

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **Thursday, September 3, 2009**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, T. Yonsky, K. Brooks, P. Cosentino, D. DeBlois, G. Lawlor, C. Troetti

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

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

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, C. McCorkindale (arrived 7:39 p.m.), R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. ***August 20, 2009***

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 as amended.**  
**Seconded by L. Craybas**  
**AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, B. Kingston, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner**  
**NAY: None**  
**Abstain: J. DeRosa, M. Duff**  
**Motion Carried**

3. **Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence/Gifts to the School System**
  - Berry School**
    - \$1,000 for books, Susan & Robert White, Bethel, CT
  - Bethel Middle School**
    - \$1,000 for Field Hockey uniforms, RP Automation, Inc

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to add agenda item 3A – 460 Maintenance Account to the agenda.**  
**Seconded by S. Carlsen**  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

*A. 460 Account*

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to authorize the Board of Education Chairman to compose and send correspondence to the Board of Selectmen requesting immediate release of the 460 Maintenance Account to the control of the Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-220 and 10-222.  
Seconded by S. Carlsen  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**4. Correspondence**

- Letter from Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) announcing Mrs. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, has been appointed as a liaison to the Board of Directors of CASBO.

**5. Administrative/Board Member Update**

*A. Opening of School*

Dr. Chesley said the administration was very pleased with the opening day. Guest speaker, John Perricone, was a great way to start the year for staff. He is very proud of how actively engaged students are two weeks into instruction.

*B. Restoration of Athletic Field*

Yvonne M. Grimes, BHS Boy's Track & Field Head Coach, presented a proposal for a donation from the Grimes family of an 8-lane track for the school complex. Coach Grimes explained that if the bid comes in low enough she would also like to add a storage shed and a synthetic landscaping for a throwing area. She is proposing to fill in one corner of the field with an additional throwing area and the other end of the field for a high jump area. Mrs. Grimes is looking to get a 7-10 year guarantee on the track as opposed to the standard 4-5 year guarantee. The project is proposed the start in June 2010.

Board members thanked Coach Grimes and family for her extraordinary offer.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move that the Board of Education accept the Track & Field donation proposal as presented by Coach Grimes.  
Seconded by M. Knickerbocker  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

Dr. Chesley reviewed a legal opinion previously reviewed by the Board. This document reviewed the lines of authority for Superintendent and First Selectman, due to things that have occurred recently. The State Statute is very clear regarding the powers and duties of the First Selectman over the Board of Education and its employees. The First Selectman has no authority over the Board of Education and its employees.

The Town Charter specifically excludes certain areas related to the operation of the Board of Education, including contracts, personnel, and employment negotiations from the First Selectman's authority.

The legal opinion also points out that "...the Superintendent has executive authority over the school system and responsibility for its supervision." (C.G.S. 10-157(a)) It also states the First Selectman has no authority to order Board of Education members or employees to take particular actions.

**6. Audience Participation**

None.

**7. Reports to the Board**

**A. *Curriculum***

**1. *NEASC Report (PowerPoint Presentation)***

Dr. Cosentino, Pam Strout, and Mary Fernand reviewed the commendations and recommendations of the seven standards and answered questions from the Board.

**2. *CMT Report (PowerPoint Presentation)***

**3. *CAPT Report (PowerPoint Presentation)***

Dr. Chesley and Dr. Jordan reviewed the CMT/CAPT and AP scores with the Board.

**4. *2009-2010 College Report***

Dr. Chesley reviewed the colleges the students of the Class of 2009 are attending. Mr. Lawlor and Mr. Troetti also explained that some college choices were based on affordability and/or amount of credit that would be approved for AP courses.

**B. *Finance***

**1. *2008-2009 Financial Filings***

Mrs. Yonsky informed the Board the ED001 was filed.

**Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to approve budget transfers as outlined in the Budget Transfer Summary – Budget Transfers June 26, 2009 through June 30, 2009.  
Seconded by M. Knickerbocker  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**C. *Personnel***

**1. *Resignations/Appointments***

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the following personnel appointments:**

**Kelly Almeida, Grade 7 Teacher, Middle School  
 Candice Amore, Guidance Counselor, Johnson School  
 Katherine Kellogg, Social Studies Teacher, High School  
 Jennifer Mancini, Grade 5 LA Teacher, Johnson School  
 Jennie Mastrobattisto, Spanish Teacher, High School  
 Jessica Wismar, Media Specialist, High School  
 Lindsey Bowman, Grade 8 Math Teacher, Middle School  
 Richard Baumer, Orchestra Teacher, Middle School  
 Aimee Faul, Special Education, Berry School  
 Ella Kraiz, Chemistry Teacher, High School  
 Elizabeth Rey, Speech/Language, Systemwide  
 Shelly DeSisto, Grade 8 LA Teacher, Middle School  
 Seconded by S. Carlsen  
 Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the following personnel resignations:**

**Jennifer Charest, Art Teacher, High School  
 Elizabeth Curtis, Media Specialist, Johnson School  
 Julie Foss, Spanish Teacher, High School  
 Melissa Khalatbari, Health Teacher, Johnson/Middle School  
 Christina Koukopoulos, Physical Therapist (.5), Systemwide  
 Cynthia O'Connor, Special Education, High School  
 Shane Peters, Music Teacher, Middle School  
 Leah Resko, Special Education, Berry School  
 Seconded by S. Carlsen  
 Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **8. Adjourn**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.  
 Seconded by S. Carlsen  
 Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Susan Paré  
 Board Recorder