application the winning district had a longer relationship with Learning Forward.

6.B. Budget Update

Discussion:

Dr. Smith spoke to the Board about how to absorb the \$400,000 cut from the Board of Education budget. He has been meeting with administrators and examining the possibilities that will enable us to absorb this cut in ways that are "least impactful" to our entire system. There is no good solution. Any cut is a setback. These conversations are very difficult because we are talking about actual people. As of today our most current proposal calls for eliminating:

*Remedial Summer School for students in Kindergarten - Grade 5. (The PreK program, Summer's BEST Enrichment Program, and High School Credit recover program will be preserved. Summer's BEST and the Credit Recovery program are self-funded).

*Four teaching positions (elementary and middle school)

Increasing Pay to Play:

BHS \$100 to \$150

BMS \$75 to \$100

Given the very many possibilities, our goal is to make cuts that will do the least amount of harm system-wide. Because we have operated under status quo budgets for years, staffing is the only place left to make reductions that will achieve the budget proposed by the Board of Finance.

The elementary school positions were selected based on a host of considerations. These cuts raise class sizes at the elementary level. The middle school position is a world languages position. Beginning next year, we will no longer offer world language instruction in grade 6. World language class sizes in 7th and 8th grade will increase.

Dr. Smith stated 91 cents equals the per household per week savings realized by the \$400,000 cut to the education budget (based on a home assessed value of \$270,000).

6.C. Special Advisory Committee Report - Family/School Partnerships

Discussion:

Janice Chrzescijanek spoke to the Board about the Family/School Partnership Special Advisory Committee. The committee is designed to encourage and support families to participate in their child's education. She reviewed with the Board the both the short and long terms goals and makeup of the committee.

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Curriculum

7.A.1. Report - BHS France Trip

Discussion:

BHS Students Caroline Renner, Kathryn Kennedy, and Willis Ballard reported to the Board on their trip to France. The students spoke about the many people and places they visited. They spoke about the connections they made not only with the people but places they had only read about in class.

Each of the students expressed how thankful they are for opportunity given to them by the Board's approval for the trip.

7.A.2. Technology Plan Update

Discussion:

Dr. Jordan, Associate Superintendent, reviewed the Technology Plan and its goals with Board. The Technology Plan will need Board approval in June.

7.B. Personnel

7.B.1. Resignations

Discussion:

None. There were no resignations.

8. 2010-2011 Strategic School Profile

Discussion:

Dr. Jordan and Ms. Yonsky spoke to the Board about the SSP. They reviewed several items in the report: the definition of the DRG, district expenditures, prior pre-school experience, enrollment, graduation rate, and students going on to college.

9. School Crisis Management Review

Discussion:

Mr. Muharem, BMS Principal and Mr. Troetti, BHS Assistant Principal, reviewed with the Board what the district's crisis management team has been doing. Mr. Muharem informed the Board they have met with students and faculty regarding "See Something, Say Something." Principals also have met and reviewed the crisis management plan and held a lockdown drill. The drill was assessed by the Bethel Police Department and the administrators were given feedback.

10. Executive Session CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9)

Motion Passed: Move to enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ted Stevenson and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen Yes

Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

10.A. Negotiations

Present Board Members:

Mr. Stuart Carlsen
 Mr. Scott Clayton
 Mr. Larry Craybas
 Mr. William Duff
 Mrs. Kristen Lacey
 Mrs. Melanie O'Brien
 Mrs. Robin Renner
 Mr. Ted Stevenson
 Mr. Bryan Terzian

Administrative Attendance: K. Smith, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky

Motion Passed: Move to come of out of Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

11. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Move to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Kristen Lacey and a second by Mrs. Robin Renner.

Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes

Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Yes
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes
Mr. Ted Stevenson	Yes
Mr. Bryan Terzian	Yes

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder