

Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022 7:00 PM

Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801

1. Call to Order	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
1.A. Roll Call for Quorum	
1.B. Pledge of Allegiance	
2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence	
2.A. Board Member Appreciation Month	
2.B. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests	
3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES	
4. Consent Calendar	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
4.A. Approval of Minutes	
4.A.1. February 15, 2022	
4.A.2. March 24, 2022 - Special Meeting	
5. Correspondence	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
6. Public Comment (Please note: The Board welcomes Public Comment and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 2 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the Bethel Public School System.)	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
7. Administrative/Board Member Update	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
7.A. Board Chairperson Update	
7.B. Administrative Update	
7.B.1. 2021-2022 BOE District Data Sheet	
8. Reports to the Board	
8.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices	
8.A.1. STEAM Course - Bethel Middle School	
8.B. Policy	Speaker(s): Policy 9310, 9311, 9313
8.B.1. Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement	
8.B.2. First Reading	
8.B.2.a. Regulation 2120 Organizational Chart	Speaker(s): Christine

		Carver
8.B.2.b.	Policy 2130 - Job Descriptions	Speaker (s): Christine Carver
8.B.2.c.	Policy & Regulation 2131 Superintendent of Schools	Speaker (s): Christine Carver
8.B.2.d.	Policy 2141 Recruitment and Retention of the Superintendent of Schools	Speaker (s): Christine Carver
8.B.2.e.	Policy 2142 Evaluation of the Superintendent	Speaker (s): Christine Carver
8.B.3.	Second Reading/Approval	
8.B.3.a.	Policy 1416 - Fiscal Authorities	Speaker (s): Christine Carver
8.B.3.b.	Policy 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property	
8.B.3.c.	Policy 2000 - Concept and Roles in Administration	
8.B.3.d.	Policy 2111 - Equal Employment Opportunity	
8.B.3.e.	Policy 2112 - Professional Learning	
8.B.3.f.	Policy 2113 - Grievance Procedures - Title IX	
8.C.	Resource Management & Business Operations	
8.C.1.	Finance	
8.C.1.a.	Budget Transfers	
8.C.1.b.	Food Services	
8.C.1.b.i.	Meal Prices	
8.C.1.b.ii.	Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act	
8.C.2.	Facilities	Speaker (s): Policy 3132
8.C.2.a.	ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE	
9.	Recommended Executive Session	
9.A.	CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(2) Personnel	
9.A.1.	Non-Renewals	
9.B.	<i>CT General Statutes 1-200(6)(b) Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security</i>	
10.	Adjourn	

RECEIVED

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

MAR 02 2022

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

Notification of Receipt of Gifts Received

Please send a copy of this form to the Superintendent's Office as soon as your school has received a donation of a gift. The receipt will be announced at the Board of Education regular meeting. Each school is responsible for sending the donor an acknowledgement for the gift.

Gift Received: \$22,000.00

How the Gift will Be Used:

BHS EMT Program

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift:

\$22,000.00

Donor's Name and Address

Arnhold Foundation
1370 Avenue of the Americas, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10019

(NOTE: No Goods or Services were provided by the Bethel Public Schools/Bethel Board of Education in exchange for your contribution.)

Receiving School: Bethel High School

Gift Received by (Print Name): Cheryl Hallock

Date Received: 02/17/2022

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

(Ref: Board Policy 3280)
Rev: 6/03

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

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MAR 15 2022

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

Notification of Receipt of Gifts Received

Please send a copy of this form to the Superintendent's Office as soon as your school has received a donation of a gift. The receipt will be announced at the Board of Education regular meeting. Each school is responsible for sending the donor an acknowledgement for the gift.

Gift Received: \$500

How the Gift will Be Used:

Unified Sports Program

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift:

\$500

Donor's Name and Address

Betty J. Callahan
331 Stillwater Circle
Brookfield CT 06804

(NOTE: No Goods or Services were provided by the Bethel Public Schools/Bethel Board of Education in exchange for your contribution.)

Receiving School: Bethel High School

Gift Received by (Print Name): Cheryl Hallock

Date Received: 3/7/2022

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

(Ref: Board Policy 3280)
Rev: 6/03

Dr. Carver

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

Rockwell

Notification of Receipt of Gifts, Grants, and Bequests Received

Please send a copy of this form to the Superintendent's Office as soon as your school has received a gift, grant, or bequest. The receipt will be announced at the Board of Education regular meeting. Each school is responsible for sending the donor an acknowledgement for the gift.

Gift, Grant, or Bequest Received:

materials / supplies for use in library

→ Building cooperation, communication, & creativity skills
as well as literacy

How the Gift, Grant, or Bequest will Be Used:

See attached lists

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift, Grant, or Bequest:

\$ 259.

Donor's Name and Address

See attached

mostly Donors Choose Classroom Rewards

(NOTE: No Goods or Services were provided by the Bethel Public Schools/Bethel Board of Education in exchange for your contribution.)

Receiving School:

Rockwell School

Gift, Grant, or Bequest Received by (Print Name):

Kerry Collins

Date Received:

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

(Ref: Board Policy 3280)
Rev: 6/2017

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2022

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

Donations

If you receive donations from friends and family on a project that doesn't reach full funding, you'll be able to apply those donations to your next project.

Rockwell PTO purchased a gift code for the teacher.

\$46

March 1, 2022

Rockwell PTO from Connecticut gave to Let it Glow, Let it Glow!

\$46.43

with a \$46.42 match from Valhalla Foundation

March 1, 2022

Rockwell

Maureen Collins from norwalk, CT gave to Let it Glow, Let it Glow!

\$50

Thank Maureen Collins

with a \$50 match from Valhalla Foundation

March 1, 2022

Rockwell

An anonymous donor from TX gave to Let's Take a Moment!

\$17.35

Thank you for everything you do for your students."

with a \$20.41 match from Valhalla Foundation

Thank this donor

March 1, 2022

Johnson

An anonymous donor from CT gave to Let it Glow, Let it Glow!

\$30

with a \$30 match from Valhalla Foundation

March 1, 2022

Rockwell

An anonymous donor from CT gave to Let's Take a Moment!

\$70

Thank this donor

with a \$70 match from Valhalla Foundation

March 1, 2022

Rockwell

Maureen Collins from norwalk, CT gave to Let's Take a Moment!

\$50

February 14, 2022

Johnson

An anonymous donor from CT gave to Let's Take a Moment!

\$10

January 9, 2022

Johnson

An anonymous donor from CT gave to Let's Take a Moment!

\$100

January 9, 2022

Johnson

Joanna Smith purchased a gift code for the teacher.

\$10

May 4, 2021

Rockwell

~~Kerry Collins from Connecticut gave to Let's Take it Outside!~~

~~\$291.60~~

~~Thank Kerry Collins~~

~~with a \$171.33 match from SONIC Drive In~~

~~March 2022~~

View your donations for all years

Download your donation history

Supporting teachers and students since 2000

DonorsChoose makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need. Public school teachers from every corner of America create classroom project requests, and you can give any amount to the project that inspires you.

5,204,265
SUPPORTERS

2,223,359
PROJECTS FUNDED

About Us

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- Finances
- Staff & Board
- Careers
- Web Accessibility

Ways to give

- Find a project
- Gift cards / Store
- Donor-advised funds
- Partner with us
- Give monthly
- Support us
- Volunteer with us
- Leave a legacy gift

Connect

- Help center
- Communities
- Media / Blog
- API & open data
- Design playground
- Contact us

DonorsChoose

Rockwell

Build momentum for your project. Share it with your friends and family!

Share via email

Share via Messenger

Post on Facebook

Share on Twitter

Let it Glow, Let it Glow!

Help me give my students a fun way to enjoy library time with a Glow Party! The black lights and glow sticks will really bring our space to life.

4 DONORS

\$259 GOAL

[View order status](#)

[Change your classroom photo](#)

MRS. COMINS

Grades PreK-2

Anna H Rockwell Elementary

School

Bethel, CT

This project will reach **340** students.

4 donors have given to this project.

SHARE PROJECT



My Project

What better way to excite my young students in library than to offer an innovative Glow Party? The kids come into library ready and eager to read and explore.

Power Cord, IP66 Blacklight for
Glow Party, Stage Lighting, Body
Paint, Fluorescent Poster, Birthday
Wedding Party • AMAZON BUSINESS

14 Pack Premium Disposable Black Plastic Tablecloth - 54 x 108 in. Rectangle Plastic Tablecloths - Colors. Red, Blue, Black, White, Green, Gold, Pink, Yellow - Use for Indoor Or Outdoor. for Parties. • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$16.14	1	\$16.14
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GreyParrot Tape UV Tape Blacklight Reactive, (6 Pack), (6 Colors), 1/2inx33ft Per Roll, Fluorescent Cloth Tape, Glow in The Dark Tape Under UV Black Light + 1 Pack Highlighter Pen (1/2in x 33ft) • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$10.80	1	\$10.80
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[View complete list](#)



DonorsChoose is the most trusted classroom funding site for teachers.

As a teacher-founded nonprofit, we're trusted by thousands of teachers and supporters across the country. This classroom request for funding was created by Mrs. Collins and reviewed by the DonorsChoose team.

[See how DonorsChoose works](#)

TO: Principal and Administrators at Anna H Rockwell Elementary School
FROM: DonorsChoose (212-239-3615)
RE: Mrs. Collins got funding for her classroom!

Give Mrs. Collins a high five! Mrs. Collins's classroom project "Let it Glow, Let it Glow!" was recently funded through DonorsChoose. A list of your donors is at the bottom of this fax, if you want to see the folks who are eager to support everything teachers are doing at Anna H Rockwell Elementary School.

The resources for this project will arrive soon, and we'd love your help ensuring they reach Mrs. Collins's classroom when they arrive. Here's what you can expect:

1. Onforu 4 Pack 24W LED Black Light Bar with ... x 1
2. 400 Glow Sticks Bulk Party Supplies - Glow ... x 3
3. 14 Pack Premium Disposable Black Plastic Ta... x 1
4. GreyParrot Tape UV Tape Blacklight Reactive... x 1

Rockwell

Please tell your front office to expect delivery of any materials within the next few weeks, and ask them to inform Mrs. Collins when packages arrive.

If Mrs. Collins is no longer teaching at your school, or if there is another reason this project should not be completed, please contact us immediately at principals@donorschoose.org. Save this notice if you need documentation of grants received.

DonorsChoose.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps public school teachers get resources for their classrooms. For information about the use of resources or experiences funded through our site, visit www.donorschoose.org/resourcepolicy.

If you'd prefer to receive these notifications as emails, contact us at principals@donorschoose.org. To learn more about DonorsChoose and how you can work with your teachers to get even more projects funded at your school, please visit www.donorschoose.org/principals and sign up to receive our Principal Toolkit.

Thank you for fostering an environment where teachers go above and beyond for their students!

The DonorsChoose Team

Mrs. Collins inspired donations from:

MAureen Collins (norwalk, CT) *has given to your school 3+ times!
Rockwell Pto (Connecticut)
Anonymous (Monroe, CT) *has given to your school 3+ times!
Valhalla Foundation *has given to your school 3+ times!

See why these donors gave at <https://www.donorschoose.org/project/let-it-glow-let-it-glow/6236913/>.

donorschoose.org

134 W. 37th St

NU NU 10018

11th Fl

Dr. Carver

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

Johnson

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See attached lists



Estimated Cash Value of the Gift, Grant, or Bequest:

\$ 373.

Donor's Name and Address

See attached

mostly Donors Choose Classroom Rewards

(NOTE: No Goods or Services were provided by the Bethel Public Schools/Bethel Board of Education in exchange for your contribution.)

Receiving School:

Johnson School

Gift, Grant, or Bequest Received by (Print Name):

Kerry Collins

Date Received:

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

(Ref: Board Policy 3280)
Rev: 6/2017

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2022

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

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March 2022

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About Us

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Ways to give

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Gift cards / Store
Donor-advised funds
Partner with us
Give monthly
Support us
Volunteer with us

Connect

- Help center
Communities
Media / Blog
API & open data
Design playground
Contact us

DonorsChoose

Johnson School

Build momentum for your project. Share it with your friends and family!

Share via email

Share via Messenger

Post on Facebook

Share on Twitter

Let's Take a Moment

Help me give my students some much-needed materials for some outdoor learning and indoor creativity time with picnic blankets, clipboards, and a few walkie-talkies.

6 DONORS

\$373 GOAL

View order status

Change your classroom photo
MRS. COMINS

Grades 3-5
Anna H Rockwell Elementary
School

Bethel, CT

This project will reach **300** students.

6 donors have given to this project.

SHARE PROJECT    

My Students

I have a dynamic group of kids from Kindergarten to grade 4 for library lessons within two schools. Our students have been champions as we face in-person learning with a library presented from a cart. They continue to smile and engage while sitting behind shields and wearing masks. A wide

and the opportunity to get outside.

Bethel, CT Grades 3-5 Social Emotional Learning

Mental Health Flexible Seating



This classroom project was brought to life by Valhalla Foundation and 5 other donors.

Where Your Donation Goes

MATERIALS	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Picnic Blanket, Picnic Blankets Waterproof Foldable with 3 Layers Material, 80"x80" Extra Large Picnic Blanket Outdoor Blanket Picnic Mat for Camping Beach Park Hiking • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$19.99	6	\$119.94
Plastic Clipboards (Set of 6) Multi Pack Clipboard (Red) Strong 12.5 x 9 Inch Holds 100 Sheets! Acrylic Clipboards with Low Profile Clip Cute Clip Boards Board Clips • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$13.95	4	\$55.80
Keebor Sidewalk Chalk Set in 8 Colors, 52-Count Washable Chalks for Kids and Adults, Painting on Blackboard Street Driveway Playground • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$10.98	4	\$43.92
Fiskars 194160 Back to School Supplies, Kids Scissors Bulk Blunt-tip with 4-Cup Carrying Art Caddy, 24 Pack, Colors may vary • AMAZON BUSINESS	\$22.37	1	\$22.37

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Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, in Bethel Middle School, Library Media Center, 600 Whittlesey Drive, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance:

Kristin Lindstrom	Lauren Moreno	Nichole Marona
David DuBord	Sky Fusco	Amy Kotach
Asia Smith	Erin Khuth	Nicole Durust
Jen Hantzarides	Dara Fernandez	Ester Matteo
Jenn Lewis	Jenna Tomasewicz	Liz Bowers
Jess Masyar	John Tomasewicz	Kevin Maier
Michael Schafer	Ken Barchi	Jean Eadwards
Rita Hill	Mark Dwinells	Henry Bowers
Christ Hill	Pam Fontaine	Molly Tomas
Michael Teur	Kathleen Jordan	Melissa Khalatbani
Alexis Teur	Ashley Tarzia	Timothy Snyder
Lisa Topham	Kristy Ferrante	Constantina Lora
Nina, Rutkowski	Christine D'Isidori	Wendy Aponte
Beata Vlahos	Erica Marson	

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

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

Board Members Attendance:

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Governor's Plan to Eliminate Statewide School Mask Mandate

Dr. Carver presented her recommendation as outlined in her memo to the Board regarding the statewide school mask mandate. Earlier this week, Governor Lamont and the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, in a press conference, lifted the statewide school mask mandate as of February 28, 2022. In that press conference, they indicated that Superintendents and

Boards of Education had the discretion to adopt mandatory mask mandates based on local factors. State-level indicators for removing the mask mandate included:

- Declining cases;
- Rates of vaccinations;
- Improved treatments; and
- Reduction in hospitalizations

Dr. Carver stated that the Commissioner also indicated that positivity rates are not a reliable indicator anymore given the availability of home tests. The data in the Bethel Public Schools also supports similar data: significantly declining data and high vaccination rates, particularly among our most vulnerable populations.

She informed the Board of the newly adopted law by the legislature since the Governor's announcement, *An Act Concerning the Extension of Certain Executive Orders and Department of Public Health Authority and Covid-19 Relief Days*, did extend the Executive Orders but maintains the February 28th date. Dr. Carver noted that the legislation does allow for the Governor to renew the mask mandate in schools should the data indicate it is necessary. She also noted that the federal requirement for masks on public transportation continues to be in place, requiring masks on school buses.

Dr. Carver reviewed the Bethel Public Schools indicators of declining cases and high vaccination rates. The BPS case rate peaked during the holiday break and continues to go down, following state-wide trends. Positive cases have been reported as "flu-like" symptoms to the "mild cold", with most cases being reported with mild symptoms. In addition, many of our students only wear their masks at school and it has become increasingly difficult to have our students wear their masks appropriately. Like the state data, the BPS number of cases since the holiday has significantly declined. The Bethel community vaccination rates continue to grow. The most vulnerable populations have the highest rates of vaccinations. All families have the opportunity to be vaccinated, ages 5 and up to reduce the risk of serious illness.

In consultation with the district attorney (policy and liability implications), district medical advisor, and the Department of Health, Dr. Carver is recommending moving to masks being optional for staff and students in school. The Town's Department of Health and Medical Advisor continue to recommend masks be worn in indoor settings, following CDC guidance, when community transmission is high and/or widespread. They also recommend that individuals work with their medical provider to determine their level of risk given their personal medical circumstances.

Dr. Carver stated, as per legal analysis, given the Governor and the Department of Health have determined that it is appropriate to lift the mask mandate, the Board's Attorney reported that there would not be any increased liability on the Board. When looking at the current district policy, 5141.8, Face Coverings, it is linked to the "guidelines" issued by the State Department of Education. With the repeal of the mandate, the guidelines do not exist. The Board has two options (1) to suspend the face coverings policy or (2) leave the policy, in absence of the

guidelines, the policy would not be enforced and could be reinstated if the Governor reinstated the mask mandate.

We will still implement the following strategies:

- Require students and staff to stay home if they are sick.
- Continue to provide home tests (with available supplies) to families and staff to rule out COVID if presenting with symptoms OR as a result of exposure.
- Provide staff with N-95 masks (with available supplies from the State) for those who want to continue to wear a mask.
- Continue to maintain our HVAC systems in compliance with COVID standards.
- Encourage frequent hand washing.
- Work with families who have individualized circumstances and/or are at high risk.
- Continue to support a school environment of inclusivity which allows students and staff to use a mask and other COVID mitigation strategies that support their health and well-being if desired.

Dr. Carver informed the Board the administration does not have any guidance on any changes to protocols as a result of lifting the mask restrictions. If/when they receive that information, they will communicate it to families. They also do not know what requirements will be in place for sports and/or other activities. BPS students will have to comply to compete.

I MOVE that, consistent with the provisions of Bethel Board of Education policy 9314 and effective on February 28, 2022, Bethel Board of Education Policies 4118.237/4218.237 and 5141.8 shall be suspended until the Board takes further action on any of said enumerated policies or for the balance of the 2021-22 school year, whichever occurs first, for the purpose of making mask wearing within the schools or at school sponsored activities optional in response to the statewide elimination of mask mandates. Masks shall not be required to be worn by individuals present on school grounds or Board sponsored activities unless otherwise required by law, regulation, or by other legislative or executive order, and further subject to requirements imposed by third parties relating to Bethel school activities occurring off school grounds. Masks shall still be required to be worn on school transportation consistent with federal regulations. Furthermore, the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to act on its behalf to reinstate Bethel Board of Education Policies 4118.237/4218.237 and 5141.8 in whole or in part in the event of a change in circumstances warranting such consideration and/or upon recommendation from the Board's medical/health advisors, subject to final Board action. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea

Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

3. Public Comment

- Melanie Thomas, 17 Deer Run, thanked the Board for their action.
- Liz Bower, 8 Woodlawn Drive, spoke to support removing the masks prior to Feb.28th.
- Joan Edwards, 36 Highland Avenue, spoke in favor of science-driven decisions and keeping mask requirement.
- Jen Lawlor, 22 Beth Page Drive, spoke in favor of communication to elementary level students to relay some students may choose to still wear a mask.
- Jenna Tomaszewicz, 24 Chimney Drive, spoke about feeling that other schools should take the same action.
- Brian Sharp, 25 Turkey Plain Road, spoke about science data being a moving scale and adjusting as needed.
- John Tomaszewicz, 24 Chimney Drive, spoke in favor of choice for masks.
- Mark Dwinells, 53 Quaker Ridge Road, spoke in favor of choice for masks.
- Armin Khalatbari, 21 Taylor Road, spoke about the need for strategies to be in place regarding bullying for either wearing or not wearing a mask.
- Jen Lewis, 12 Starr Lane, spoke in favor of parent choice and respecting everyone's choice moving forward.

4. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Congratulations to Allison Amaya for her essay being chosen as a winning essay in Senator Murphy's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day essay contest! They received over 2200 entries from over 170 schools across the state this year. Allison should be very proud of her hard work!

4.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

Bethel High School

- \$1,000 for a BHS Art Scholarship, Anne Brecher, Danbury, CT.

Berry School

- \$1,000 for activities and events by PTO, Ingersoll Auto of Danbury, CT.

5. Consent Calendar

5.A. Approval of Minutes

5.A.1. December 16, 2021 - Annual Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of December 16, 2021 - Annual Meeting. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

5.A.2. January 20, 2022 - Superintendent's 2022-2023 Budget Presentation

Move to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022 - Superintendent's 2022-2023 Budget Presentation. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

5.A.3. January 25, 2022 - Budget Workshop -Schools/Athletics

Move to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022 - Budget Workshop -Schools/Athletics. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

5.A.4. January 27, 2022 - Budget Workshop - IT, Curriculum, SPED

Move to approve the minutes of January 27, 2022 - Budget Workshop - IT, Curriculum, SPED. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

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

5.A.5. February 1, 2022 - Budget Workshop - Facilities

Move to approve the minutes of February 1, 2022 - Budget Workshop - Facilities. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

5.A.6. February 3, 2022 - Budget Workshop/Approval

Move to approve the minutes of February 3, 2022 - Budget Workshop/Approval. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Scott Clayton.

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

6. Correspondence

- Letter from EdAdvance regarding District Data Report 2020-2021
- Press Release - Board of Education Essential Worker Coalition
- Press Release - Governor Lamont Announces Plan To Eliminate Statewide School Mask Requirement, Allow These Decisions To Be Determined at the Local Level
- Email from Jen Lawlor regarding pandemic mandates w/Dr. Carver's response.
- Email from Erin Barchi regarding mask mandate.
- Email from Jane Gangi regarding budget and common core.

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Bethels Plans - C. Lora
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Fw_ Let_s bring smiles back! - J. Hantzarides
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Do what's right!!! - J. Hantzarides -2
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Let kids be kids - E. Khuth
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Mask Mandates - K. Lindstrom
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Masks - K. McCrink
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - School Mask Mandate - J. Tomasiewicz
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - School masking - A. Smith
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Fwd_ BOE meeting - N. Rutkowski
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Mask Mandate Comments - A. Mikolajczyk
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Lift all mandates - N. Comcast
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Input on School Masking requirements - C. McGuire
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - please continue requiring masks in schools - S. Springer
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Re_ unmasking - J & B. Ferguson
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Unmask our kids - M. Spiller
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Unmasking our children meeting 2_15 - K & S. Salvatore Arrigo
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Spring break - Student Calendar Input - 1
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Spring break Student Calendar Input - 2
- Correspondence - Supports Masks in Schools - H. O'Neill
- Correspondence - Supports Personal Choice re-Masks in Schools - K. DeRubertis

7. Administrative/Board Member Update

7.A. Board Chairperson Update

Ms. O'Brien stated the Board had presented its budget to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. In the next step, the Board of Selectmen will present to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will deliberate on Feb. 22nd and Feb. 24th at 7 PM. Ms. O'Brien is visiting the schools and noted she begin writing a weekly letter to the community. Ms. O'Brien informed the Board there are two contract negotiations coming up and she is looking for Board members to participate.

7.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver informed the Board of the following:

District Communication Survey

After the last Community Outreach Committee meeting, we had a lengthy discussion on the best communication strategies, I polled parents on district & school communication. The results were interesting. The comments were very helpful. We had 433 responses and they were across all schools. Here were some themes:

- Parents prefer and more frequently read email/text messages.

- Parents would like emails more to the point or a summary of key ideas at the top of the communications.
- With both school and district newsletters, information is redundant. Most respondents indicated that they are more likely to read the principal or superintendent's letters.
- There were mixed comments about social media. Some people believe that they are missing communications because they are not on social media. That is not accurate. The only information that is typically put on social media that is not on other sources is pictures, student celebrations, etc.
- There is a concern about the number of different platforms that parents need to follow for classroom/teacher information. It is overwhelming.

We will use the feedback in making adjustments to our communications.

First View Bus Tracking App

First Student Bus Company has launched a bus tracking app for parents. This app, [First View](#) works with a GPS system so parents can track the bus's location. We are opening up the app districtwide after a smaller pilot. Initially, we will use the app on all of our full-size buses. The smaller vans have not been set up at this point.

7.B.1. 2021-2022 BOE District Data Sheet

Dr. Carver provided the Board the monthly 2021-2022 BOE District Data Sheet.

8. Action Items

8.A. 2022-2023 School Calendar - Approval

Move to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

8.B. 2023-2024 School Calendar - Acceptance

Move to accept the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Courtney Martin and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9. Reports to the Board

9.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

9.A.1. Music Curricula

Motion to approve the Ensembles curricula and Adaptive music curricula. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.A.2. Gifted Identification Process

This item was posted on the meeting agenda. However, this item remains in committee. No information for or Board action was needed.

9.B. Policy

9.B.1. First Reading

9.B.1.a. Policy 1416 - Fiscal Authorities

9.B.1.b. Policy 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property

9.B.1.c. Policy 2000 - Concept and Roles in Administration

9.B.1.d. Policy 2011 - Equal Employment Opportunity

9.B.1.e. Policy 2112 - Professional Learning

9.B.1.f. Policy 2013 - Grievance Procedures - Title IX

Move to accept for first reading:

Policy 1416 - Fiscal Authorities

Policy 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property

Policy 2000 - Concept and Roles in Administration

Policy 2011 - Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 2112 - Professional Learning

Policy 2013 - Grievance Procedures - Title IX

Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.B.2. Second Reading/Approval

9.B.2.a. Policy/Regulation 2232 - Electronic Records and Information

Move to approve Policy/Regulation 2232 - Electronic Records and Information. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Melanie O'Brien.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.B.2.b. Policy 5141.231 - Chemical Health Policy for Student-Athletes

Move to approve Policy 5141.231 - Chemical Health Policy for Student-Athletes. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.C. Resource Management & Business Operations

9.C.1. Personnel

9.C.1.a. Job Description - 1.08 - Director of Fiscal Services

Move to approve job description - 1.08 - Director of Finance and Business Operations as revised. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.C.2. Finance

9.C.2.a. Review of Bids for Transportation Services

Move to approve that the bid for transportation services be awarded to First Student as follows: 1) That the Director of Fiscal Services works with legal counsel to finalize and sign a five-year agreement, and 2) That the base bid is chosen to move forward with. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

9.C.2.b. Budget Transfers

Move to approve budget transfers as presented. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

9.C.2.c. Update on Current Year Budget

Dr. Carver informed the Board the SPED line is very tight and the transportation is over.

9.C.3. Facilities

9.C.3.a. ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE

Dr. Carver informed the Board the project has not yet been closed out. Also, the landscaping work will be done in the spring.

10. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:34 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, D. Burns, D. Arre, M. Rutledge, C. Sipala

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

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Kara DiBartolo:	Absent
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present, arrived 7:05 PM
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Absent
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Present

1. Call to Order

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Dr. Carver announced the *2022 Friends of Bethel Award* and the *CHAMP Award* recipients. The Bethel Public Schools has been blessed not only with outstanding staff and volunteers within the system but also with community members who have shown dedication and commitment to the Town and schools. These awards are presented annually to recognize individuals for their continuous contributions to the Bethel Public Schools, demonstrating a positive influence in uniting school and community.

The District has chosen Nicholas Hoffman to receive the 2022 Friends of Bethel Award. The District has chosen Melanie O'Brien to receive the 2022 CHAMP Award.

Move to recess at 7:05 PM. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mrs.

Jennifer Ackerman.

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

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

2.B. Board Member Appreciation Month

3. Consent Calendar

3.A. Approval of Minutes

3.A.1. February 15, 2022

4. Correspondence

- Correspondence - Voting on Masks - A. Martinez
- Press Release - Feb 25 Guidelines - CDC's Updated COVID-19 Monitoring & School Bus Masking Requirements
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - I need some copies of documents from 2-15-22 BOE meeting - P. Antolini
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Documents Requested from BOE Meeting 2-15-22 - Response

5. Public Comment

The Board meeting called back to order at 8:58 PM by Board Chair, Melanie O'Brien.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, D. Burns, D. Arre, M. Rutledge, C. Sipala

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Kara DiBartolo:	Absent
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present, arrived 9:05 PM
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Absent
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Present

6. Administrative/Board Member Update

6.A. Board Chairperson Update

6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver updated the Board on the following:

Parent University

Last Thursday we hosted the second session in our Parent University Series, on Internet Safety with Scott Driscoll. He provided parents with an overview of existing dangers with access to technology and strategies to keep children safe. This was sponsored in collaboration with the Bethel Police Department.

On April 6th, we will be bringing in a Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Catherine Stiener-Adair to run two separate sessions for parents

- Elementary Parents: The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age
- Secondary Parents: Is Tech Addictive? From Distraction to Obsession to Addiction

We are also bringing in Dr. Steiner-Adair to work with our PPS Staff, our Middle School students and our BMS and BHS faculty. Here are the topics she will be covering:

- PPS: Stomach Aches, Sleepless Nights, and Stressed for Success: The Spectrum of Stress and Anxiety in Children
- Students: When Did Cruel Get Cool: Understanding Relational Aggression On and Off Line
- Faculty: What is Acceptable, Responsible or Honorable? Using Tech as an Ally to Create a Caring and Creative School Culture

Strategic Planning Update:

We have set up a Strategic Planning Committee meeting on May 2nd from 4:00-6:00 PM. At that meeting, we will be doing a comprehensive data review of student outcomes. We believe that information will create a post-pandemic baseline going forward, setting new targets. We will also be giving the Developmental Asset Survey to our 8-12 graders in the next few weeks. As a reminder, the last time we administered the survey was in 2019.

Turf Project Update: The Turf project will begin on May 1st. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-August

District Dashboard Update: We added a Family Resources section to the District Dashboard. This section provides quick links to some important family resources. Some of those resources include our new SEL site for parents, our curriculum site, etc.

Enrollment Update: Our enrollment as of March 1st was 3215. We continue to add students. In looking at the enrollment patterns by school, the most change was at the preschool level. This makes sense given that we have to serve students with disabilities by their third birthday.

School Time Schedules for 2022-2023

We have been talking with First Student about a new three-tier bus schedule for next year to alleviate the traffic. Our biggest traffic issues are with the combination of MS/HS runs. We will not have the funding for the additional officers next year. Here is what First Student and I have come up with as potential drop off times: Dr. Carver sent an email to parents last week indicating that we will be adjusting the bell schedule for next year. Dr. Carver provide a draft schedule.

Residency Regulations Update - *Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement*

For informational purposes, the Administration made some revisions ***Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement*** for our processes in our registration process and annual verification of residency. Connecticut state law (C.G.A Sec. 10-184) requires that to attend a school in a district, the child must reside in that district. Reside means where the child physically lives.

1. Families with leases need to provide updated leases when the lease expires.
2. Month-to-month affidavits, a new process to provide-dated paperwork annually.
3. Living with a Bethel resident will require phone numbers to verify with the landlord, Bethel resident, etc.

Falsifying documentation will result in the district withdrawing the student, reporting the fraud to the Bethel Police Department, and charging tuition. Families who meet the criteria of Homeless under McKinney Vento, are advised to contact Dr. Sipala, our Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education and Homeless Liaison.

Applied to the State for the Science of Reading Act Pilot

Dr. Carver has been strongly advocating for the pilot. She feels the district has a good chance.

2021 & 2022 Graduation Rates

There are two different published graduation rates. There's Bethel High School and what the State publishes on Edsight. The big difference is the state tracks 4 yr. cohort graduations (start & finish at BHS in 4 years). They also include students with disabilities that might be receiving education services beyond that 4-year time period, up to age 21. They are calculated at that 4-year rate. Looking at just BHS it is 96-97% consistently. With students with disabilities calculated in that number differs from year to year and that number drops a little because you have a group of students that will be with us until they are 21. Last year Hispanic and black student drop out rate was at 0%.

Mock Car Crash will take place on April 20th at BHS at 10 AM to raise awareness about driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Students and first responders will reenact a real accident scene. The following departments are involved in this demonstration: The Bethel Police Department, The Bethel Fire Department, The Stony Hill Fire Department, The New Milford Police Department, The Danbury Police

Department, and the Redding Police Department. A helicopter will fly over and land in the lower field as a mock "life star" response to the scene.

6.B.1. 2021-2022 BOE District Data Sheet

Move to TABLE the remainder of the agenda through 7.B.1.a. - ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE - PROJECT CLOSE-OUT Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien 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
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Policy

7.A.1. Regulation 5111 - Admission/Placement

7.A.2. First Reading

7.A.2.a. Regulation 2120 Organizational Chart

7.A.2.b. Policy 2130 - Job Descriptions

7.A.2.c. Policy & Regulation 2131 Superintendent of Schools

7.A.2.d. Policy 2141 Recruitment and Retention of the Superintendent of Schools

7.A.2.e. Policy 2142 Evaluation of the Superintendent

7.A.3. Second Reading/Approval

7.A.3.a. Policy 1416 - Fiscal Authorities

7.A.3.b. Policy 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property

7.A.3.c. Policy 2000 - Concept and Roles in Administration

7.A.3.d. Policy 2111 - Equal Employment Opportunity

7.A.3.e. Policy 2112 - Professional Learning

7.A.3.f. Policy 2113 - Grievance Procedures - Title IX

7.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

7.B.1. Facilities

**7.B.1.a. ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/
UPDATE - PROJECT CLOSE-OUT**

Dr. Carver informed the Board the CO has been issued for the projects effective March 9th. The Public Building Site Committee accepted the projects as substantially complete. She provided the minutes to the March 9th Public Building Site Committee meeting and the Perkins Eastman Certificates for Substantial Completion from Rockwell School and Johnson School.

It now requires the action of the Board of Education to vote on a similar motion this evening. To allow the final filing, close out with the state, and trigger the audit. Dr. Carver provided the cash flow report that includes any additional site work to be completed. The Johnson Tracking Budget and Rockwell Tracking Budget.

The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Anna H. Rockwell School State Project # 009-0058 RNV as complete and authorizes the filing of the final State of Connecticut payment request with the Office of School Construction. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien and a second by Mr. Daniel Nostin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Nostin:	Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

The Bethel Board of Education moves to accept the Ralph M.T. Johnson School State Project # 009-0059 RNV as complete and authorizes the filing of the final State of Connecticut payment request with the Office of School Construction. Passed with a motion by Ms. Melanie O'Brien 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
Ms. Melanie O'Brien:	Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer:	Yea

8. Recommended Executive Session

8.A. *CT General Statutes 1-200(6)(b) Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security*

Tabled

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 9:16 AM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Daniel Nostin and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mr. Daniel Nostin: Yea

Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pare

Board Recorder



Board of Education, Bethel <boe@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Urgent request

1 message

Brad Koltz <bkoltz@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 6:07 AM

To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Cc: obrienm@bethel.k12.ct.us, Christine Carver <carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Dear Board of Education members,

I don't have children in Bethel schools, but I am deeply troubled that our school administrators seemed at first unaware of some important state and federal laws that govern how surveys are administered to students, and then once made aware of the laws appear to be going ahead and now wilfully violating them.

The federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requires that surveys of students in any of 8 protected categories have PRIOR parental written consent for children to participate. Instead parents have been told that they may opt out of the survey scheduled for Tuesday and have not even been told they can opt out of the workshop/survey scheduled for Wednesday.

CT § 10- Social-emotional learning assessment went into effect on July 1, 2021 and also requires prior parental consent. It clearly states "No student shall complete such assessment or screening unless such parent or guardian provides permission that such student may complete such assessment or screening."

I have had legal counsel review the materials available for both the Attitudes and Behaviors survey and the Names Can Hurt Us workshop/survey and they concluded that both programs require prior parental consent under both state and federal law in order for students to legally participate.

I urge the school board to hold an emergency session on this before the rights of these students and their families are violated and the schools are exposed to potentially crippling litigation.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Bradley Koltz
Bethel, CT



Board of Education, Bethel <boe@bethel.k12.ct.us>

An open letter to the Bethel Board of Education and Administrators of the Bethel Schools

1 message

Brad Koltz <bkoltz@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 4:46 PM

To: Melanie O'Brien <melaniepobrien@sbcglobal.net>, boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Cc: Christine Carver <carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Chris Troetti <troettic@bethel.k12.ct.us>, watsonb@bethel.k12.ct.us

Dear Board of Education Chair O'Brien, members of the Bethel School Board, Dr. Carver, Principal Troetti and Principal Watson:

A parent has shared the Attitudes and Behaviors survey being administered to Bethel's 8th graders on Thursday, April 7th at <https://is.gd/lcSV1z/>. Parents should be urged to review the survey to decide whether the survey is appropriate for their children. It is every parent's right under state and federal law to decide such matters and to only have such a survey administered after receiving the parent's prior written consent.

Bethel school officials have been incorrectly administering this survey and other programs to children before getting parental consent prior to having the children take the survey. They have said that the federal and state laws don't apply to them in this instance. However the laws are clear and so are the formal opinions of the US Department of Education and the Connecticut Judicial Branch that both clearly state that parental consent MUST be given PRIOR to having children take these surveys.

What follows are five specific points of information:

1. Excerpts from the survey that parents have called attention to
2. A discussion of the opt-in versus opt-out controversy and applicable law
3. A discussion about whether the survey is actually anonymous as the school administration says
4. A note from the Middle School sent on Wednesday, April 7th to parents of children in 8th grade offering an opt out process
5. The OPT-OUT Form which has a majority of content attempting to persuade parents to change their mind rather than just providing an opt out.

I again urge the Bethel Schools to adhere to the law and to reschedule this survey until such time as parents are correctly notified by school officials of their right to opt-in and only have students who have been opted in by their parents take this survey.

1. EXCERPTS FROM THE SURVEY OF CONCERN TO PARENTS:

3. Which of the following best describes you?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender, male-to-female
- Transgender, female-to-male
- Transgender, do not identify exclusively male or female
- Not sure

4. Would you say that you are ... ?

- Only straight / heterosexual
- Mostly straight / heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Mostly lesbian / gay
- Only lesbian / gay

For each of the following, mark one response. How often does one of your parents ... ? Very Often Often Sometimes Seldom Never

22. Help you with your school work
23. Talk to you about what you are doing in school
24. Ask you about homework
25. Go to meetings or events at your school
44. I feel I do not have much to be proud of
45. If I break one of my parents' rules, there are consequences such as not being allowed to do the things I

like to do

53. In my family, there are clear rules about what I can and cannot do

During the last 12 months, how many times have you ... ?

58. Stolen something from a store

59. Gotten into trouble with the police

60. Hit or beat up someone

61. Damaged property just for fun (such as breaking windows, scratching a car, putting paint on walls, etc.)

85. Think back over the past two weeks. How many times have you had five or more drinks in a row? (A "drink" is a glass of wine, a bottle or can of beer, a shot glass of liquor, or a mixed drink.)

· None

· Once

· Twice

· 3 to 5 times

· 6 to 9 times

· 10 or more times

How many times, if any, have you used cocaine (crack, coke) in your lifetime ... ? 0 1 2 3-5 6-9 10-19 20-39 40

106. In an average week, how many times do all of the people in your family who live with you eat dinner together?

· None

· Once a week

· Twice a week

· Three times a week

· 4 times a week

· 5 times a week

· 6 times a week

· 7 times a week

109. Have you ever had sexual intercourse ("gone all the way," "made love")?

· No

· Once

· Twice

· 3 times

· 4 or more times

How many times, if any, in the last 12 months have you used ... ? 0 1 2 3-5 6-9 10-19 20-30 40+

112. Heroin or other narcotics (like opioids or meth)

113. Sometimes I feel like my life has no purpose

Reminder: in this survey, "parents" (and "father" or "mother") refer to the adults who are now most responsible for raising you.

During the last 12 months, how many times have you ... ?

121. Taken part in a fight where a group of your friends fought another group

122. Hurt someone badly enough to need bandages or a doctor

123. Used a knife, gun, or other weapon to get something from a person

124. If you had an important concern about drugs, alcohol, sex, or some other serious issue, would you talk to your parent(s) about it?

· Yes

· Probably

· I'm not sure

· Probably not

· No

125. How much of the time do your parents ask you where you are going or with whom you will be?

· Never

· Seldom

· Some of the time

· Most of the time

· All of the time

How often do you feel afraid of ...

132. Getting hurt by someone in your home

135. Imagine that someone at your school hit you or pushed you for no reason. What would you do? Mark one answer.

· I'd hit or push them right back.

· I'd try to hurt them worse than they hurt me.

· I'd try to talk to this person and work out our differences.

· I'd talk to a teacher or other adult.

· I'd just ignore it and do nothing.

COMMENT: Why isn't I'd talk to my parents an option?

140. My parents spend a lot of time helping other people

141. I have little control over the things that will happen in my life

How many adults have you known for two or more years who ... ?

148. Do things that are wrong or dangerous

2. A DISCUSSION OF THE OPT-IN VERSUS OPT-OUT CONTROVERSY AND APPLICABLE LAW

federal and CT law both prohibit students being surveyed about these topics without prior consent from their parent or guardian. Asking parents to opt-out of the survey is not an acceptable alternative according to attorneys asked to review the material as it related to the state and federal law. The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment adopted in 1984 says in part "" School administrators claim that the survey is not paid for with federal funds and so is exempt from PPRA. That is not correct.

A statement published by the United States Department of Education however states "The PPRA applies to the programs and activities of a State educational agency (SEA), local educational agency (LEA), or other recipient of funds under any program funded by the U.S. Department of Education."

PPRA absolutely applies to this survey as Bethel schools accept federal funds.

The statement is available online here:

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/topic/protection-pupil-rights-amendment-ppra>

The State of Connecticut is also clear about what falls under PPRA. The documents describing PPRA on the CT Judicial Branch website state "Like FERPA, PPRA applies to education agencies and institutions that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education." It also includes surveys that ask about the following 8 restricted topics as requiring PRIOR written parental consent before minor students participate in any survey in a school that accepts federal funds: "Political affiliations; Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family; Sexual behavior and attitudes; Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior; Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; and Income other than what is required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program."

The document is available here:

https://www.jud.ct.gov/juv_infoguide/IJCP_ER_OtherFedLaw.html

This survey may not be legally administered to minor children without prior written consent, yet as recently as today (Wednesday, April 6th) school officials continue to insist that parents opt-out if they object to the survey.

In 2019 the CT Legislature adopted regulations with a similar requirement that parents must opt-in before such surveys may be administered to their children.

3. A DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER THE SURVEY IS ACTUALLY ANONYMOUS AS THE SCHOOLS SAY IT IS:

It appears that since the survey is taken on student computers, the answers are likely not anonymous as claimed. This article published by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) entitled "Spying on Students: School-Issued Devices and Student Privacy" and available at <https://www.eff.org/wp/school-issued-devices-and-student-privacy> examines this issue.

"Throughout EFF's investigation over the past two years, we have found that educational technology services often collect far more information on kids than is necessary and store this information indefinitely. This privacy-implicating information goes beyond personally identifying information (PII) like name and date of birth, and can include browsing history, search terms, location data, contact lists, and behavioral information. Some programs upload this student data to the cloud automatically and by default. All of this often happens without the awareness or consent of students and their families...technology providers are spying on students—and school districts, which often provide inadequate privacy policies or no privacy policy at all, are unwittingly helping them do it."

Again, the survey posted online is said to be taken from a student's computer by a parent who could retrieve it from the cached memory of the computer. This isn't secure or anonymous.

4. A NOTE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SENT ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN 8TH GRADE OFFERING AN OPT-OUT PROCESS

From: Bethel Middle School <null@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Date: April 6, 2022 at 11:50:01 AM EDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: BMS Grade 8 Attitudes and Behaviors Survey

Reply-To: Bethel Middle School <null@bethel.k12.ct.us>

mime-attachment.jpg

Dear Bethel Middle School Families,

There has been some inaccurate information posted on Bethel social media sites. As communicated to the 8th grade families on March 17th, 8th graders will be participating in an Attitude and Behavior survey on Thursday, April 7th. This survey will take place during your 8th grade social studies classes. 6th and 7th graders are not taking part in this survey.

March 17th Email to 8th Grade Parents:

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

On Thursday, April 7th, students in grade 8 will participate in the Attitudes and Behaviors survey by the Search Institute.

The Attitudes and Behaviors (A&B) Survey gives a snapshot of the current experiences and perspectives of our adolescent youth in the school and community. It emphasizes the strengths and supports they currently have and need, and how those positive indicators protect against youth risk behavior. The survey will also help our school district work with parents and the community to ensure that our young people have the opportunities they need to be successful in life.

The survey will be administered in school hours during our Advisory time.

The survey takes approximately 30 mins to complete.

The survey is not a test and is anonymous.

Parents /Guardians can review a copy of the survey at Bethel Middle School Main Office (March 21st-March 31st). Please contact the Main Office at (203) 794-8670.

We encourage all students to participate, the more information we can acquire the more programs, education, and activities we can offer our students. The value of a study of this kind depends on the honest participation of many students.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Salvador at (203) 794-8600 x1440.

Sincerely,
Bryan Watson
Principal

If you would like to Opt-Out of this survey for your child please print this email (or click the link at the bottom of the email for the form), fill out the form at the bottom, and hand it in to the BMS Main Office. Thank you!

Please withdraw my child from participation in the Attitudes & Behaviors survey.

Child's name (please print):

Parent or Guardian's signature:

Print name:

Date:

BMS Attitudes and Behaviors Survey Letter and Opt-Out Form

5. THE OPT-OUT FORM

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

On Thursday, April 7th, students in grade 8 will participate in the Attitudes and Behaviors survey by the Search Institute.

The Attitudes and Behaviors (A&B) Survey gives a snapshot of the current experiences and perspectives of our adolescent youth in the school and community. It emphasizes the strengths and supports they currently have and need, and how those positive indicators protect against youth risk behavior. The survey will also help our school district work with parents and the community to ensure that our young people have the opportunities they need to be successful in life.

- The survey will be administered in school hours during our Advisory time.
- The survey takes approximately 30 mins to complete.

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- Parents /Guardians can review a copy of the survey at Bethel Middle School Main Office (March 21st-March 31st). Please contact the Main Office at (203) 794-8670.

We encourage all students to participate, the more information we can acquire the more programs, education, and activities we can offer our students. The value of a study of this kind depends on the honest participation of many students.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Salvador at (203) 794-8600 x1440.

Sincerely,
Bryan Watson
Principal

Please withdraw my child from participation in the Attitudes & Behaviors survey.

Child's name (please print):

Parent or Guardian's signature:

Print name:

Date:

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best regards,
Bradley Koltz
Bethel, CT



Bethel Middle School Essentials Course

● Barbara Sheehan ● Donna Burns ● Bryan Watson ●

Course Description

- Problem Based Learning approach
- Implement Engineering Design Process
- Reinforce math and science standards
- Incorporate research and inquiry
- Apply Global Competencies
- Infuses art and technology



Course Details

- **BMS Essentials Course**
- **6, 7 & 8th grade**
- **36 days**
- **1:28 ratio**
- **interdisciplinary**



Rationale

Past

STEM to Computer
Science

2 Computer
Science
rotations a year

Present

1 Computer
Science & 1 STEAM
per year

Problem based
approach to teach
standards* and
concepts

Future

College and career
readiness

Vertical alignment
with BHS pathways
(arts, business, and
career technical
readiness)

Statement of Need

Goal: Broaden Exposure,
Reinforce & Support Content
Areas, Application & Transfer

- Broaden student exposure to **diverse content**
- Apply design and **critical thinking** across grade levels
- Apply previous year's **standards** in novel ways
- Extend NGSS standards - **Engineering** Design Process, Human Impact
- Utilize a problem based approach to reinforce the BPS **Global Competencies**
- Provide interdisciplinary opportunities that **transfer skills** across content areas
- Inspire curiosity, build persistence



Course Objectives

Long Term Goal

Global Competency Transfer Goal 4-

exhibit curiosity, imagination, flexibility, and perseverance in order to innovate and make valuable contributions to the community.

Transfer Goal

Actively seek and analyze new information and perspectives to define problems and develop solutions

Essential Understandings:

- The application of the **design process** is an important problem-solving method to the development of inventions and innovations.
- The **creative process** of developing a new design to **solve a problem** is a central element of **engineering**.
- **Geometric relationships** can be described, analyzed, and classified based on **spatial reasoning** and/or **visualization**.
- **Technological design** is a creative process that anyone can do which may result in **new innovations and inventions**.
- Scientists and engineers must be able to **communicate** clearly and persuasively the ideas and methods they generate.
- Engineers **draw on research** from **multiple print or digital sources**, demonstrating the ability to **locate** an **answer** to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Resources & Materials

- No textbook
- Consumable Materials
- Digital Resources:
 - Defined Learning
 - Current cost = \$0
 - CSDE purchasing Defined Learning and Defined Careers through June 30, 2024
 - Cost as of July 1, 2024
 - Defined Learning Building License: \$5,000/yr, or
 - Defined Careers: \$7/student
 - Gizmos \$980 educator license
- BEF Grant Application



Aquarium Designer

As a new designer with a background in aquatic habitats, you want to win over the design and production team of the hottest new interior design firm in the north...

Grade 6: Aquarium Designer

Problem: You are applying for a job with a design firm that makes custom aquariums. Design and create an innovative aquarium considering environment, fish and other organisms, as well as calculating volume of your aquarium



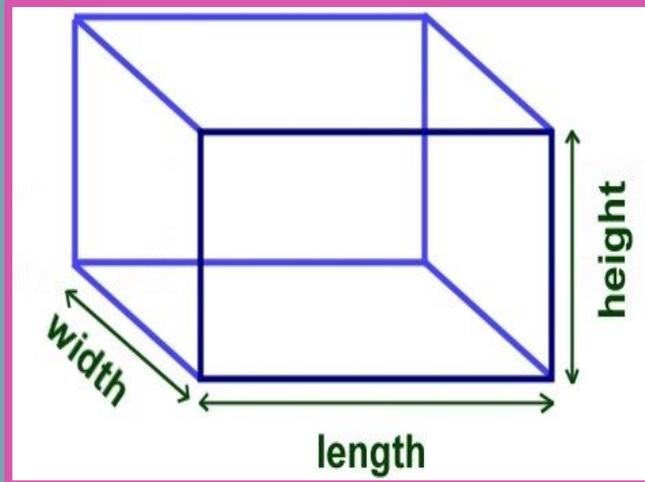
Product: Students will create a prototype aquarium using classroom materials

Process: Design process Students will research and brainstorm to connect organisms to the volume of the tank. Students to recognize the design criteria and constraints.

STEMM



- Careers
- Scaled Models
- Habitats and Environments
- How do Fish Thrive, Breath
- Ecosystems



Grade 7 -

Mars Transportation Consultant, creating a Spaceport

Problem: *Problem: As a transportation consultant, how would you entice people to want to travel to Mars?*

Product: *WeVideo commercial*

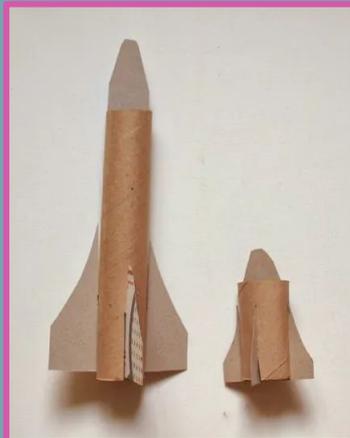
Process: *Using the design process, students brainstorm what they believe customers would need to travel to, or settle on Mars. They also consider any information they can discover about the planet and atmosphere. Students plan the commercial by deciding relevant facts. Create: A script with relevant points, and use wevideo to find images for you commercial. When done, students will group together to provide constructive criticism to reflect on what things could be improved.*



STEMAM



- Modeling
- Research
- Science–Newton’s Law
- NASA virtual Tour–Satellites
- Bottle Rockets
- Careers in Aeronautics



Research:

Problem Solving and Design:

Sources You Consulted - Include Link or MLA Citation (Citation maker here)	Ideas Taken From Sources: • Use bullet notes to explain the ideas from each source	What Issues did you Encounter in Your Build and Design: • Explain using bullet notes	How Did You Problem Solve? • Explain how you solved the issues you mentioned in the previous column
Also NASA	The space shuttle was piloted by an internal crew	Radio communication between Earth and outer space would have a long delay. Meaning the spaceplane would need an onboard pilot in the form of a computer or crew.	Onboard cargo could be switched out for a crew compartment.
	The space shuttle has two exits, a side and top exit. Both exits have thermal aprons to protect the astronauts from burning themselves on the plane.	We don't have that < I don't think I even put a door on it...	Add two mid-ship side hatches, one with a docking mechanism, and another hatch with a deployable ladder to the roof.
Britannica	The space shuttles had external fuel+oxidizer tanks	Not enough room on the spaceplane, meaning we'd have much less fuel than we need	Copy NASA and put on an external tank. This would be easy since we already have an external port for fuel.
NASA	The Apollo 11 crew service compartment had parachutes for a soft landing	Landing would be very difficult without a very long runway for the plane to lose speed.	Parachutes could be added to both ends of the plane. One for emergency landing and another for regular use.
Gale Images	The space shuttle has a part of wing that's angled		Flaps on both of the wings will help with drag and

Grade 7 - Tiny House Architect

Problem: *Problem: How can we as architects and engineers, create a tiny house that is more affordable and environmentally conscious than traditional housing?*

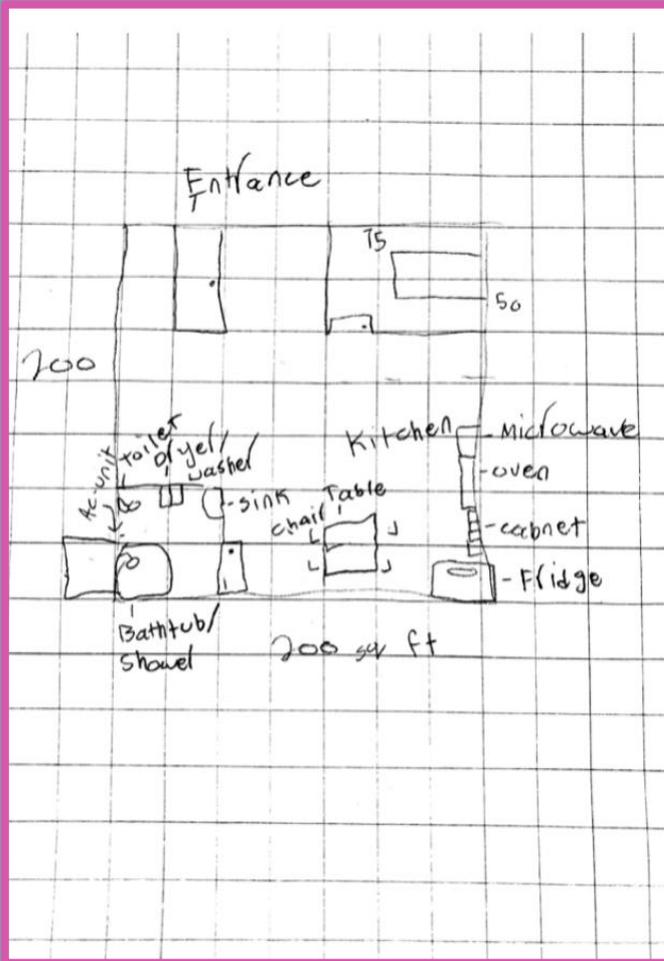


Product: *Your team is designing a model home for the new Tiny House Community. As part of this work, they will need to create a scale model (blueprint) for the model tiny house. This model can be done on graph paper or using technology.*

Process: *Problem Based Learning experiences. Examples include: Design process....decide upon measurements of each room. Design according to the project constraints of 400 sq ft total. Students apply prior knowledge of scale.*

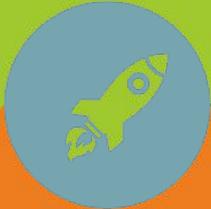


- Scaled Layouts
- Research
- Scale Factor
- Measurement- Area
- Renewable Energy
- Careers in Architecture



Next Steps

Professional Learning



Curriculum Writing



Continued PL to expand teacher expertise

- Problem/Project based learning
- STEAM Education
- Engineering Design & Design Thinking
- Defined Learning

Curriculum work to build and refine documents

- Explore and Align with Math & Science Curriculum documents
- Refine current curriculum maps and unit plans
- Connections with departments

Bethel Public Schools **Course Proposal**



1. **Title of Course:** STEAM
2. **Department(s):** Computer Science
3. **Submitted by:** Barbara Sheehan, Donna Burns, Bryan Watson
4. **Length of Course (full year, semester):** Essentials Course Rotation
5. **Grade Level(s), if applicable:** 6, 7, & 8
6. **Prerequisites, if any:** N/A
7. **Short Course Description, suitable for Program of Studies:**
Steam Engineering

This course teaches students the Engineering Design Process (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve) through Problem Based Learning, and reinforces mathematical and scientific knowledge. The global competencies are applied in this course through research, inquiry, design, and presentation.

8. **Statement of Need for this Course:** *Give the rationale for the proposal, including its relationship to past, current, and future development in the school system.*

Previously BMS had a STEM course offering that shifted to a Computer Science course that focuses more on programming, robotics and web design. Students had two computer science rotations a year in grades 6, 7 and 8. Last year an opportunity presented to shift one of these two computer science classes to a STEAM course, broadening student exposure to diverse content, supporting engineering and design, and utilizing a problem based approach to teach to and reinforce the BPS

Global Competencies, Computer Science Teaching Association (CSTA) standards, Engineering & Design, ISTE and Common Core Standards. This course also gives students exposure to components of the BHS Pathways, including career-based learning.

This STEAM course is an interdisciplinary course that blends research, inquiry, and design to present students with novel situations to apply science and math standards. Utilizing the previous year's science and math standards, students are presented with new contexts for applying their understandings.

- 9. Course Objectives:** *The purpose of the new or modified course should be stated here. What is it that the course seeks to help students achieve? What are the student outcomes expected at the end of a given time? What additional outcomes are being sought which cannot be defined in behavioral terms? What are relevant long-term course targets such as student participation rates and evaluation criteria?*

Long-term outcomes:

Global Competency Transfer Goal 4- exhibit curiosity, imagination, flexibility, and perseverance in order to innovate and make valuable contributions to the community.

Transfer goals:

Transfer Goal 1 - Actively seek and analyze new information and perspectives to define problems and develop solutions.

Essential Understandings:

Students will understand that...

- The creative process of developing a new design to solve a problem is a central element of engineering.
- Geometric relationships can be described, analyzed, and classified based on spatial reasoning and/or visualization.
- Technological design is a creative process that anyone can do which may result in new innovations and inventions.
- Scientists and engineers must be able to communicate clearly and persuasively the ideas and methods they generate.
- The application of the design process is an important problem-solving method to the development of inventions and innovations.
- Engineers draw on research from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Summary:

Through this course, students will be presented with a problem that they can address in a variety of ways, evaluating and testing solutions while adhering to a set of design constraints.

As previously noted, this STEAM course is an interdisciplinary course that blends research, inquiry, and design to present students with novel situations to apply science and math standards, reinforcing previous years standards while integrating opportunities to apply grade level standards to a collaborative design challenge, such as designing and creating an aquarium, tiny house or spaceport.

While the course incorporates a project students must complete, the focus is really on the process itself to achieve the objectives. Multiple checkpoints are embedded to reflect, articulate and refine thinking and both give and receive feedback aligned with the BPS Global Competencies. Also, the course aims to build students' executive functioning skills, habits of mind, and social-emotional competencies as they persist through the design process, refine their thinking when presented with challenges, and self-manage independently and as part of a team.

Additionally, the new course expands the vertical alignment with the BHS pathways, incorporating elements of the arts, business, and career technical readiness.

10. Scope and Substance of the Course:

- Course offered in 36 day UA Rotations.
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 offering
- Currently utilizing Defined Learning to support the problem based learning structure and apply math and science standards. The learning process includes integration of art, design, research and inquiry models.
- Here is the [curriculum](#) so far. We will be bringing this curriculum to the Board when it has been refined and finalized. The curriculum includes:
 - **Grade 6:** Aquarium Designer
 - **Problem:** You are applying for a job with a design firm that makes custom aquariums. Design and create an innovative aquarium considering environment, fish and other organisms as well as calculating volume of your aquarium.
 - **Product:** Students will create a prototype aquarium using classroom materials.

- **Process:** Design process Students will research and brainstorm to connect organisms to the volume of the tank. Students recognize the design criteria and constraints.
 - **Grade 7 - Mars Transportation Consultant, creating a Spaceport**
 - **Problem:** As a transportation consultant, how would you entice people to want to travel to Mars?
 - **Product:** WeVideo commercial
 - **Process:** Using the design process, students brainstorm what they believe customers would need to travel to, or settle on Mars. They also consider any information they can discover about the planet and atmosphere. Students plan the commercial by deciding relevant facts. Create: A script with relevant points, and use WeVideo to find images for your commercial. When done students will group together to provide constructive criticism to reflect on what things could be improved.
 - **Grade 8 Tiny House Architect**
 - **Problem:**How can we as architects and engineers, create a tiny house that is more affordable and environmentally conscious than traditional housing?
 - **Product:**Your team is designing a model home for the new Tiny House Community. As part of this work, they will need to create a scale model (blueprint) for the model tiny house. This model can be done on graph paper or using technology.
 - **Process:** Problem Based Learning experiences. Examples include: Design process....1) decide upon measurements of each room. Design according to the project constraints of 400sq ft total. Students apply prior knowledge of scale.
 - These projects may change but the embedded goals will remain consistent and continue to align with core curriculum (i.e. science, math), district global competencies, and new innovations/careers.

11. Class Size: *State minimum and maximum class size and pupil/teacher ratio.*

Maximum class size is 28. 1:28 ratio (not including push in individual paras).

12. What specific improvements will this proposal make to the school's academic program and the commitment to the implementation of the Common Core Standards?

The STEAM course will continue to support our district goal to build empowered learners that exhibit agency and self-efficacy. This course presents a problem based approach to teach to and reinforce the BPS Global Competencies, CSTA, Engineering & Design, ISTE and Common Core Standards. Students have choice in how they want to solve the design problems. It is also an opportunity for students to embed in the inquiry process their personal interests and skills, as appropriate.

13. What impact – positive or negative – will this proposal have upon other courses or programs offered within the subject area in your building? For example, will the addition of this course reduce the number of pupils in other courses in the department?

This course enhances and builds upon core content areas by:

- reinforcing math and science skills (particularly the design cycle), problem solving and solution finding, research and inquiry.
- incorporating text based analysis and visual thinking.
- addressing habits of mind, executive functioning skills, SEL/CASEL competencies.

This course offers another exploratory learning opportunity for BMS students within the UA rotation.

14. What impact – positive or negative – will this proposal have on other courses/programs offered in the other buildings? For example, would this proposal cause adjustments to be necessary in feeder programs or follow-up programs? Would this proposal reduce the number of pupils in other departments (in teacher assignments, etc.) be necessary?

The new STEAM course expands the vertical alignment with the BHS pathways, incorporating elements of the arts, business, and career technical readiness. Through career based projects and embedded problems, students gain exposure to components of professions/future courses, such as architecture, and gain insight into practical applications of the subject matter they are studying in core subjects, specifically math and science.

15. Would adoption of this proposal require staff adjustments, e.g., employing new staff, retraining veteran staff? If yes, show the number of positions involved the first year, compared to the past, and project the figure for each of the three successive years?

- Reallocated staff member - One staff member will teach 5 rotations of STEAM a year to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

- Continued PL to expand teacher expertise
- Curriculum work to build and refine documents

Resources & Development Needs:

- 1. Will a writing team be necessary to prepare a curriculum guide? If so, submit a proposal for curriculum work along with this course proposal.**

We have begun to write the curriculum for this course. We will continue to work on curriculum development over the summer. A [proposal](#) has been submitted to Dr. Brooks for approval.

- 2. What research has been conducted in the area addressed by this course? Summarize that research and indicate the relationships of the research to this proposed course. Indicate any trends or practices in other schools.**

- Based on instructional standards - NGSS, AASL, ISTE, CSTA
- Engineering Design Process is a component of the NGSS and science curriculum throughout the state. This course would supplement work being done in science classes and make connections to other elements of STEAM—technology (digital platforms, databases, data analysis) and the arts.

- 3. Textbook (if applicable): N/A**

- 4. Other Resources Recommended:**

Possible Digital Resources:

- Defined Learning (CSDE has verbally committed to purchasing Defined Learning and Defined Careers through June 30, 2024, after that Defined Learning Building License: \$5,000/yr or Defined Careers: \$7/student)
- Gizmos (exploring this as an alternate resource...\$980 per educator license)
- Consumable materials

- 5. Names of Staff Who May Teach the Course: Barbara Sheehan**

- 6. Training of Staff Required:**

Define learning webinars and PL opportunities connected to project- and problem-based instruction/learning

- 7. Department Approval: Please have at least 50% of the department members or grade level teachers indicate their approval with their signature and date.**

_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____

Signature of School Administration:

_____ Bryan Watson _____ Date _____ 3/28

Signature of District Administration:



_____ 3/25/22

_____ Date _____

Please submit this form electronically to Dr. Brooks and also submit a hard copy with signatures via inter-office mail. Thank you!

BETHEL BOE BUDGET 2021-2022
BUDGET TRANSFERS SUMMARY BY PERIOD

Object Codes		Approved Budget	July-Sept Adjustments	Oct-Jan Adjustments	Feb-Mar Adjustments	Apr-June Adjustments	Adjustments	Total Transfers	Final Budget
Salaries	1000	32,888,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,888,544
Employee Benefits	2000	9,288,230	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,288,230
Professional Services	3000	1,046,213	-	(2,380)	(5,797)	-	-	(8,177)	1,038,036
Purchased Property Services	4000	245,200	-	7,820	(891)	-	-	6,929	252,129
Other Purchased Services	5000	4,299,104	-	(1,350)	(5,601)	-	-	(6,951)	4,292,153
Supplies	6000	891,390	(1,200)	(216)	14,614	-	-	13,198	904,588
Property	7000	310,362	1,200	(3,874)	(1,780)	-	-	(4,454)	305,908
Miscellaneous	8000	81,045	-	-	(545)	-	-	(545)	80,500
Total Budget		49,050,088	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,050,088
Total Transfers From			(1,200)	(7,820)	(14,614)	-		(20,127)	
Total Transfers To			1,200	7,820	14,614	-		20,127	
% of Total Budget								0.04%	

BETHEL BOE BUDGET 2021-2022
BUDGET TRANSFERS BY PERIOD

	Account Number	Description	Increased	Decreased	Notes
1	100.12.1100.101.7302	EQUIPMENT - MS - FURNITURE & FIXTURES	477	0	Principal's Request
	100.12.2410.101.6901	OTHER SUPPLIES - MS	0	(477)	For replacement of some LMC chairs
	Total for Request		477	(477)	
2	100.13.1100.101.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - BS - SW	1,500	0	Principal's Request
	100.13.2410.101.3302	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES - BS	0	(1,000)	For additional supply needs
	100.13.2410.101.5800	TRAVEL - BS	0	(500)	
	Total for Request		1,500	(1,500)	
3	100.11.1100.108.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - HS - MATH	1,775	0	Principal's Request
	100.11.1100.108.5800	TRAVEL - HS - MATH	0	(500)	For additional classroom supplies and
	100.11.1100.108.5109	TRANSPORTATION - HS - MATH	0	(1,000)	calculators
	100.11.1100.108.3302	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES - HS - MATH	0	(275)	
	Total for Request		1,775	(1,775)	
4	100.16.2210.101.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - SW - CURRICULUM	14,736	0	Asst. Superintendent's Request
	100.16.2210.101.3301	PROFESSIONAL EMP. TRAINING - SW - CURRICULUM	0	(6,000)	For JES supplies to support "The Right to Read"
	100.16.2210.101.3302	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES - SW - CURRICULUM	0	(6,421)	legislation
	100.16.2210.101.5800	TRAVEL - SW - CURRICULUM	0	(2,315)	
	Total for Request		14,736	(14,736)	
5	100.16.2230.119.3401	PURCH PROF&TECH SERVICES - SW - COMPUTER SCIENCE	11,199	0	Director of Instructional Tech's Request
	100.16.2230.119.3302	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES-SW-COMPUTER SCIENCE	0	(3,300)	For first half of cybersecurity risk analysis
	100.16.2230.119.4320	REPAIR & MX CONTRACTS/SUPPL - TECH	0	(891)	and assessment
	100.16.2230.119.5800	TRAVEL-SW-COMPUTER SCIENCE	0	(1,286)	
	100.16.2230.119.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - SW - COMPUTER SCIENCE	0	(2,920)	
	100.16.2230.119.8100	DUES & FEES-SW-COMPUTER SCIENCE	0	(545)	
	100.16.2230.119.7304	EQUIPMENT - TECHNOLOGY - SW - COMPUTER SCIENCE	0	(2,257)	
	Total for Request		11,199	(11,199)	

BETHEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Briefing Summary

Date of Briefing to BOE RAMBO: April 7, 2022

Presenter: Teri Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services

Topic: Setting breakfast and lunch prices at the schools for 2022-2023

Importance of this topic to the Board: Important

Key Points of the Briefing:

- * Raising student lunch prices by \$0.10 at all schools. Elementary will be \$3.10 helping to ensure that the district meets the minimum required Paid Lunch Equity by the USDA and Middle School and High School will be \$3.45. All student lunch prices include milk.
- * Breakfast at all schools will also be increased \$0.10 to \$2.40 for all students.
- * Adult meal prices also need to comply with CSDE guidelines. Adult breakfast will increase to \$3.00 and Adult Lunch will be increased to \$4.50. Adult lunch prices do not include a beverage.
- * Bethel's prices are similar to other school districts in this area and across the state. We remain just above the paid equity requirements.

Summary of the Briefing:

- 1) To raise the school meal prices to cover increases in labor and food costs and continue to have the school lunch program run at or above break-even and to meet the USDA Paid Lunch Equity requirements.
- 2) To set the price for reduced priced breakfast at \$0.00 instead of \$0.30 for the year 2022-2023. This will continue to encourage participation in the breakfast program and ensure that our neediest students are fed each morning. The cost to the board should be less than \$3,000.
- 3) Action Requested of the Board of Education: Motion needed.

(State the motion if requested)

Recommended Motions:

- 1) Motion to set the student school lunch prices for the 2022-2023 school year as follows: Elementary \$3.10 and High School/Middle School \$3.45. The BOE sets the school breakfast prices at all schools at \$2.40 for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2) Motion to set the reduced priced breakfast to \$0.00 rather than \$0.30 for the 2022-2023 school year to continue to promote participation in the breakfast program.
- 3) Motion to set the Adult lunch price at \$4.50 and the Adult breakfast price at \$3.00 for the 2022-2023 school year in order to comply with CSDE pricing guidelines.

BETHEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Briefing Summary

Date of Briefing to the BOE RAMBO: April 7, 2022

Presenter: Teri Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services

Topic: Healthy Food Annual Certification

Importance of this topic to the Board: Important

Key Points of the Briefing:

- * CSDE requires annual certification by the Board of Education for participation in the Healthy Foods Certification Program
- * In participating, Bethel can only serve beverages, foods, snacks and a la carte items that have been specifically approved by the CSDE.
- * For participation, the District receives an additional 10 cents reimbursement from the State on each meal served. This is important to the financial success of our program.

Action Requested of the Board of Education: Motion needed.
(State the motion if requested)

Recommended Motions:

- 1) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Bethel Board of Education hereby certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the CNS during the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
- 2) The Bethel Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the

official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

- 3) The Bethel Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.