

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting - Budget Workshop/Budget Deliberations/Approval held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801 and via Live Stream.

Attendance: Linda Siladi, Amy Hannequin, Melissa Hannequin, Karen Neville, Margaret Genuararo, Doug Tuissaint, Fjordlba Mykollari, Robyn Gerety, Michele Russo, Kara Rondano, Lily Friedland, Meghan Friedland, Nat Claridge,

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale, B. Grieco, B. Watson, M. Walsh, C. Sipala, D. Burns

S. Clayton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Present
Anthony Cassio: Present
Mr. Scott Clayton: Present
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Present
Mr. Bill Foster: Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Present
Ms. Pat Rist: Present, arrived 7:01 PM
Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Present

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1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

- Kara Rondano, 12 Grandview Terrace, spoke in support of the music program.

3. Correspondence

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Budget - A. Piera
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Correspondence for 2/18 Budget Meeting - 3rd Grade Strings Program - L. Friedland
- Letter - Fluoride in drinking water - W. Brown
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Budget - E. Tegmier

4. Recommended Executive Session

- 4.A. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Bethel Administrators' Negotiations**

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Present

Anthony Cassio:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist:	Present
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Present

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver

Move to enter into Executive Session for Negotiations - Bethel Administrators' Negotiations at 7:05 PM inviting Dr. Carver. Passed with a motion by Ms. Pat Rist and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

Move to come out of Executive Session at 7:28 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

5. Budget Workshop - Budget Deliberations/Approval

Move to accept the noted recommended cuts from Dr. Carver's memo of February 13, 2025:

\$202,134 - Change elementary specials schedule for greater efficiencies between Berry School and Rockwell School
\$196,993 - Reduction of 2.5 coaches

\$35,750 - Reduction of Grade 5 Section

\$93,000 - Proposed School Psychologist Position

\$152,626 - Move Library Media into specials rotation (3-8)

\$6,764 - Incorporate 3rd Grade Strings into School Day (JS)

\$19,000 - Assessment Reduction

Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Anthony Cassio: Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Yea

Move to accept the 460 account as written in the amount of \$728,144. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Anthony Cassio: Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Yea

The Board noted the cuts included in the approved motion bring the budget increase down to 8.54%.

6. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Passed with a motion by Ms. Pat Rist and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Anthony Cassio: Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

Mr. Jeffrey Spies:

Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pare

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Board Recorder