

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, January 29, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: John & Kristen Trent, Jen Larsen, Philip Gallagher

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, K. Brooks, P. Cosentino, P. Chapman, D. DeBlois, K. Gombos, B. Kirmil, D. Muharem, L. Pica

B. Kingston, 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, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker (arrived 7:45 p.m.), R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. ***January 22, 2009***

Motion by R. Renner: Move to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009 as corrected.

Seconded by J. DeRosa

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. **Correspondence**

- Email response from Senator Boucher's office to the Board of Education regarding legislative proposals designed to help the Board meet the challenges in the upcoming budget decisions.

4. **Administrative/Board Member Update**

Dr. Chesley informed the Board that Bethel High School has been removed from probation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Dr. Chesley and Dr. Cosentino thanked the staff, students, administrators, Board of Education, and the BHS Building Committee for working hard to get the high school removed from probation. Dr. Cosentino said the renovation will be complete in a few more weeks.

Mr. Craybas offered the Board's congratulations to everyone involved.

Dr. Chesley congratulated our middle school Mock Trial Team for winning the State Championship.

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

Dr. Chesley spoke about the stimulus package and a conference call he and area superintendents had with Congressman Chris Murphy. Dr. Chesley said Congressman Murphy was able to answer the superintendent's questions.

Dr. Jordan told the Board she will be attending a meeting on Positive Behavioral Supports related to Response to Intervention. This is a mandated program and she will be reporting back to the Board.

6. **Audience Participation**

Jen Larsen, 128 Grassy Plain St., Mrs. Larsen said she attended the high school curriculum evening and was impressed with what is offered and the opportunities available for students.

8. **Reports to the Board**

A. Policy

1. Second Reading:

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

Mr. Craybas told the Board the questions raised by Mr. Duff were passed onto to legal counsel and the information and response received supported the policy, as written. The policy does conform to federal statutes and state law as written.

Motion by L. Craybas: Move to approve Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.
Seconded by J. DeRosa
AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, B. Foulk, B. Kingston, R. Renner
NAY: M. Duff
Motion Carried

- ***Policy/Regulation 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations***

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Policy/Regulation 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations.
Seconded by S. Carlsen
Motion Carried Unanimously

B. Finance

1. Superintendent's Recommended 2009-2010 Education Budget

Dr. Chesley and Teri Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services presented the 2009-2010 Education Budget to the Board. Dr. Chesley explained to the Board the budget is a draft because he does not know what the Governor's budget is yet, he is waiting on the legislative proposals, he does not know the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) amounts, he does not know what the federal stimulus legislative amounts will be, he does not know

what the insurance costs will be, he does not know the status of State mandates and what it will cost the Board of Education, and he is in on-going discussions with the bargaining units.

Dr. Chesley is recommending a 2.45% increase for the 2009-2010 Education Budget.

\$350,400 Increase to Salary Account: Increase of 1.40%

\$612,838 Increase to Benefit Accounts: Increase 10.16%

- Accounts for 1.68% of the 2.45% Increase

\$542,782 Health Insurance: 10.61% increase

\$41,181 Purchased Professional Services: Decrease (7.67%)

\$25,755 Purchased Property Services: Decrease (4.60%)

\$17,241 Other Purchased Services: Increase 2.26%

\$42,147 Supplies: Decrease (3.87%)

\$3,100 Equipment: Decrease (8.16%)

\$25,943 Dues and Fees: Decrease (34.24%)

Summary:

Budget proposed: \$37,463,770 = 2.45% increase

Current contractual obligations: \$38,083,141 = 4.14% increase

School Reductions:

Payroll \$ 471,931 = 1.29% decrease

Non-Payroll \$ 147,440 = .40% decrease

9. Adjourn

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Seconded by S. Carlsen

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder