

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **January 8, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Chapman, D. DeBlois, K. Gombos, G. Lawlor, D. Muharem, L. Pica, K. Smith

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

A. Roll Call for Quorum

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, K. Harrison, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: None

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

1. December 18, 2009 – Special Meeting

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of December 18, 2009, Special Meeting.

Seconded by M. Knickerbocker

AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, K. Harrison, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

NAY: None

Abstain: J. DeRosa

Motion Carried

3. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

Dr. Chesley thanked the middle school administration for their handling of Mr. Bill Benzing's death with the students.

Dr. Chesley informed the Board on January 22, 2009, the NEASC Assistant Director will visit Bethel High School to see that the renovation meets the expectations of NEASC. The full Commission meets January 25, 26, 2009. Dr. Chesley believes they will hear a recommendation from the Assistant Director at that time to remove Bethel High School from probation.

Dr. Chesley informed the Board on January 5, he attended a meeting representing Connecticut's superintendents, and he met with the Governor's Director of Policy &

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2009

**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

Legislative Affairs. The topic was the current financial situation and the local impact of the actions that might be taken by the legislature in Hartford.

Dr. Chesley told the Board we are going out to bid for insurance and would like to have a contract discussion with the First Student Bus Company.

Dr. Chesley said the Alumni Association will be forwarding a proposal to the Board to name the high school gym after Bill Swanson. He also said the middle school administration, staff, and students would like to name the baseball field at Bethel Middle School after Bill Benzing. He has received a letter from Mr. Spinella. The middle school staff and students are sending letters requesting the field be named after Mr. Benzing.

Dr. Jordan informed the Board she attended a presentation by the Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences about their course offerings. This program is being offered through Education Connection. She is looking to adopt two components of the program.

Dr. Jordan is working with a world languages consultant in examining the high school program and curriculum.

4. **Correspondence**

- Letter from Shipman & Goodwin, Counselors at Law, stating their 2009 hourly rates will not increase.
- Letter from Kostin Ruffkess & Co, Certified Public Accountants, regarding grant data review for the Connecticut State Department of Education.
- Memo from Robert Germinaro, Supervisor of Facility Operations, regarding lab report for the sprinkler system at BMS.

5. **Audience Participation**

Dan Spinella, 13 Roberts Drive, spoke in support of naming the middle school baseball field after Bill Benzing.

Bob Legnard, Evergreen Drive, spoke in support of naming the middle school baseball field after Bill Benzing and naming the high school gym after Bill Swanson.

6. **Reports to the Board**

A. Policy

1. First Reading:

- ***Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process***

Mr. Craybas asked the Board to review the policy and send feedback to the Policy Subcommittee.

2. Second Reading:

- ***Policy 7551, Naming of School Facilities***

**Motion by L. Craybas: Move to approve Policy 7551, Naming of School Facilities.
Seconded by M. Knickerbocker
Motion Carried Unanimously**

B. Personnel

1. Job Descriptions Approval

- ***1.04.1 - Assistant Principal – Middle School***
- ***3.04 - Behavior Analyst***
- ***2.09 - Applied Behavior Analysis Provider***

**Motion by L. Craybas: Move to approve the following job descriptions:
1.04.1 - Assistant Principal – Middle School
3.04 - Behavior Analyst
2.09 - Applied Behavior Analysis Provider
Seconded by M. Knickerbocker
AYE: S. Carlsen, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, K. Harrison,
B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner
NAY: L. Craybas
Motion Carried**

C. Curriculum

1. Presentation – SMARTBoard

Liz Curtis presented the SMARTBoard technology to the Board.

2. Presentation – Freshman Academy

Mari Lertz, BHS English, Department Chairperson, explained the Freshman Academy and the Senior Honors course to the Board.

3. Presentation - American Studies

Tabled.

4. Textbook Approval (Referral to subcommittee)

Tabled.

5. Technology Plan Goal: “To Increase Academic Performance Using Technology”

Tabled.

6. AYP – Johnson School

Mrs. Gombos presented her improvement plan to the Board. She and her staff chose an excellent reading intervention program. They are setting up special intervention classes for students who did not achieve a proficient score on the CMT reading test. Students receive direct and explicit instruction in those areas where they are having difficulty, and they are taught by special and regular education teachers. Teachers are recording

significant progress in students' reading fluency and comprehension because all students' reading data are being monitored closely. Mrs. Gombos is particularly proud of the parent outreach component of this plan which includes a web-based reading program to use at home and many special reading activities for parents and children to work together.

D. Facilities

1. Work Order Procedure

Mr. Duff reported the subcommittee meeting was productive and progress is being made.

7. Adjourn

<p>Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Seconded by K. Harrison Motion Carried Unanimously</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder