

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, M. Rutledge, D. Burns, B. Watson, D. Legnard, T. Soucy

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

Board Members Attendance:

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

- Congratulations to Toshan Bhattacharya, BMS student, for winning first place at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair, Life Science Awards - 1st place - Life Sciences 8th grade - \$300 & trophy. Toshan presented his invention D.E.R.M.A to the Board. D.E.R.M.A can diagnosed skin conditions with a quick scan of the affected area. Toshan designed the device to be small and very inexpensive to allow everyone with skin issues access to quick, inexpensive diagnosis.
- Connecticut Science Teachers Association's Marty Tafel Student Research Award - Life Sciences 8th Grade - \$500 & invite to CSTA Award Banquet, Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge - nomination to compete in Thermo Fischer Scientific JIC for top selected MS winners, National Center for Inquiry Learning - Daniel & Maggie Award for Imagination - MS \$100.
- Congratulations to Unified Sports! They received the "Spirit of Life" Award from the Special Olympics Connecticut. Bethel is the first CT school district to have an elementary, middle, and high school earn National Banner Recognition from Unified Champion Schools.
- On April 4th, Alejandro Chimbo will be honored at the Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Banquet on April 4th at the Aquaturf.

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On Saturday, March 11th, the following students were celebrated as award winners at the Brookfield Craft Center Artists on the Rise regional art show:

1st Place Ceramics - Nick Adiletti - *American Classic* - coil pot burger and shake

2nd Place Ceramics - Emily Turek - *Into the Hobbit Home* - hobbit house slab construction

2nd Place Photography - Alejandro Chimbo - *Shadows* - digital photograph

1st Place Sculpture - Grace Vitarelli

2nd Place Sculpture - Emzie Zalaznick

2nd Place Painting - Lana Schneider

Several other students were successfully juried into the show as well:

Petra Cirella - *Cirque d'Etoiles* - mixed media drawing

Brooke Clay - *Viola* - sculpted and painted stylist head

Sophia Goncalves - *Melting Hue* - charcoal & pastel still life drawing

Emma Huedepohl - *Christmas Farmhouse* - ceramic slab house

Alexa Jones - *Ornate Snake Pot* - ceramic coil pot

Brooke Lohle - *Dark Skies Over Hidden Glaciers* - acrylic painting

Jolene Ortega - *Gnome Home* - ceramic slab house

Ava Real - acrylic portrait

Lana Schneider - *Mimi* - acrylic painting

Sophia Trzyna - *Night Terrors* - watercolor painting

- Congratulation to the following teachers on receiving the BEF's Janice Jordan Excellence in Education Award:
 - Kerry Collins, Elementary Recipient
 - Kit Neilsen, Secondary Recipient
 - Jess McGlinchey, Elementary Recipient, 2022

2.A. CABE Board Member Appreciation Month

The Month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation Month. Dr. Carver on behalf of the BPS community thanked the Board for the time and effort they devote to board business.

3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES

3.A. Science of Reading Update

Dr. Carver, Mrs. Rutledge, Dr. Brooks, Mrs. Legnard, and Ms. Soucy provided the Board with an update on the work in the Science of Reading Masterclass and district work over the course of the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Rutledge updated the Board on the status of the reading pilot. There will be a six-week pilot program April to May. They will pilot two programs, MyView and Intro to Reading K-5 and come to the Board in June with a recommendation.

4. Consent Calendar

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.A.1. March 2, 2023

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

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

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

7.A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien spoke to the Board and thanked members who attended the public hearing. The Town Meeting is on April 3rd at 7 PM at BHS and would greatly appreciate members attending it as well. Ms. O'Brien commented on the staff tuition policy and reminded the Board it was created for the attraction and retention of staff. It is a common practice in other districts for the same reason. Ms. O'Brien reminded the Board and will continue to do so periodically, to always model civility, as it is a Board objective in the district's Strategic Plan.

7.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver informed the Board:

- The STEAM Expo will be held 4/19, 267 students will display projects.
- The regional transportation initiative with EdAdvance will have 5 districts in the collaborative. The Board's attorney will be reviewing the contract this week and it will be implemented in the fall.
- Revised Inventory of Mandates - The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) engaged Tom Mooney from Shipman and Goodwin to revise the

list of legislative mandates for Public Schools since 2015. The list, which is 50 pages long, comprises 125 different mandates since 2015. *While many of these mandates are well-intentioned*, we can not continue to maintain the pace and cost of implementation.

- HVAC at BHS: The BOS accepted the bid to replace ERU 2 (science unit). We had Craig Razza from Kohler Rohnan at the meeting (virtually) to get the process moving. Now that the bid has been approved, Jen and Bob will schedule a meeting with the contractor to get a timeline. The second project, used with ARP funding, is the replacement and work associated with AHX1. At the recommendation of Kohler Rohnan, we went out to bid on just the unit. We have the bid results for that project and will be taking it to the BOS at their next meeting. While completing the final designs and given the delay in actually obtaining the unit, they felt that if we get the unit itself on site, we could expedite the installation. Lastly, we have not heard about the grant application yet. Dr. Carver will email the Office of School Construction again.
- The Public Hearing on the budget is Monday, March 20th at 7:00 PM at Bethel High School.
- The Annual Town Meeting on the budget is Monday, April 3 at 7:00 PM at Bethel High School.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences were last week.
- The Military Ball will be Friday, March 24th. This is the first year Dr. Carver will be unable to attend due to a family commitment. Dr. Brooks will represent central office.
- Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation did an introductory training on protocols to evaluate threat assessments. It was attended by our administration, SROs, PPS Coordinators, and members of the Bethel Police Department. As a next step, we are setting up more advanced training.
- School Improvement Planning for 2023-2024 - Our Leadership Team began the process of School Improvement Planning for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Assessment Schedules - In March we begin the spring administration of NWEA testing in Literacy and Mathematics. Later in the spring, state testing begins.
- Supt. Evaluation Meeting Dates
 - June 5, 2023 - BOE Special Meeting, Executive Session - Supt. Eval. Part I, 5:30-7:30 PM
 - June 19, 2023 - BOE Special Meeting, Executive Session - Supt. Eval. Part II, 5:30-7:30 PM

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

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

8. Reports to the Board

8.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

8.A.1. BMS STEAM Curriculum

Move to approve the Bethel Middle School STEAM curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs.

Jen Larsen and a second by Ms. Melanie O'Brien.

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

8.A.2. BHS French Curriculum

Move to approve the Bethel High School French 2, French 3, and French 4 curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

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

8.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

8.B.1. Personnel

8.B.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 revisions are shown in the document.

Move to approve Job Description 6.18 - College & Career Center Associate. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.

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

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:23 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder