

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801 and via Live Stream.

Attendance: Naomi Hambrecht, Christine Capone

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, C. Troetti, M. Caron, T. Soucy, B. Grieco, C. Sipala, M. Rutledge, D. Burns,

M. O'Brien, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

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| Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: | Absent |
| Mr. Scott Clayton: | Present, arrived 6:04 PM |
| Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: | Present |
| Mr. Bill Foster: | Present, arrived 6:04 PM |
| Mrs. Jen Larsen: | Present |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin: | Present |
| Mr. Daniel Nostin: | Present |
| Ms. Melanie O'Brien: | Present |
| Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: | Absent |

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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

- Congratulations to the BHS Marching Wildcats and Guard they are both Connecticut State Champions and National Champs 2023 class II AA. They received Best visuals, Best color guard, Best music, and Best overall effect. A parade on campus was held on November 13th to honor them.
- Congratulations to the Boys' Soccer Team for winning the SWC last Thursday night.
- Congratulations to the BHS NJROTC Marching Drill Team for placing 2nd overall at the SUNY Maritime College Drill Meet. Our Varsity and JV Color Guards placed 1st, we placed 2nd in the academic competition and the physical fitness competition, and 3rd in platoon drill.
- Congratulations to Cindy Feuerman, Audio/Visual Tech., BHS for receiving the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications - HONORABLE MENTION - Special Project (AV) - Bethel Turf Fields - Thank You for Your Support

2.A. CABE Board of Distinction Award - Level II

The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize boards which provide effective leadership to their districts through the use of good practices. This program, which acknowledges the importance of school board members and superintendents working together as effective teams, strengthens public education in Connecticut and across the country. This award recognizes Boards which are truly exemplary. The award will be presented at the 2023 CABE/CAPSS Conference tomorrow.

Dr. Carver and Ms. O'Brien, Chair, thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to the families and children of Bethel Public Schools and their tireless commitment and support to fulfilling the mission of the Bethel Public Schools.

2.B. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

Gift

Rockwell School - \$230, Rockwell School Library. Donors Choose

3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES

3.A. Berry School/Rockwell School SIP

Dr. Grieco and Ms. Soucy presented their 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans. While their presentation provided a broad overview, the plans contain greater detail, which is focused on literacy, intellectual engagement of students, and work around emotional intelligence.

3.B. SRBI Presentation

At the request of the Board of Education, Dr. Brooks, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Rutledge, Director of Teaching & Learning, reviewed the district's SRBI or intervention systems within the Bethel Public Schools.

4. Consent Calendar

4.A. Approval of Minutes

4.A.1. October 19, 2023

Move to approve the minutes of October 19, 2023. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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| Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: | Abstain |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin: | Abstain |
| Ms. Melanie O'Brien: | Abstain |
| Mr. Scott Clayton: | Yea |
| Mr. Bill Foster: | Yea |
| Mrs. Jen Larsen: | Yea |

Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea

5. Correspondence

- Letter from BHS hockey families regarding Bethel's hockey fees.
- Letter from Naomi Hambrecht, hockey parent, regarding hockey fees.

6. Public Comment

- Naomi Hambrecht, 4 Chipmunk Terrace, spoke about the cost of participation in the hockey program and the equipment needed.
- Christine Capone, 3 Gretchen Lane, spoke about the cost of participation in the hockey program and the equipment needed.

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

7.A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien spoke about the election and congratulated the Board members who were re-elected and new Board member Jennifer Lewis. Jennifer will be sworn in next month in December.

7.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver will provide the Board with an overview of the budget challenges going into the budget planning for next year at the December meeting. The Board will continue to look at user fees. It has been referred to the Resource Management & Business Operations committee. Dr. Carver spoke about enrollment growth that continues daily. There are a lot more students moving in, additionally, the ELL (English Language Learner) student population has grown significantly, and the district will need additional ELL staff.

7.B.1. 2023-2024 BOE District Data Sheet

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

8. Reports to the Board

8.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

8.A.1. American Studies

Motion to approve the American Studies curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.

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

8.A.2. Global Issues and Civics and Law and Civics

Motion to approve Global Issues and Civics and Law and Civics curricula. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.

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

8.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

8.B.1. Finance

8.B.1.a. Budget Transfers

Move to approve the budget transfers as presented. Passed with a motion by Mr. Bill Foster and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

8.B.1.b. Quarterly Financial Update

Ms. Variale, Director of Finance & Business Operations, reviewed the quarterly spending report and spoke about the unexpended funds account.

8.B.1.c. Use Fees Charged Students

The Bethel Board of Education requested a review of all dues and fees charged to families. They spoke about the results again, and the need to look at all the user fees not just one sport, such as hockey. After discussion, the item was referred to the Resource Management & Business Operations Committee.

8.B.2. Facilities

8.B.2.a. Long-Term Capital Plan 2023-2033 - Approval

Motion to approve the Long-Term Capital Plan 2023-2033. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Ms. Melanie O'Brien.

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| Mr. Scott Clayton: | Yea |
| Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: | Yea |

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| Mr. Bill Foster: | Yea |
| Mrs. Jen Larsen: | Yea |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin: | Yea |
| Mr. Daniel Nostin: | Yea |
| Ms. Melanie O'Brien: | Yea |

8.C. Policy

8.C.1. District Climate Plan

Although the District Safe School Climate Plan is a regulation, it does require Board approval by statute. The district Social Emotional Learning and School Climate Collaborative, made up of parents, students, teachers, PPS staff and administration provides input and provides revisions within the document. Once it is approved, Dr. Brooks will update it on the district's website, and it will be sent out to parents and staff.

Move to approve the District Safe School Climate Plan. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

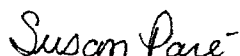
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|-----------------------|-----|
| Mr. Scott Clayton: | Yea |
| Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: | Yea |
| Mr. Bill Foster: | Yea |
| Mrs. Jen Larsen: | Yea |
| Mrs. Courtney Martin: | Yea |
| Mr. Daniel Nostin: | Yea |
| Ms. Melanie O'Brien: | Yea |

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder