

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting - Annual Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: Melanie O'Brien

Administrative Attendance: K. Brooks, J. Variale, M. Rutledge, C. Sipala

J. Ackerman, Vice Chair, 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. Jennifer Lewis:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist:	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. Selection of Temporary Chairperson

Move to nominate Dr. Brooks as temporary Chairman Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3. Annual Meeting

3.A. Election of Officers

3.A.1. Nominations for Chairman of the Board

Move to nominate Scott Clayton for Chairman of the Board of Education for 2024. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.A.2. Nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board

Move to nominate Dan Nostin for Vice Chairman of the Board of Education for 2024. Passed with a motion by Mr. Bill Foster and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.A.3. Nominations for Secretary of the Board

Move to nominate Jen Larsen for Secretary of the Board of Education for 2024. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

Move to add agenda item 12.B.1.c. Pay-to-Play. Passed with a motion by Mr. Bill Foster and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.B. 2024 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Move to approve the 2024 Board of Education Meeting Dates. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.C. 2024 Proposed Standing Committees Assignments

Scott Clayton, Chair, spoke to the Board regarding the 2024 Standing Committees. Proposed 2024 standing committees will come to the Board at the next meeting.

3.D. Code of Ethics

Board members signed the Code of Ethics for 2024.

4. New Board Members Welcome

- Congratulations to Jennifer Lewis who has been elected to the Board of Education and sworn in.
- Congratulations to Pat Rist who has been appointed and sworn in to the vacant seat on the Board left by Melanie O'Brien's resignation. The Board welcomed both Jennifer and Pat to the Board.

5. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

- Congratulations to the BHS NJROTC Academic Team that participated in level one of the National Joint Leadership Academic Bowl. Each of the two teams placed in the top twenty percent nationally and qualified for level two.
- Thank you to Board Member, Kara DiBartolo, who volunteered as the Book Fairy last week at the Rockwell/Berry Literacy Night. She read for an hour and a half to groups of students.

5.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

Gifts

- Loren & Patrick Salerno, Lorenzo Industries in Bethel donated \$3000 in Amazon gift cards to be distributed to our families in need for the holidays.

6. Action Item

6.A. School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement (SRO MOU) Review and Approval

Move to approve the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement (SRO MOU) as revised. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

7. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES

7.A. Issues Affecting the 2024-2025 Proposed Board of Education Budget

Dr. Brooks informed the Board this item is rescheduled for January 4, 2023, due to Dr. Carver's absence.

8. Consent Calendar

8.A. Approval of Minutes

8.A.1. November 16, 2023

Move to approve the minutes of November 16, 2023. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Abstain
Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea

9. Correspondence

- Letter of resignation from the Board of Education from Ms. Melanie O'Brien, Board Chair.
- Email -Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Fwd_ BOE decision for IceCats Hockey - W. Capone - Bethel Hockey Families.
 - Letter from BHS hockey families regarding the BOE decision for Ice Cats Hockey fees (12/12/23)
 - Letter from BHS hockey families regarding Bethel's hockey fees (11/16/23)
- Email - Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - School Calendar - J. Schenkel

10. Public Comment

M. O'Brien, 12 Cross Hill Road. Spoke to the Board about Board member responsibilities and thanked the Board for their work and commitment to the schools and community. Ms. O'Brien was presented with the school bell and Jen Ackerman thanked Ms. O'Brien for her service to the Board.

11. Administrative/Board Member Update

11.A. Board Chairperson Update

Scott Clayton, Chair spoke to the Board about his past service on the Board. He has served on the Board for 17 years.

11.B. Administrative Update

None.

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

The Board was provided with the monthly 2023-2024 BOE District Data Sheet.

12. Reports to the Board

12.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

12.A.1. Literary Arts Publications Curriculum

Motion to approve the Literary Arts Publications curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Abstain
Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea

12.A.2. English 31 & 32 Curricula

Motion to approve the English 31 and English 32 curricula. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Abstain
Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea

12.A.3. Creative Writing Curriculum

Motion to approve the Creative Writing curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Abstain
Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea

12.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

12.B.1. Finance

12.B.1.a. Circle of Friends Early Childhood Program Tuition

Move to approve the proposed Circle of Friends tuition rates for 2024-2025. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin 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
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

12.B.1.b. Substitute Rate of Pay

Move to approve the proposed substitute and building substitute pay increases effective on 1/1/2024 as proposed. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

12.B.1.c. Pay-to-Play

Bill Foster informed the Board at the Resource Management & Business Operations committee meeting that the majority of the committee members felt it was not the appropriate time to take on the additional costs or fees in the Board's budget. Therefore, it died in committee.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

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

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Jennifer Lewis:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pare

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Board Recorder