

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, November 15, 2007**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: Jen Larsen

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Cosentino, D. DeBlois, B. Kirmil, K. Rockwell, L. Pica, C. Troetti

M. Knickerbocker, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

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

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, F. De Nigris, J. DeRosa, S. Holmberg, W. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, A. Pedone, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: S. Petersen

BHS Representative: B. Ferguson, T. Reisini

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

***A. October 18, 2007***

<p><b>Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of October 18, 2007.</b> <b>Seconded by W. Kingston</b> <b>AYE: S. Carlsen, F. De Nigris, S. Holmberg, W. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, A. Pedone, R. Renner</b> <b>NAY: None</b> <b>Abstain: J. De Rosa</b> <b>Motion Carried</b></p>
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3. **Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence**

***A. Gifts to School System***

**Bethel Middle School**

- 28 office chairs by Earl Wilt, Cosmo Office Furniture, Danbury, CT

Dr. Chesley and Matt Knickerbocker thanked Arleen Pedone, Fred De Nigris, and Sherri Holmberg for their years of service on the Board of Education.

4. **Correspondence**

- Letter to Dr. Chesley from CABA Policy Service confirming Bethel's policy manual is available online.

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 19 2007**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK**

- Letter to the First Selectman regarding appointment of Board of Education member to the BHS Ad Hoc Building Committee.
- Letter to Mr. Roche, BHS Ad Hoc Building Committee Chairman, requesting an informational update on the progress to date of the high school renovation.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the letter to Mr. Roche, BHS Ad Hoc Building Committee Chairman.**  
**Seconded by W. Kingston**  
**Abstain: Motion Carried Unanimously**

5. **BHS Representatives Report**

B. Ferguson, Junior Class Representative, reported:

- Core Food Drive is underway.
- National Honor Society Induction will be held Tuesday, November 20, 2007.
- ROTC attended the Veteran's Day Parade in NYC.
- Homecoming parade was held on November 10, 2007.

T. Reisini, Senior Class Representative, reported:

- Boys' Varsity Soccer team lost the State Semi Final game.
- Fall play started November 15, 2007.
- National Smoke Stoppers Day is November 15, 2007. Smoke cessation information was presented to students.

6. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

A. ***Virtual High School Presentation***

Ray Turek, BHS Science Teacher, presented Virtual High School to the Board. Virtual High School courses are distance learning through the internet. The courses are NCAA approved and follows the National Education Association guidelines. It offers over 200 courses in foreign language, math, science, and AP. Bethel currently has a trial consortium membership allowing for ten seats. Bethel has five students enrolled.

Linda Pica, Director of Special Education, introduced Dan Smith, Behavior Analyst to the Board. Mr. Smith has several roles in helping to meet the needs of students with special needs. He assesses student behavior and academic performance, designs student specific curriculum, monitors and assesses student progress, meets with parents, trains staff and service providers. Mr. Smith also consults with school staff, develops curriculum that meets student IEP goals and objectives.

Dr. Jordan reviewed the new report cards for Johnson School. She stated they are the first step to a standards based report card. Students will receive an overall letter grade, effort and proficiency rating. The report cards will also indicate modified content for SPED and gifted students.

Dr. Jordan attending a Title IX update workshop on harassment, bullying, and cyber bullying. The Board will need to review its policies addressing these issues.

Dr. Jordan informed the Board the Education Foundation will be awarding the teacher grants at the December Board meeting.

7. **Consent Calendar**
  - A. *Health Services Report*
  - B. *Tuition Contracts Report*
  - C. *Enrollment Summary – Nov 1, 2007*

**Motion by R. Renner: Move to accept the Consent Calendar.**  
**Seconded by F. De Nigris**  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Mr. Knickerbocker commended Dr. Chesley on the steps taken by the administration during the MRSA breakout.

8. **Audience Participation**

Bill Hillman, 86 Walnut Hill Rd. Mr. Hillman thanked the Board for putting the Board policies online. Mr. Hillman would like the Board to review the policies for accuracy of the State statues. Some of the statues have moved.

Jen Larsen, 128 Grassy Plain St. Mrs. Larsen thanked Fred De Nigris, Arleen Pedone, and Sherri Holmberg for their service to Bethel.

9. **Reports to the Board**

- A. *Curriculum*
  1. *Presentation: Human Geography Textbooks – BHS*

**Motion by J. DeRosa: Move to approve the Human Geography Textbook as recommended by the Curriculum Subcommittee.**  
**Seconded by S. Holmberg**  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

2. *Science Staffing and Test Score Performance*

Dr. Chesley reviewed his memo to the Board regarding science staff. Dr. Chesley met with WCSU administrators who indicated they will be providing a masters program for science, math, and special education. They are also contracting with area companies to offer retirees a teaching program. Dr. Chesley also proposed a child care facility for staff as a benefit to attract teachers to Bethel.

**3. Bethel High School Mission Statement**

**Motion by A. Pedone: Move to approve the Bethel High School Mission statement.  
Seconded by F. De Nigris  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**B. Personnel**

**1. Resignations/Leave of Absence/Appointments**

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the following resignation:  
Wyatt Taeubert, BHS Physical Science Teacher  
Seconded by A. Pedone  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by F. De Nigris: Move to approve Sabbatical Leave for Dennis Arcano for  
the 2008-2009 school year as recommended by the Personnel Subcommittee.  
Seconded by W. Kingston  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by A. Pedone: Move to approve the following personnel appointments:  
Maria Lateef, BMS Social Studies Teacher  
Cynthia Larkin, BHS Physical Science Teacher  
Seconded by F. De Nigris  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**C. School Facilities**

**1. Facilities Update**

Deleted.

9.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.  
Seconded by A. Pedone  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré  
Board Recorder