

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, D. Burns, M. Rutledge

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

**Board Members Attendance:**

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Present

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TOWN CLERK  
BETHEL, CT.

**1. Call to Order**

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

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

- Congratulations to the Wildcat Indoor Track Team! They are the 2023 SWC Champions!
- Congratulations to Bethel NJROTC. They placed 1st Overall at the NJROTC Northeast regional Brain Brawl academic competition.
- Congratulations to Bethel Cadet Jonathan Keener who won the Individual Award.
- Congratulations to BHS athlete, Rosie Volpintesta, she set a conference record in the high jump, clearing 5' 21/4"
- Congratulations to BHS athlete, Talia Gramh, she won the 55 dash and set a new school record.

**2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests**

**GIFTS:**

**Bethel High School**

\$1,000 for BHS Art Scholarship, Anne Breecher, Danbury, CT.

**GRANTS:**

The Bethel Education Foundation presented over \$15,000 in Teacher Grants to support innovative projects in the Bethel Schools.

School	Teacher	Project Title	Grant Amount
BHS	Chris Troetti	STEM program support	\$7,000
BMS	Scott Carrizzo	Laser Design	\$2,994
BMS	Shawn Ingraham	BMS Rock Band	\$810
Johnson School	Heather Farisello & Heather Barr	Building Thinking Classrooms with Vertical White Boards	\$985
Berry School	Shelby Land & Jessica McGlinchey	Berry Makerspace	\$2,680
Berry School	Shelby Land	Josh Funk Author Visit	\$500
Rockwell School	Kerry Collins	Josh Funk Author Visit	\$500
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,469</b>

### 3. Consent Calendar

#### 3.A. Approval of Minutes

##### 3.A.1. January 19, 2023 - Supt. Budget Presentation

**Move to approve the minutes of January 19, 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.**

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

##### 3.A.2. January 24, 2023 - Budget Workshop, Facilities

**Move to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.**

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

##### 3.A.3. January 26, 2023 - Budget Workshop, IT, Curriculum, SPED

**Move to approve the minutes of January 26, 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

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

### **3.A.4. January 31, 2023 - Budget Workshop - Schools/Athletics**

**Move to approve the minutes of January 31, 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.**

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Abstain  
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

### **3.A.5. February 2, 2023 - Budget Workshop/Approval**

**Move to approve the minutes of February 2, 2023. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.**

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

## **4. Correspondence**

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Ellington BOE Legislative Platform 2023
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Concerns about the assigned book at Johnson School- Just Like Jackie - E. Abel
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Concerns about the assigned book at Johnson School- Just Like Jackie - C. Carver Response
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Re\_ Book Bowl Follow-up - E. Abel
- Letter regarding BMS staff - K. Chauvin

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Awareness of incident at Bethel High School regarding aggressive service dog - Andrea Maney
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Recap of phone 2\_23 phone call regarding 1\_26 incident at Bethel High School - Andrea Maney
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Fwd\_ Recent incident at Bethel High School - C. Carver Response

## 5. Public Comment

None.

## 6. Administrative/Board Member Update

### 6.A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien spoke to the Board about a device use policy and also about the community sessions on "State of Our Students" and reaching out to the community.

### 6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver spoke to the Board about Bethel being one of 20 districts in the state to receive the mental health grant. Dr. Carver noted the legislative session this year has numerous bills coming forward with unfunded mandates.

#### 6.B.1. 2022-2023 BOE District Data Sheet

Dr. Carver provided the Board with the 2022-2023 BOE District Monthly Data Sheet for review.

## 7. Reports to the Board

### 7.A. Resource Management & Business Operations

#### 7.A.1. Personnel

##### 7.A.1.a. Job Description 6.18 - College & Career Center Associate

The job description has been updated to better reflect the work the position is responsible for. This item was tabled.

#### 7.A.2. Facilities

##### 7.A.2.a. ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE - *PROJECT CLOSE-OUT*

**The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Anna H. Rockwell school project number 009-0058 RNV as complete. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

**The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Ralph M. T. Johnson school project number 009-0059 RNV as complete. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.**

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

## **8. Action Items**

### **8.A. 2023-2024 School Calendar**

**Move to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.**

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

### **8.B. 2024-2025 School Calendar**

**Move to accept the 2024-2025 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

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

## **9. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARD DISTRICT INITIATIVES**

### **9.A. Recommended Executive Session**

#### **Board Members Attendance:**

**Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: *Absent***

Mr. Scott Clayton: Present  
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Present  
Mr. Bill Foster: Present  
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Present  
Mrs. Courtney Martin: *Absent*  
Mr. Daniel Nostin: Present  
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Present  
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Present

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, D. Burns, M. Rutledge

Move to enter into Executive Session at 7:28 PM. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Cathy Schaefer.

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

**9.A.1. *CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(2) Personnel - Paraeducators Union Sick Bank Request***

**9.A.2. *CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(2) Personnel - BEA Union Sick Bank Request***

**9.A.3. *CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations -***

- Bethel BOE Food Service Employees Union
- Bethel Paraeducator's Union
- Bethel Education Association
- Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries
- School Nurses' Association of Bethel

**9.A.4. *CT General Statutes 1-200(6)(b) Matters concerning security strategy, or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security***

**9.A.4.a. *Cybersecurity***

Move to come out of Executive Session at 8:32 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea  
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea  
Mr. Bill Foster: Yea  
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea  
Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea  
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

## 10. Adjourn

**Move to approve Paraeducator Union sick bank request. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.**

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

**Move to approve the BEA sick bank request. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

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

**Move to adjourn at 8:36 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Pare  
Board Recorder