

Minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting** held on **June 24, 2008**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: (no signatures on sign-in sheet)

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, L. Pica, K. Brooks

W. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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JUN 25 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, M. Duff, W. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: J. DeRosa, B. Foulk, K. Harrison

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

2. **Recommended Executive Session**
CT General Statutes 1-18a(e)(2)
Negotiations

Motion by R. Renner: Move to go into executive session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations. Mrs. Pica, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services and Mrs. Catherine Thompson, Attorney, were invited to attend the session.

Seconded by: S. Carlsen

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to come out of Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Seconded by S. Carlsen

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the contract between the Bethel Board of Education and the Bethel Cafeteria Workers effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.

Seconded by L. Craybas

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. ***June 5, 2008***
 - B. ***June 24, 2008***

Dr. Chesley indicated to the Board that he has received a ruling in writing from Attorney Catherine Thompson on the legality of the minutes of June 5, and June 14, 2008, that the Board needs to review before approving these minutes.

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to table the minutes of June 5, 2008, and June 14, 2008
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

4. **Board Recognition**

Mr. & Mrs. Kent Rollison, Bethel CT, donated to Bethel High School a Baby Grand Piano valued at \$12,450. The Board extended their sincere appreciation for this generous gift and requested Dr. Chesley extend a more formal gesture of appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Rollison.

5. **Correspondence**

The Board received a letter from ROTC cadet, James Alworth, regarding the positive impact of the ROTC program and appreciation to Lt. Commander Dwinells and Master Sergeant Meehan for their support and encouragement.

6. **Consent Calendar**

- A. *Health Services Report – May*
- B. *Tuition Contracts Report – June*
- C. *Enrollment Summary – June*

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the Consent Calendar
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

7. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

M. Goodwin, Athletic Director, spoke to the Board about the Ice Hockey Program. Danbury has accepted Bethel to be part of an Ice Hockey Cooperative to consist of Bethel, Brookfield, and Danbury. Danbury and Brookfield will run the program and assume responsibility for administration of the program, including scheduling of games and transportation. Bethel will have four athletes participating for which Mrs. Yonsky has budgeted \$5,000.

Main Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Bethel's participation in the Ice Hockey Cooperative consisting of Bethel, Brookfield, and Danbury
Seconded by R. Renner

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to amend main motion: Maximum expenditure for Bethel's participation in the Cooperative to be \$5,000.
Seconded by M. Duff
AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, M. Duff, W. Kingston, R. Renner
NAY: M. Knickerbocker
Abstain: None
Motion Carried

**Amended Main Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept Bethel's participation in the Ice Hockey Cooperative consisting of Bethel, Brookfield, and Danbury. Maximum expenditure for Bethel's participation in the Cooperative to be \$5,000.
Motion Carried Unanimously**

M. Goodwin informed the Board that he would like to begin fundraising efforts for the purpose of updating lighting on the football field. Mrs. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, said she would work with Mr. Goodwin to apply for a STEAP (Small Towns Economic Assistance Program) grant.

Dr. Chesley informed the Board that the All Sports Booster Club's annual golf outing was a great success. The Booster Club raised \$20,000.

Dr. Chesley informed the Board that at their place is an envelope with the Board and Superintendent Evaluation materials. Mr. Kingston noted that Dr. Chesley had waived the June 30, 2008, evaluation date. The Board will need to set a date for these evaluations.

8. **Audience Participation**
none

9. **Reports to the Board**
A. Curriculum

1. Vision Strategy

The Board received an updated copy of the Vision Strategy as of June 2008. Dr. Chesley informed the Board that the vision is being set up so that administrators and then Board members will be able to Moodle the document to see the progress being made on the goals. Commitment dates will be set in the fall and by March 1st the Board will be able to see progress reports.

B. Finance

1. *Approval – 2008-2009 School Year Lunch Prices*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to set the school lunch prices for the 2008-2009 school year as follows: Elementary \$2.20, Middle School and High School \$2.60 and Adult Lunches \$3.15.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously**

2. *2007-2008 Education Budget*

Mrs. Yonsky reported to the Board:

- June 25, 2008 – final payroll incomplete.

- SASI student database must be converted to new company, estimated cost approximately \$30,000. Board members would like to have a more detailed report from Mr. DeBlois, Supervisor of Information Technologies, on the reason for the Board having to assume this cost.
- Security equipment installation has been completed at Berry, Johnson and Rockwell schools.
- 2007-2008 end-of-the year budget will have a surplus.

After much discussion on the merits of using the surplus to offset cuts in the 2008-2009 budget or returning funds to the Town, the following motions were made.

Main Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to authorize the Director of Fiscal Services in cooperation with the Administration to utilize any remaining expenditures at their discretion and inform the Board at the next regular or special meeting..
Seconded by R. Renner

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to amend main motion: The Board is to receive a list of expenditures and identify the items impacted on the 2008-2009 school budget by these expenditures.
Seconded by M. Duff
Motion Carried Unanimously

Amended Main Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to authorize the Director of Fiscal Services in cooperation with the Administration to utilize any remaining expenditures at their discretion and that the Board is to receive a list of such expenditures and identify the items impacted on the 2008-2009 school budget by these expenditures at the next regular or special meeting.
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

3. 2008-2009 Education Budget

W. Kingston indicated that he would like the Board to take a fresh look at the recommended cuts, approved by the Board at the June 14, 2008 special meeting, after the July 1, 2008 Referendum.

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move that the budget cuts of the June 14, 2008 Special Board meeting be rescinded.
No Second

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to table the 2008-2009 Education Budget agenda item until after the July 1, 2008, Referendum.
Seconded by M. Duff
Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Contracts

Mrs. Yonsky asked that the Board approve a motion to waive the bid for HVAC maintenance services for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Due to the high school construction and new equipment being installed and currently under warranty as new, we are in state of flux as to entering into a three to five year agreement with one vendor covering all five schools. EMCOR has agreed to hold their 2007-2008 price for all five schools.

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to renew a one year contract with EMCOR for HVAC maintenance services for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for the amount of \$67,460 and \$90 per hour for items not covered under the general contract and to waive the bid procedure for one year as being in the best interest of the Bethel Board of Education and the Town of Bethel.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

Mrs. Yonsky also informed the Board that she has received quotes from five bidders for the refuse removal contract. The highest bid is \$119,000 with the lowest being \$38,500. She will review the bids and come back to the Board for approval.

C. Personnel

1. Resignations/Appointments

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to accept the following resignation: Eric Williams, BHS, Social Studies teacher, effective 6/30/2008
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the following appointments:
D. Yonsky, High School Social Studies teacher, replacing D. Matte
K. Burke, High School English teacher, replacing S. Martin
A. Rudolph, High School Spanish teacher, replacing J. Foss
G. Minor, High School English teacher, replacing M. Kenney
D. Burns, Middle School Social Studies teacher, replacing F. Curtin
K. DiBartolo, Johnson School Reading teacher, replacing B. Butterly
L. Hayes, Rockwell School Special Education teacher, replacing A. Martinelli
Seconded by R. Renner
Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Adjourn

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.
Seconded by M. Duff
Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Betty Spillane
Board Recorder