

Minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **February 5, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: J. Larsen

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Cosentino, K. Smith, K. Gombos, L. DiBiase, R. Germinaro, D. DeBlois

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

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

Board Members Present: W. Kingston, S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Foulk, K. Harrison (arrived at 8:30 p.m.), M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: none

- B. ***Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America***
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. ***January 29, 2009***

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of January 29, 2009, as corrected: 1) Include comments by R. Renner regarding autism and immunizations. 2) B. Foulk should be noted as absent and name to be removed from present, and vote on 8.1.a. 3) Page 3, Other Purchased Services should read \$71,241.**

**Seconded by: B. Foulk**

**AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, W. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner**

**NAY: none**

**Abstain: B. Foulk**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move Agenda Item 7 1, 2, Naming of BHS Gymnasium and BMS Softball Field to Number 3 on the Agenda.**

**Seconded by R. Renner**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. **Action Items**
  1. ***Naming of Bethel Middle School Softball Field – William E. Benzing Softball Field.***

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 09 2009**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to dedicate the Bethel Middle School Softball field in the memory of William E. Benzing and direct the Superintendent to take such actions as necessary to install appropriate signage in accordance with the provisions of Board of Education Policy 7551.**

**Seconded by J. DeRosa**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move the Question**

**Seconded by S. Carlsen**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**2. *Naming of Bethel High School Gymnasium – William M. Swanson Gymnasium***

**Motion by L. Craybas: I move to dedicate the Bethel High School Gymnasium to William M. Swanson and direct the Superintendent to take such actions as necessary to install appropriate signage in accordance with the provisions of Board of Education Policy 7551.**

**Seconded by: M. Knickerbocker**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move the Question**

**Seconded by J. DeRosa**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Dr. Chesley read a short biography of each honoree as it will appear on the signage at their respective dedicated area.

**4. Administrative/Board Member Update**

**5. Correspondence**

Dr. Chesley's response to a letter from Mr & Mrs. Dominick Ippolito regarding the budget process.

**6. Board Recognition**

***Gifts to the School System:***

Bethel High School, Gift of \$1,000 from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program.

**7. Audience Participation**

**Bob Legnard, Evergreen Drive, Bethel**

Thanked the Board for naming the BHS gymnasium after Bill Swanson, former Athletic Director. It is well deserved for his years of dedication and service to Bethel Public Schools.

**Dan Gaeta, Dodgingtown Road, Bethel**

He supported the naming of the BMS softball field after Bill Benzing as he was a great teacher that made a difference in his life.

He is concerned about the education budget and the unions not being responsive to givebacks. Would like to see the Board make a 5% salary cut per person across the board which would equal \$1.5 million in savings.

**8. Action Items**

**1. *Healthy Foods Certification for 2009-2020***

**Motion by J. DeRosa: On behalf of the Bethel Board of Education and pursuant to section 10-2151 of the Connecticut General Statutes, we hereby certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored.**

**Seconded by M. Knickerbocker**

**Motion carried Unanimously**

**Motion by L. Craybas: Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby acknowledge that the Board of Education or governing authority, will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.**

**Seconded by M. Knickerbocker**

**Motion carried Unanimously**

**9. 2009-2010 Education Budget Workshop**

M. Knickerbocker encouraged the Town to cooperate with the Board of Education during this budget process. Teachers are valued by the education community and should not be singled out in a negative manner.

M. Duff indicated he could not support this budget if the Unions maintain a hard line on pay and benefits and refuse to reopen negotiations. This worldwide financial crisis calls for sacrifice if we are to recover as a community, State and nation.

Board members were given a written copy of their questions related to the budget process with the responses by Dr. Jordan and Mrs. Yonsky. Members started discussions on the information given them and will continue at the next Budget Workshop on February 11, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

10. **Recommended Executive Session**

*CT General Statutes 1-18a(e)(2)*

1. *Personnel/Negotiations*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to go into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.**

**Seconded by S. Carlsen**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.**

**Seconded by S. Carlsen**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve Board of Education Voluntary Incentive Program for Teachers**

**Seconded by S. Carlsen**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

11. **Adjourn**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.**

**Seconded by R. Renner**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Spillane  
Board Recorder