

Tentative minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on October 21, 2014, in Board of Education Conf. Room E.

Attendance: K. Kechjian, L. Zafrin

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, T. Yonsky, D. DeBlois, D. Legnard D. Muharem, M. Rutledge

L. Craybas, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Present: Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman  
Mr. Stuart Carlsen  
Mr. Scott Clayton  
Mr. Larry Craybas  
Mr. William Duff  
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman  
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien  
Mrs. Robin Renner

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Kristen Lacey

Updated Attendance:

Mr. Scott Clayton was updated to present at: 7:08 AM

**1. Call to Order**

- 1.A. Roll Call for Quorum
- 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence**

**Gifts to the School System:**

Rockwell School, \$200 of School Supplies, Mr. Rob Barghaus, Students, and Parents of American Tiger Martial Arts Academy, Bethel.

- Congratulations to the Board on winning the **CABE Board of Distinction Award - Level II!** The Awards ceremony will take place as part of the CABE/CAPSS Conference, on Friday, November 14 at 5 pm, in the Mystic Ballroom at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton.
- Congratulations to our new Principal at Berry School, Danielle Legnard. She is now a

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published author. You can see her article on The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc. website ([www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org)) at the following link:  
<http://www.nctm.org/publications/article.aspx?id=43242>

### **3. Correspondence**

- Email from CAFE regarding CAFE Board of Distinction Award.
- Email from Shani Burke Specht, Board Member, Plumtrees School Association, regarding membership drive.
- Obituary - Geriak, Robert, regarding contributions to Bethel Athletic Enhancement Fund.
- Memo to Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Town Comptroller, regarding End of Fiscal year 2013-2014 and Contribution to Unexpended Funds Account.
- Memo to Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Town Comptroller, regarding Fiscal year 2013-2014 Budget Transfers Summary.

### **4. Consent Calendar**

#### **4.A. Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.A.1. Minutes - September 18, 2014**

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2014 passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. William Duff.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

### **5. Audience Participation**

None.

### **6. Administrative/Board Member Update**

#### **6.A. Report - Personal Learning/Blended Learning & Technology**

Discussion:

Dr. Carver, Mrs. Rutledge, Mr. DeBlois, Mr. Arre, Ms. Zafrin, and Mrs. Kechjian reported to the Board on Personal Learning/Blended Learning & Technology.

## **7. Reports to the Board**

### **7.A. Facilities**

#### **7.A.1. Verizon Cell Service on the School Campus**

Discussion:

Dr. Carver and Mrs. Yonsky informed the Board that on September 10, 2014, Ms. Yonksy, Director of Fiscal Services, and Mr. DeBlois, Supervisor of Information Technology, had a phone conference with a representative from Verizon Wireless regarding their desire to use Bethel High School as a macrosite for a small cell unit. Verizon has studied the data and cellular usage at Bethel High School, both during the school day and during events, and has determined that there is an increased usage which is draining the surrounding cellular towers.

There are two main benefits to consideration of the proposal. The first is that this macrosite for the small cell unit would help to relieve the network drain and increase receptivity for our students, parents, guests and staff members who have Verizon cell service. The second benefit would be in generating monthly revenue for the rental of the space. The lease would generate monthly revenue to the Town of Bethel.

This small cell unit can sit on top of an existing pole or on a roof top. It does not require the installation of a cellular tower. This lease with Verizon would not prohibit entering an agreement with any other cellular carrier.

The only caution or potential issue is in public concern regarding radio frequency emissions caused by the cellular unit. Although it is somewhat of a controversial issue, given the size of the unit and location, the representatives feel that it is far below the minimum requirements outlined by the Federal Communications Commission.

Ms. Yonksy and Dr. Carver have spoken with the First Selectman, Matt Knickerbocker. He is interested in exploring the topic at greater depth. Dr. Carver requested Board of Education approval to pursue further conversations with Verizon.

Dr. Carver also noted she is interested in pursuing a similar unit with our cell carrier, AT&T. As there are issues in many of our schools with "dead" spots or areas where administration can not be reached. This is a safety concern.

**Motion Failed:** Motion to direct the administration to pursue the installation of small cell unit with Verizon wireless failed with a motion by Mr. William Duff and a second Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

**Motion to Amend Passed:** To amend the motion from: "Motion to direct the administration to pursue the installation of small cell unit with Verizon wireless " to: "Motion to direct the administration to pursue negotiations to explore whether the Board wants to approve

installation of small cell unit with Verizon wireless. " passed with a motion by Mrs. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. William Duff.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

**Motion Passed:** Motion to direct the administration to pursue negotiations to explore whether the Board wants to approve installation of small cell unit with Verizon wireless passed with a motion by Mr. William Duff and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

## 8. Recommended Executive Session

**Motion Passed:** Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:40 PM passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

**Motion Passed:** Motion to come out of Executive Session 9:03 PM passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
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Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

**8.A. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations**

**8.A.1. Bethel Administrators' Association Contract**

**Motion Passed:** Move to approve Bethel Administrators' Association Contract for 2015-2017 passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Nicholas Hoffman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

**8.A.2. Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries Contract**

**Motion Passed:** Move to approve Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries Contract passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mr. Stuart Carlsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM passed with a motion by Mr. Larry Craybas and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman	Yes
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Mr. Stuart Carlsen	Yes
Mr. Scott Clayton	Yes
Mr. Larry Craybas	Yes
Mr. William Duff	Yes
Mr. Nicholas Hoffman	Yes
Mrs. Kristen Lacey	Absent
Mrs. Melanie O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Robin Renner	Yes

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Pare  
Board Recorder