

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting - Supt. Budget Presentation held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, A. Salerno, G. Lawlor, C. Troetti, L. DiBiase, T. Soucy, D. Legnard, B. Germinaro, C. Sipala, M. Stabile

M. O'Brien, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman
Mr. Scott Clayton
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo
Mr. Bill Foster
Mrs. Jen Larsen
Mrs. Courtney Martin
Mr. Daniel Nostin
Ms. Melanie O'Brien
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.
2023 JAN 23 P 2:30

1. Call to Order

Roll Call for Quorum
Pledge of Allegiance

2. Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Education Budget Presentation

Dr. Carver presented the 2023-2024 Proposed Education Budget. Dr. Carver spoke about the mission of the Bethel Public Schools, budget priorities, and increased enrollment, including significantly more students with disabilities with intensive needs. Dr. Carver noted that Bethel ranked 149/164 in per-pupil expenditure, which is the lowest 10% within the state. Bethel is 79/169 in the 2023 state wealth ranking, which is in the top 50% within the state. Bethel would need an increase of \$6,102,756 to be at the state average in per-pupil spending based on current enrollment.

Dr. Carver reviewed the four budget drivers:

- Increased enrollment and general inflation
- Special Education
- Health Insurance
- Contractual Obligations

Dr. Carver reviewed current and projected district enrollment that was also presented to the

Board in November, SPED, transportation, and ECS. She spoke about changes in ESSERII/ARP funding and the impact of the loss of funding when the grants end. Some of those funds were being used for positions to address the academic & social-emotional needs as a result of the pandemic.

Dr. Carver is recommending a 5.95% increase for the 2023-2024 Education Budget. As outlined in her presentation, the proposed budget is a base budget without the addition of a special education van, the mandated Science of Reading Core Program, (the district can apply for a one-year extension), two (2) specialists, two (2) tutors, instructional supplies, the addition of Volleyball, and eliminating Pay to Play.

Mrs. Variale, Director of Finance and Business Operations, noted spending for all schools and departments is flat, except for Special Education. There are minor shifts within the school and department budgets and accounting reclassifications impact spending by object code. She reviewed the budget by code.

\$1,428,769	Increase to Salary Account:	Increase of	2.79%
\$743,602	Increase to Benefit Accounts:	Increase of	1.45%
\$-276,011	Decrease to Purchased Professional Services:	Decrease of	-0.54%
\$350	Increase to Purchased Property Services:	Increase of	0.00%
\$889,880	Increase to Other Purchased Services:	Increase of	1.74%
\$345,673	Increase to Supplies:	Increase of	0.68%
\$-95,000	Decrease to Equipment:	Decrease of	-0.18%
\$6,395	Increase to Dues & Fees:	Increase of	0.01%

Summary

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024: \$54,208,488

5.95% increase = \$3,043,658

Budget Workshop Dates

- Tuesday*, January 24, 2023 (Budget Workshop) - Facilities
- Thursday, January 26, 2023 (Budget Workshop) - IT, Curriculum, SPED
- Tuesday*, January 31, 2023 (Budget Workshop) - Schools/Athletics
- Thursday, February 2, 2023 (Budget Workshop/Approval)
- Tuesday*, February 7, 2023 (Budget Workshop - Alt. Date if needed)

Dr. Carver's 2023-2024 proposed budget presentation is available on the District Dashboard on the district's website and can also be viewed on BEtv @

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=dee119ce9385&apg=4d17c1b509fc>

3. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

Johnson School

- Clothing, toys, holiday wish gifts, (\$3,000), Loren & Patrick Salerno, Lorenzo Industries, Bethel, CT.

4. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes

1. December 15, 2022 - Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting - Legislative Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 - Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting - Legislative Meeting with the correction of D. Nostin as present. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.	
Kara DiBartolo:	Abstain
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

2. December 15, 2022 - Board of Education Annual Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of December 15, 2022 - Board of Education Annual Meeting. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Cathy Schaefer.	
Kara DiBartolo:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

5. Correspondence

- Letter from EdAdvance (RESC) regarding District Data Report 21-22.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien spoke to the Board members about the process of participating in the budget workshops and encouraged attendance at the Board of Finance meetings and the Board's budget presentation to the Board of Finance.

1. 2023 Proposed Standing Committees Assignments

Move to approve the proposed Standing Committee assignments for 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver spoke about waiting for the health insurance information and the progress of the Science of Reading Program curriculum reviews.

7.B.1 2022-2023 BOE District Data Sheet

Dr. Carver provided the Board with the monthly 2022-2023 BOE District Data Sheet.

8. Reports to the Board

8.A. Policy

8.A.1 *Second Reading/Approval*

a. Policy 6144.1 - Curricular Exemptions

This policy was tabled in committee earlier tonight.

b. Policy 2210 - Administrative Discretion in Absence of BOE Policy

Move to approve Policy 2210 Administrative Discretion in Absence of BOE Policy. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
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Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

c. Policy 2220 - Representative and Deliberate Groups

Move to approve Policy 2220 - Representative and Deliberate Groups to the Board. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Kara DiBartolo.	
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

d. Policy 2222 - Administrative Council

Move to approve Policy 2222 - Administrative Council. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.	
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

e. Policy 2231 - Policy and Regulation Systems

Move to approve Policy 2231 - Policy and Regulation Systems with noted changes. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.	
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea

Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

f. Policy 2300 - Role of Board of Education and Superintendent

Move to approve Policy 2300 - Role of Board of Education and Superintendent with noted changes. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.	
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.	
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan Pare
 Board Recorder