

**Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.**

**Attendance: None.**

**Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, D. Burns, C. Troetti, C. Sipala, M. Rutledge, B. Watson,**

**J. Ackerman, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Board Members Attendance:**

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

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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**

- Bethel High School has been accepted into the Connecticut FAFSA Challenge as a Tier II school. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) was impressed with the strategies and innovative ideas for improving FAFSA completion rates outlined in the BHS application, and the CSDE is excited that Bethel High School has chosen to participate.
- Congratulations to Brittany Kearney, Rockwell School Art Teacher. Brittany has received the 2023 Connecticut Outstanding Elementary Level Art Educator of the Year. This award recognizes and celebrates her exemplary contribution to the field of visual arts education in Connecticut.
- Congratulations to Sofiane Hilmi, Toby Johnson, Surya Kumar, Brian Nguyen, Tristan Scott, Rohan Sinha, and Hannah Van Rijnsouw who were named commended students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship program. About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. They are among the top 50,000 students who entered the competition by taking the 2022 PSAT.
- Thank you to MW Photography, family photographer Melissa Wilson who donated her time to take photos at Night at the Johnson Library. Melissa makes the professional photo

files available for free to parents. Johnson's PTO President, Cassie Stevenson posts the photos for parents. She did this for our Special Friends Dance last spring, too. They are a special memory for our Johnson School families.

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

### Gifts:

Donation of fence at BMS for an outdoor recess area. Addressi Fencing, Danbury.

### Grants:

- FAFSA Challenge Update - Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) grant for \$7,445. This award includes the \$1,000 prize for any school that achieves its 2022-23 FAFSA Challenge goal.
- High Dosage Tutoring - Dr. Brooks and the Bethel Middle School Team wrote a grant for High Dosage Tutoring. This grant, specifically focused on tutoring in the area of mathematics, is to provide small group tutoring, with the outside provider, Smart Start Education. The grant total is \$286,000. This will provide much-needed support in mathematics. The funds need to be expended by 2025.
- Primary Mental Health Grant, \$20,000. The primary objective of the project is to provide supportive and child-centered tier 2 intervention, and increased communication and collaboration with parents/guardians, for students in grades K-2.
- Donation of Literacy Libraries (K-3) - Due to the fact that Bethel is part of the initial pilot for the Science of Reading, the Connecticut State Department of Education will be providing literacy libraries for all K-3 classrooms.

## **3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES**

### **3.A. BHS SIP Presentation**

Mr. Troetti, BHS Principal, provided a brief presentation on the BHS School Improvement Plans for the 2023-2024 school year. The presentation provided the Board with an overview of the focus of the school based on the district Theory of Action. Mr. Troetti reviewed student learning outcome measures and major strategies/action steps to achieve those outcomes.

### **3.B. Pathways Program**

Mr. Troetti provided an overview of the status of the programs, including enrollment. While many of the Pathways started strongly, COVID significantly disrupted student enrollment and participation in the Pathways as students were unable to do internships during those years

The BHS Pathways Program is designed to connect students with specific interests to a concentration of study. The program allows students to increase their depth of knowledge, participate in internships and/or other varied experiences, and provides them with an opportunity to earn a certificate upon graduation. There are six Pathways: Arts

Pathway Education, Global Studies, Business, Healthcare, and Career Technical Readiness. 330 students have signed up for pathways since 2015.

### **3.C. Strategic Plan Update - Fall 2023**

Dr. Carver provided the Board with an update on revisions made to the action steps within the Strategic Plan by the Strategic Planning Committee. The larger Committee met last Spring to review district data and the latest educational research to consider themes from the data that emerged. This September, the Committee consolidated those themes to make minor revisions to the plan. The revisions were minor. Specifically, the committee wanted to ensure:

- The work in the Science of Reading was reflected in the document.
- The workaround intellectual engagement or where students are cognitively engaged in tasks that represent rigorous. The committee feels that the work is to continue to focus on instruction towards grade-level standards.
- Elimination of language around digital portfolios and personalized learning inventories. While this would be a future goal, it is not a current priority given all other needs.
- Added action step to strengthen relationships with families as partners in supporting academic outcomes.

## **4. Resource Management & Business Operations**

### **4.A. Finance**

#### **4.A.1. Use Fees Charged Students**

In response to the Board's request for a review of all dues and fees charged to families. Dr. Carver provided the Board with a comprehensive list of the results. She noted, in the analysis of the information, it is important to note that not all dues and fees are collected by the school system and most are a result of optional participation in after-school clubs, athletics, or activities. If a student is not able to pay the fees due to being eligible for free or reduced lunch, then the fee is waived

Board members are to highlight lines where they have questions or suggestions to include in the budget directly in the user fees sheet for future discussion.

### **4.B. Personnel**

#### **4.B.1. Job Description 1.09 - Supervisor of Facility and Security Operations**

**Move to approve Job Description 1.09 - Supervisor of Facility and Security Operations as amended. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.**

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

#### **4.B.2. Job Description 6.07 - Payroll Coordinator**

**Move to approve Job Description 6.07 - Payroll Coordinator as updated. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.**

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

### **5. Consent Calendar**

#### **5.A. Approval of Minutes**

##### **5.A.1. September 21, 2023**

**Move to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.**

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea

### **6. Correspondence**

- Invitation to BOE members to attend K-5 Family Math Night, November 16, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Johnson School from Mrs. Legnard, K-3 Instructional Math Coach.

### **7. Public Comment**

- Gabriella Flores, 114 Knollwood Drive, asked about anti-bias training for staff and students, supports for SPED students who age out and not able to go to college, instructions in different languages for applying for college, scholarship programs for student who do not meet the free & reduced lunch requirements.

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

### **8.A. Board Chairperson Update**

None.

### **8.B. Administrative Update**

- Reminder - BOE members need to accept or decline calendar invites for BOE and committee meetings.
- Dr. Carver spoke to the Board about Girls' Golf.

#### **8.B.1. 2023-2024 BOE District Data Sheet**

Dr. Carver provided the Board with the monthly 2023-2024 BOE District Data Sheet.

## **9. Reports to the Board**

### **9.A. Policy**

#### **9.A.1. Second Reading/Approval**

**9.A.1.a. Policy 1120 - Board of Education Meetings**

**9.A.1.b. Policy 6141.321 - Student Responsible Use Policy for Use of District Technology Resources**

**9.A.1.c. Policy & Regulation 4118.5 - Employee Responsible Use Policy for Use of District Technology Resources**

**9.A.1.d. Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices**

**9.A.1.e. Policy & Regulation 1330 - Use of School Facilities**

**Move to approve the following:**

**Policy 1120 - Board of Education Meetings**

**Policy 6141.321 - Student Responsible Use Policy for Use of District Technology Resources**

**Policy & Regulation 4118.5 - Employee Responsible Use Policy for Use of District Technology Resources**

**Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices**

**Policy & Regulation 1330 - Use of School Facilities Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.**

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

### **9.B. Community Outreach, Alignment, & Communications**

Dr. Carver informed the Board the committee reviewed and discussed the calendar schedule for

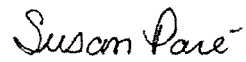
the elementary schools of promoting student and parent engagement in literacy.

**10. Adjourn**

**Move to adjourn at 8:27 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.**

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare  
Board Recorder