

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, J. Variale, M. Rutledge

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

Board Members Present:

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Absent
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Absent
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present, arrived 7:03 PM

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2023 JUN 19 P 4: 07

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1. Call to Order

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

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Dr. Carver commended BHS and BMS on their graduation and moving-up ceremonies. They were very memorable and very well done.

- Congratulations to both Bethel Middle Schools students Lily Friedland and Avini Shah for being awarded the Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Awards.
- Disha Lal and Dev Lal, Grade 6, BMS, recently participated in the Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge 2023 and out of the 25,000 submissions, theirs was one of the 25 selected for recognition! The students were invited to attend the award ceremony on 6/9 in Hartford where Connecticut's Lt. Governor, Susan Bysiewicz, and Chief Marketing Officer, Paul Lavoie, and other Leaders presented certificates of recognition to all of the 25.
- Toshan Bhattacharya, Grade 8, BMS, won three more awards over the weekend. The CT Science Center Award Innovation in Open Source Award by Red Hat and the NBC and Comcast - Connecting You Award

2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

None.

3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES

None.

4. Consent Calendar

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.A.1. May 24, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023 - Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

4.A.2. June 5, 2023 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of June 5, 2023 - Special Meeting Passed with a motion by Mrs. Courtney Martin and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.

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

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

7.A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien also complimented both BHS and BMS on their graduation and moving-up ceremonies. She spoke about the district dashboard enrollment numbers and would like the offenses broken out. Ms. O'Brien spoke about the agenda for the Board's August meeting. Board goals 2023/24, parent engagement, Strategic Plan, and Board meetings.

7.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver informed the Board about the after-action meeting with Police Chief and Patrol Sergeant regarding recommendations and how the information will be used during the administrative retreat, specifically the reunification plan. Bethel will be contracting with EdAdvance as part of a collaborative of area districts for SPED transportation. Dr. Carver reviewed some of the many legislative changes reviewed at CABE's Legislative Update meeting. Dr. Carver reviewed current enrollment concerns, kindergarten currently has 179 with another 20 in the enrollment process and due to grade 4 enrollment will need another grade 4 teacher. 234 are currently in grade 3 and another 10 are currently in the enrollment process. The administration is keeping an eye on enrollment.

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

Dr. Carver shared the district data sheet with the Board.

8. Reports to the Board

8.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

8.A.1. K-5 Reading Program Adoption- My View

Motion to approve the K-5 reading program, My View. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

8.B. Policy

8.B.1. Regulation 5141.11 - School Bus Accidents

Move to table discussion on Regulation 5141.11 - School Bus Accidents to the August meeting.

Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

8.C. Resource Management & Business Operations

8.C.1. Personnel

8.C.1.a. Substitute Teacher Rate

Motion to approve, effective June 1, 2023, the new Daily Substitute Teacher rate at \$100 per day and the Building Substitute Teacher Rate is \$110.00. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Courtney Martin and a second by Ms. Melanie O'Brien.

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

8.C.2. Finance

8.C.2.a. Food Service Management Company Contract Renewal

Motion to authorize Jennifer Variale, Director of Finance & Business Operations, to finalize all paperwork with the CSDE and sign a CSDE approved extension of contract with FSMC Sodexo for the year 2023-2024. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

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

8.C.2.b. Financial Update

Mrs. Variale updated the Board on the year-end financial status. They are working to close the books. Watching everything very closely. There is a risk of needing to use funds from the unexpended funds account.

9. Recommended Executive Session

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

- Bethel BOE Food Service Employees Union
- Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries
- Non-Union Salaries

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

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, J. Variale (Item #1 only)

Move into Executive Session at 7:46 PM. Inviting Mrs. Variale in for the first item. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

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

Move to come out of Executive Session at 8:11 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

Move to approve the memorandum of agreement with the Bethel BOE Food Service Employees Union. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

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

Move to approve the Tentative Agreement for Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries. 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
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea

Move to approve Non-Union Salaries recommendations made by the Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

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

10. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:13 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
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea

Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pare

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Board Recorder