

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **June 4, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, P. Chapman, D. DeBlois, K. Gombos

B. Kingston, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

2. **Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence**
 - A. ***CABE Leadership Awards***

Dr. Chesley presented the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Award for 2009 to Melissa Hannequin and Michael Valenti.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. ***May 21, 2009***

Motion by R. Renner: Move to approve the minutes of May 21, 2009 as corrected.
Seconded by: M. Knickerbocker
AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, K. Harrison, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner
NAY: None
Abstain: B. Foulk
Motion Carried

4. **Correspondence**

- Letter from the Department of the Navy to Dr. Cosentino designating BHS NJROTC as a Distinguished Unit with academic honors for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.
- Letter from Dr. Chesley to State Representative Jason Bartlett requesting support for re-instituting a minimum budget requirement for school systems.

RECEIVED

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

- Letter from Dr. Chesley to State Representative David Scribner requesting support for re-instituting a minimum budget requirement for school systems.
- Letter from Dr. Chesley to State Senator Michael McLachlan requesting support for re-instituting a minimum budget requirement for school systems.
- Letter from Dr. Chesley to State Senator Toni Boucher requesting support for re-instituting a minimum budget requirement for school systems.
- Letter from CSDE to Board Chairman regarding procedures for negotiations with BEA.
- Letter from State Senator Toni Boucher to Dr. Chesley regarding Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR).
- Letter from Mary Spain, BMS English Teacher, to Dr. Chesley and the Board of Education regarding her retirement and years teaching in Bethel.

5. Administrative/Board Member Update

Dr. Chesley informed the Board the NJROTC has been recognized as Distinguished NJROTC Unit with academic honors for 2009-2010.

Dr. Chesley thanked the Board members who were able to attend the Awards Banquet.

Dr. Jordan informed the Board Chris Longo, BMS science teacher, wrote an article, "Fostering Creativity or Teaching to the Test? Implications of State Testing on the Delivery of Science Instruction," that was accepted for publication in *The Clearinghouse Journal*.

6. Audience Participation

None.

7. Reports to the Board

A. Curriculum

1. School Counseling Executive Summary

Ingrid Boedecker, BHS Guidance Dept. Head, and Sharon Brennan, Higher Education Consultant, reported to the Board on their assessment of current practices in the School Counseling Office related to the college admissions process.

2. Presentation – "Moodle in Use"

Chris Ciparelli, BHS Social Studies Teacher, presented how Moodle is used in the classroom as well as how he uses it as a coach in athletics.

3. *Teacher Evaluation Document*

Dr. Jordan reviewed the Teacher Evaluation Document with the Board. Dr. Jordan reviewed the teacher expectations, domains of teaching, observation cycle, professional learning plan, curriculum and program monitoring. She explained the Intensive Supervision Plan is in a draft stage.

During the summer, the administrators will be working with a consultant on evaluation and walk-throughs looking for student engagement.

Mrs. Strout, BHS Math Department Head, said NEASC was very complimentary of our teacher evaluation program.

B. Finance

1. Budget Transfers 2008/2009

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move the Bethel Board of Education approve the transfers as delineated in the Budget Transfers April 1, 2009 – May 31, 2009.

Seconded by: B. Foulk

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mrs. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, reviewed the transfers with the Board. She stated the Board committed to do the local match to the security grant. A transfer is included for that match. First Student gives the Board of Education a credit for diesel fuel that comes in on the transportation line that needs to be transferred to the diesel fuel line. \$62,500 is a reversal of a transfer done in the second quarter, funds were moved into the SPED line before knowing we would be ok with excess cost. Now those funds are being transferred back to their original line.

The group health insurance transfer is needed because we are changing health insurance carriers and had to put a deposit down with CIGNA, and also on July 1st she would like to have some funding in that account to pay the prescription bills as they come in.

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to amend the motion that group health insurance be reduced by \$40,000.

Seconded by: M. Duff

AYE: M. Duff, S. Carlsen, B. Kingston, L. Craybas

NAY: M. Knickerbocker, B. Foulk, R. Renner, J. DeRosa, K. Harrison

Motion Failed

Mr. Carlsen stated that the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman made a commitment to the Board of Finance to return to the Town \$150,000 at the end of the fiscal year. He said the Board has already taken responsibility for the security system to the extent of \$106,000. He said it would serve the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and the taxpayers of Bethel if the Board made the maximum possible return to the Town in

fulfillment of the Chairman and Vice Chairman's commitments to the Town. The purpose of his amendment is to have an additional \$40,000 available for return to the Town if in the Board's judgment it is a prudent action.

The Board discussed the amendment.

Mrs. Yonsky reviewed with the Board critical needs in the district the Board should keep in mind for discussion.

2. Tuition Rates 2009/2010

Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move the Bethel Board of Education set the tuition rates for non-resident students attending Bethel Public Schools for the 2009/2010 school year as stated in memo from the Director of Fiscal Services, dated June 4, 2009.

Seconded by: B. Foulk

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by K. Harrison: Move that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Seconded by M. Knickerbocker

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

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

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move that the Board of Education come out of Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

Seconded by M. Knickerbocker

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Seconded by M. Knickerbocker

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paré
Board Recorder