

Tentative minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on January 31, 2013, in Board of Education Conf. Room E.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: K. Smith, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, L. Pica, D. Muharem, B. Kirmil, G. Lawlor, M. Lerz, D. DeBlois, C. Troetti, M. Rutledge

L. Craybas, 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. Larry Craybas
Mr. William Duff
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien
Mr. Bryan Terzian

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Scott Clayton
Mrs. Kristen Lacey
Mrs. Robin Renner
Mr. Ted Stevenson

Updated Attendance:

Mrs. Robin Renner was updated to present at: 7:10 PM

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

Discussion:

Mr. Craybas noted that both R. Renner and S. Clayton were out ill and K. Lacey and T. Stevenson were out due to work commitments.

- 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Audience Participation

Discussion:

None.

3. 2013-2014 Education Budget Workshop

RECEIVED
2013 FEB -4 P 3 22
TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Discussion:

Dr. Smith, Dr. Jordan, and Ms. Yonsky, Director for Fiscal Services, answered questions on the budget that were submitted by Board of Education members.

Dr. Smith, Mrs. Rutledge, Supervisor of Reading/ Language Arts, spoke about the CAPT data on Reading and the need for a High School Reading Specialist to support students who are struggling at that level. Mrs. Rutledge explained the need for the Reading Specialist at the high school level. She feels the high school would be better served by the position because the 8th grade CMT data shows growth from the elementary level. The Board discussed the need for support and what grade level would be most appropriate.

The Board discussed the impact the 2013-2014 budget would have to the technology plan as presented.

The Board discussed the benefits/negatives of using an electronic substitute teacher system and the details of the increase in the substitute teacher line.

Mrs. Pica, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, explained the need and plan for a School Psychologist. An additional school psychologist would allow us to provide a full-time school psychologist at Bethel High School, a full-time school psychologist at Bethel Middle School, a .8 school psychologist at Johnson School, a .6 school psychologist at Rockwell School and a .6 school psychologist at Berry School. It will allow us to have a one consistent full-time school psychologist at both Bethel Middle School and Bethel High School, where needs are the greatest.

Both L. Craybas and S. Carlsen stated they support the additional School Psychologist. L. Craybas informed the Board there may be funding available in the future for this position due to school safety/security. Mrs. Pica noted the School Psychologist position was cut from 4.6 to 4.0 positions in past years and in 2008 was cut to 3 as part of the 0% increase budget that year.

The Board discussed the possibility of including the ROTC position in the budget. Discussion lead to the concern that with so many opportunities at BHS programs are competing for student schedules and there needs to be a balance in programs. The funds could be used for other programs like senior year PE. Mr. Craybas noted there may be other funding for the ROTC position as the Board and administration have been pursuing support from the State.

The Board discussed ECS and Sequestration. The Board asked what "Plan B" would be for sequestration. Ms. Yonsky stated sequestration would be approximately $\$880K * 9\% = \$79K$. She stated we do not have a specific plan to cover this elsewhere. The impact would include cuts in professional development and intervention at Rockwell, Johnson, BMS and BHS. Cuts to the Special Education grants would force us to eliminate any special education supply purchases covered by federal grants.

The Board questioned the use of custodial overtime. Ms. Yonsky explained that custodial overtime is used when the district runs our school programs on the weekends. Such as, athletics, band, clubs, drama, etc. Custodians are also called in for snow removal and other weather emergencies. The district charges outside groups for custodial overtime when they use our facilities.

The Board also discussed the need for additional technology at BMS and Johnson.

Board members decided to stop reviewing questions at question# 19 on the submitted Q & A questions and will resume review at February 7, 2013 budget workshop.

4. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Move to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Passed with a motion by Mr. William Duff and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder