

Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2024 7:00 PM

Board of Education Conference Room E, Live Stream:

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=763ff4de0370> Materials can be viewed at: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2425> The opportunity for members of the public wishing to make comments can attend and comment in-person or may send public comments to the Board via email or letter and it will be included as part of the record of the meeting., 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. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests	
3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES	
3.A. Educator Evaluation & Support Plan	Speaker(s): Dr. Brooks
3.B. SRBI: Literacy & Mathematics	Speaker(s): Dr. Brooks and Mrs. Rutledge
4. Consent Calendar	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
4.A. Approval of Minutes	
4.A.1. August 15, 2024 - Regular Meeting	
4.A.2. August 19, 2024 - 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. 2024-2025 BOE District Data Sheet	
7.B.2. Discussion - Capital Plan	
8. Reports to the Board	

8.A. Policy

Speaker (s) : Policy
9310, 9311, 9313

8.A.1. First Reading

8.A.1.a. Policy 5114 - Student Discipline

8.A.1.b. Policy/Regulation 4118.112 - REGARDING
PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL
HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

8.A.1.c. Policy/Regulation 5145.42 - PROHIBITION OF SEX
DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SEX-BASED HARASSMENT

8.A.1.d. Policy 5131.911 - School Climate

8.B. Resource Management & Business Operations

8.B.1. Finance

8.B.1.a. Final Transfers & Year-End Wrap-Up

9. Adjourn

RECEIVED
Form 3280

AUG 13 2024

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

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: \$ 400 check

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

support students and staff throughout the year, including but not limited to our advisory program and staff wellness

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

\$ 400

Donor's Name and Address

American Online Giving Foundation
611 Meredith Rd. NE #700
Calgary AB T2E 2W5

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

Date Received: 8/12/24

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

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

RECEIVED Form 3280

SEP 05 2024

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

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's regular meeting. Each school is responsible for sending the donor an acknowledgment for the gift.

Gift, Grant, or Bequest Received: donorschoose.org project for classic board and card games to enhance social and cognitive development - fair play, patience, resilience, turn taking, and teamwork.

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

in Rockwell classrooms as part of E.I. time or for a class reward

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift, Grant, or Bequest: \$ 719.00

6 Sorry, 6 Uno, 6 Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, 6 Chutes & Ladders, 6 Headbanz, etc.

Donor's Name and Address:

various

(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): Trish Soucy

Date Received:

8/24

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

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

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

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's regular meeting. Each school is responsible for sending the donor an acknowledgment for the gift.

Gift, Grant, or Bequest Received:

Districtwide

- 3 office desks, 2 office chairs, 4 conference room chairs, 1 table, and a Keurig,

How the Gift, Grant, or Bequest Will Be Used: Items will be used in offices and student registration area.

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

Donor's Name and Address: Tim Martin, Starr Lane, Bethel, CT

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

Receiving School:

Districtwide

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

Date Received: 9/9/24

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

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

SRBI: Literacy & Mathematics

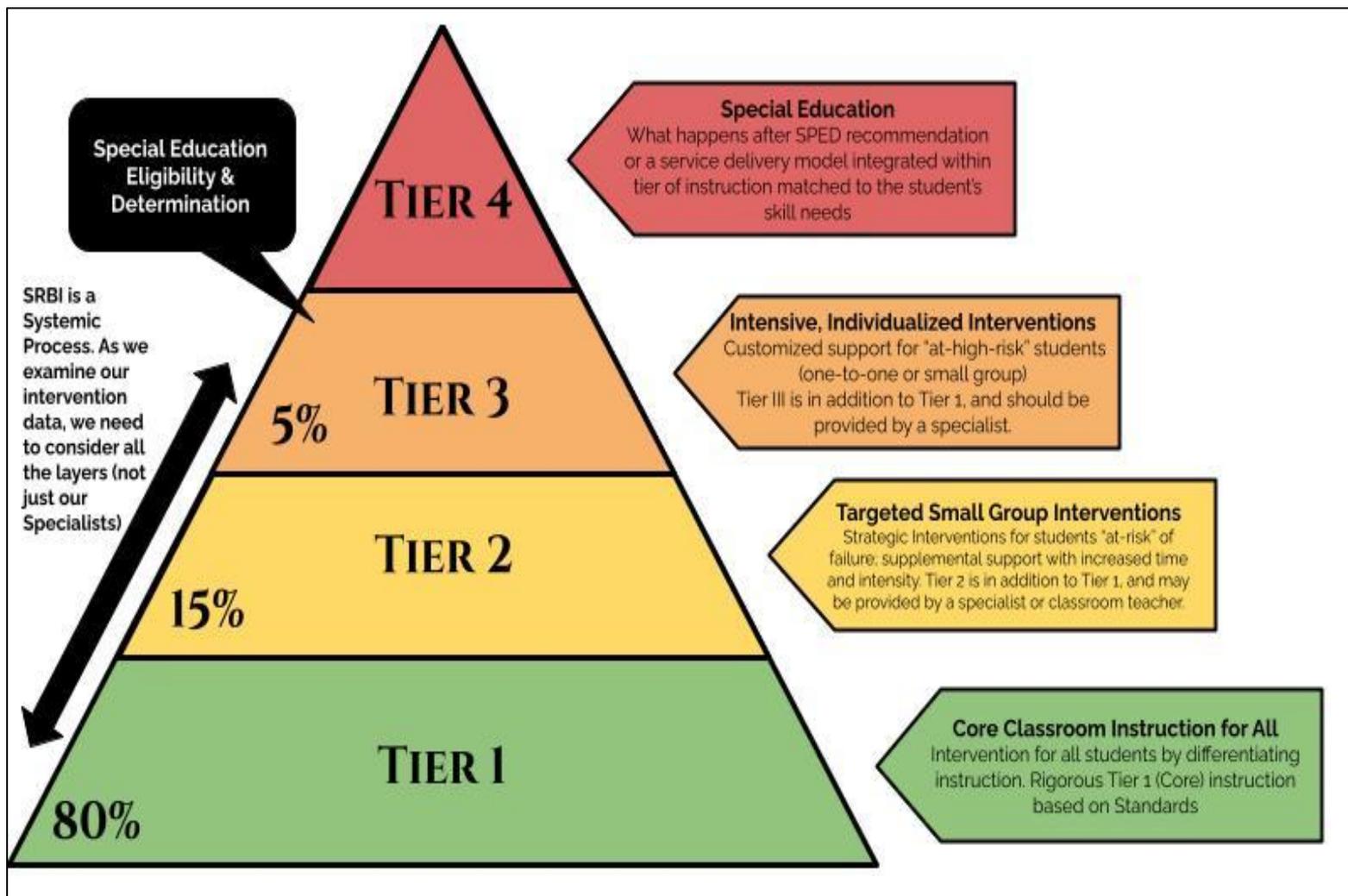


Bethel Board of Education
September 19, 2024

What are Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI)

- SRBI are a way to provide support and instruction to children who are struggling to learn.
- A child's progress is studied and findings are used to make decisions about teaching and other learning supports. SRBI are used in addressing needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior.

SRBI Tiers



**Our goal is to provide rigorous,
standards-based, grade level
instruction that engages all students
so that we decrease the amount of
students needing intervention**

Tier 1



Criteria Guidelines: Literacy & Math

Grade Level	Tier 2	Tier 3
K-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● > 40%ile NWEA● Screener Data/Curriculum Measures (unit assessments, check points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Not making growth in Tier 2
3-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● >30%ile NWEA● 30%-39%ile- Watch● Level 1 or 2 Smarter Balanced● Diagnostic Assessments (e.g. CORE, IXL)● Screener Data/Curriculum Measures (unit assessments, check points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lowest percentiles on NWEA● Level 1 or 2 Smarter Balanced● Not making growth in Tier 2

Service Model

- Trained literacy and math specialists work collaboratively with core teachers
 - Interventionist Tutors also work with our students under the direction of our specialists
- Pull out model- K-5- with some push in
 - Tier 2- Meets 3x per week for 30 minutes in groups of 3-5
 - Tier 3- Meets 1:1 or 1:2 (collaboration with special education)
- Classroom model at BMS
 - Tier 2- Meets 2-3x per week (rotating schedule) for 40 minutes in groups of 3-5
 - Tier 3- Meets 1:1 or 1:2 (collaboration with special education)
- Cycles are approximately 6-8 weeks long

Program Resources

- We use multiple resources within the intervention program.
- **Literacy**
 - SAVVAS Intervention Modules
 - EL Education Intervention
 - Decodable books, leveled readers, and trade books
 - Heggerty Phonological Awareness Program
 - University of Florida Literacy Institute Foundations Toolbox
 - IXL & Successmaker
 - AimsWeb Plus- Pilot
- **Mathematics**
 - Bridges Intervention Modules
 - Do the Math Modules
 - Maneuvering the Middle Program
 - Graham Fletcher Fluency Kits
 - IXL
 - AimsWeb Plus- Pilot

High Dosage Tutoring Math Grant

- Accelerate learning in middle school mathematics due to COVID
- Received \$314,600 to be used from January 2024- December 2024
- Tutors hired through an outside agency
- Criteria
 - Students below proficiency (Level 3) on the Smarter Balanced assessment
 - Students between the 21-50%ile
- Serviced 163 students January-June; inviting 132 this fall
- Work in groups of no more than 4 students

Number of Service Providers

Content Area	Specialists	Paras & Part-Time Interventionist Tutors	*High Dosage Tutoring Grant Ends Dec. 2024
Literacy	BS- 1.5 RS- 1.5 JS- 2 BMS- 1	BS- 1 RS- 1 JS- 1 BMS- 1	n/a
Mathematics	BS- 1 RS- 1 JS- 2 BMS- 2	BS- 1.5 RS- 1.5 JS- 2 BMS- 1	23-24= 6 part time 24-25= 3 full time and 1 part time



Data



Spoiler Alert:

We look at MULTIPLE data points to determine if a student may need intervention services

Our Process: Multiple Data Sources

- Historical Standardized Measures (SBAC, NWEA, IXL)
- SRBI Meetings with Teachers/Specialists
- Conferences with Students
- Curriculum-Based Measures (screeners, checkpoints, unit assessments....)

	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE
	2024 MATH SBAC Level	2024 Math SBAC Scale Score	2023 Math SBAC Scale Score	2023 Math SBAC Level	2022 Math Fall NWEA Percentile	2023 Math Spring NWEA Percentile	2024 Math NWEA Spring Percentile	2024 Math NWEA Spring Percentile Spanish	24 IXL Math Diagnostic %ile	24 IXL Math Diagnostic Level	2024 ELA SBAC Level	2024 ELA SBAC Scale Score	2023 ELA SBAC Level	2023 ELA SBAC Scale Score	2022 Reading Fall NWEA Percentile	2023 Reading NWEA Spring Percentile	2024 Reading NWEA Spring Percentile	
vel 1	2283	2300	Level 1			10	1		--	--	Level 1	2330	Level 1	2295		5	1	
vel 2	2435	2425	Level 2		22	51	61		55	430	Level 3	2504	Level 2	2399	65	59	52	
vel 1	2405					n/t	53		--	--	Level 2	2472			n/t	n/t	31	
vel 3	2490	2446	Level 3		74	68	73		--	--	Level 1	2415	Level 1	2364	32	16	50	
vel 2	2483	2456	Level 3			n/t	68		--	--	Level 3	2520	Level 2	2379		48	73	
vel 2	2454	2356	Level 1		1	6	56		30	360	Level 1	2345	Level 1	2318	1	1	13	
vel 2	2417	2355	Level 1		18	6	66		20	320	Level 1	2404	Level 1	2340	24	28	45	
vel 1	2394	2509	Level 4		22	9	26		15	300	Level 2	2433	Level 2	2403	65	75	13	
vel 2	2427	2368	Level 1		37	35	56		30	360	Level 1	2387	Level 2	2417	41	68	47	
vel 2	2476	2301	Level 1			8	59		--	--	Level 2	2425	Level 1	2333		11	31	
vel 2	2436	NEW 23-24	NEW 23-24			n/t	26		10	270	Level 1	2332			NEW 23-24	NEW 23-24	2	
vel 2	2473	2401	Level 2		34	27	73		35	370	Level 2	2450	Level 2	2388	49	57	47	
vel 4	2623	2513	Level 4		80	79	94		--	--	Level 4	2589	Level 4	2506	65	71	77	
vel 2	2483	2460	Level 3			18	61		--	--	Level 2	2417	Level 2	2381		27	33	
vel 2	2453	2378	Level 1		34	54	48		25	350	Level 4	2551	Level 4	2508	44	52	64	
vel 2	2427	2335	Level 1		29	32	77		30	360	Level 2	2432	Level 1	2286	21	44	55	
vel 2	2465	2365	Level 1		24	32	61		--	--	Level 1	2351	Level 1	2330	17	16	27	
vel 2	2476	2419	Level 2		49	32	66		50	420	Level 2	2432	Level 2	2431	41	47	45	
vel 3	2502	2447	Level 3		46	60	48		--	--	Level 2	2471	Level 4	2494	73	66	64	
vel 2	2453	2396	Level 2			43	59		20	320	Level 2	2443	Level 1	2331		22	55	
vel 2	2442	2395	Level 2		20	40	61		40	390	Level 2	2457	Level 2	2373	37	40	52	
vel 3	2523	2436	Level 3			45	75		55	430	Level 2	2454	Level 1	2342		50	33	
vel 4	2626		N/A			56	96		90	520	Level 2	2466	N/A			71	79	
vel 3	2506	NEW 23-24	NEW 23-24			n/t	66		--	--	Level 1	2244			NEW 23-24	NEW 23-24		

ELA Achievement Level Ranges and Growth Targets

Grade in Yr. 1	Level	Level 1: Not Met		Level 2: Approaching		Level 3: Met		Level 4: Exceeded	
		1 - LOW	2 - HIGH	3 - LOW	4 - HIGH	5 - LOW	6 - HIGH	7 - LOW	8 - HIGH
3	Range	2114-2330	2331-2366	2367-2399	2400-2431	2432-2460	2461-2489	2490-2522	2523+
	Target	82	71	70	69	68	64	60	45/maintain
4	Range	2131-2378	2379-2415	2416-2444	2445-2472	2473-2502	2503-2532	2533-2568	2569+
	Target	82	69	69	64	58	55	49	34/maintain
5	Range	2201-2405	2406-2441	2442-2471	2472-2501	2502-2541	2542-2581	2582-2619	2620+
	Target	69	56	55	48	43	39	30	16/maintain
6	Range	2210-2417	2418-2456	2457-2493	2494-2530	2531-2574	2575-2617	2618-2656	2657+
	Target	73	58	53	47	44	38	33	21/maintain
7	Range	2258-2438	2439-2478	2479-2515	2516-2551	2552-2600	2601-2648	2649-2687	2688+
	Target	69	50	49	44	40	31	20	12/maintain
8	Range	2288-2446	2447-2486	2487-2526	2527-2566	2567-2617	2618-2667	2668-2703	2704+

Math Achievement Level Ranges and Growth Targets

Grade in Yr. 1	Level	Level 1: Not Met		Level 2: Approaching		Level 3: Met		Level 4: Exceeded	
		1 - LOW	2 - HIGH	3 - LOW	4 - HIGH	5 - LOW	6 - HIGH	7 - LOW	8 - HIGH
3	Range	2189-2351	2352-2380	2381-2408	2409-2435	2436-2468	2469-2500	2501-2526	2527+
	Target	77	61	59	60	59	57	56	47/maintain
4	Range	2204-2381	2382-2410	2411-2447	2448-2484	2485-2516	2517-2548	2549-2574	2575+
	Target	51	38	40	44	46	47	43	37/maintain
5	Range	2219-2419	2420-2454	2455-2491	2492-2527	2528-2553	2554-2578	2579-2605	2606+
	Target	43	46	45	44	42	41	41	44/maintain
6	Range	2235-2434	2435-2472	2473-2512	2513-2551	2552-2580	2581-2609	2610-2639	2640+
	Target	49	41	38	36	36	36	38	31/maintain
7	Range	2250-2438	2439-2483	2484-2525	2526-2566	2567-2600	2601-2634	2635-2664	2665+
	Target	58	35	31	31	36	37	38	35/maintain
8	Range	2265-2456	2457-2503	2504-2544	2545-2585	2586-2619	2620-2652	2653-2685	2686+



#s Below Benchmark

SMARTER BALANCED Goal= 3				
# of students with Level 1 or 2				
Level 2 will include many students in the 41st-60th %tile				
Gr.	ELA 2023	ELA 2024	Math 2023	Math 2024
3	109	94	88	85
4	43	89	91	90
5	39	76	120	100
6	50	112	157	114
7	42	123	135	117
8	37	103	91	107

NWEA Goal- 61%ile				
>40%ile				
Gr.	ELA 2023	ELA 2024	Math 2023	Math 2024
K (W)	54	40	48	25
1	30	37	29	15
2	44	27	37	37
3	61	51	71	45
4	62	58	54	28
5	62	39	53	51
6	65	60	67	59
7	84	61	99	70
8	64	54	99	38

Intervention Numbers 2023- 2024

Students Serviced 2023-2024		
Grade Bands	ELA	Math
K-2	102	51
3-5	59	89
6-8	57	65 and 163 Tutoring Grant

51 students at BMS in the area of **Literacy** were not able to see a specialist for intervention

24 students at BMS in the area of **Math** would not have been seen without the help of the High Dosage Tutoring Grant

Approximate Intervention Numbers 2024- 2025

Math 2024-2025 Intervention Data			
Grade Bands	Number of students currently receiving Tier II or Tier III intervention. (Start of Year)	Number of students we anticipate to add after screenings this fall.	Approximate number of students we estimate will not receive pull out Tier 2 intervention due to staffing.
K-2	35	14	0
3-5	60	43	0
6-8	168 32 BMS Staff 136 High Dosage Tutoring	30	30

ELA 2024-2025 Intervention Data			
Grade Bands	Number of students currently receiving Tier II or Tier III intervention. (Start of Year)	Number of students we anticipate to add after screenings this fall.	Approximate number of students we estimate will not receive pull out Tier 2 intervention due to staffing.
K-2	73	16	0
3-5	46	19	0
6-8	30	26	*34

*Addition of an EL/ML Literacy Focused Specialist at BMS

New Students

- Over the past 3 years, 24% of our population is new
- As of September 5th- 119 students have registered new to our district
- This does not necessarily impact our overall enrollment as students have also left the district.

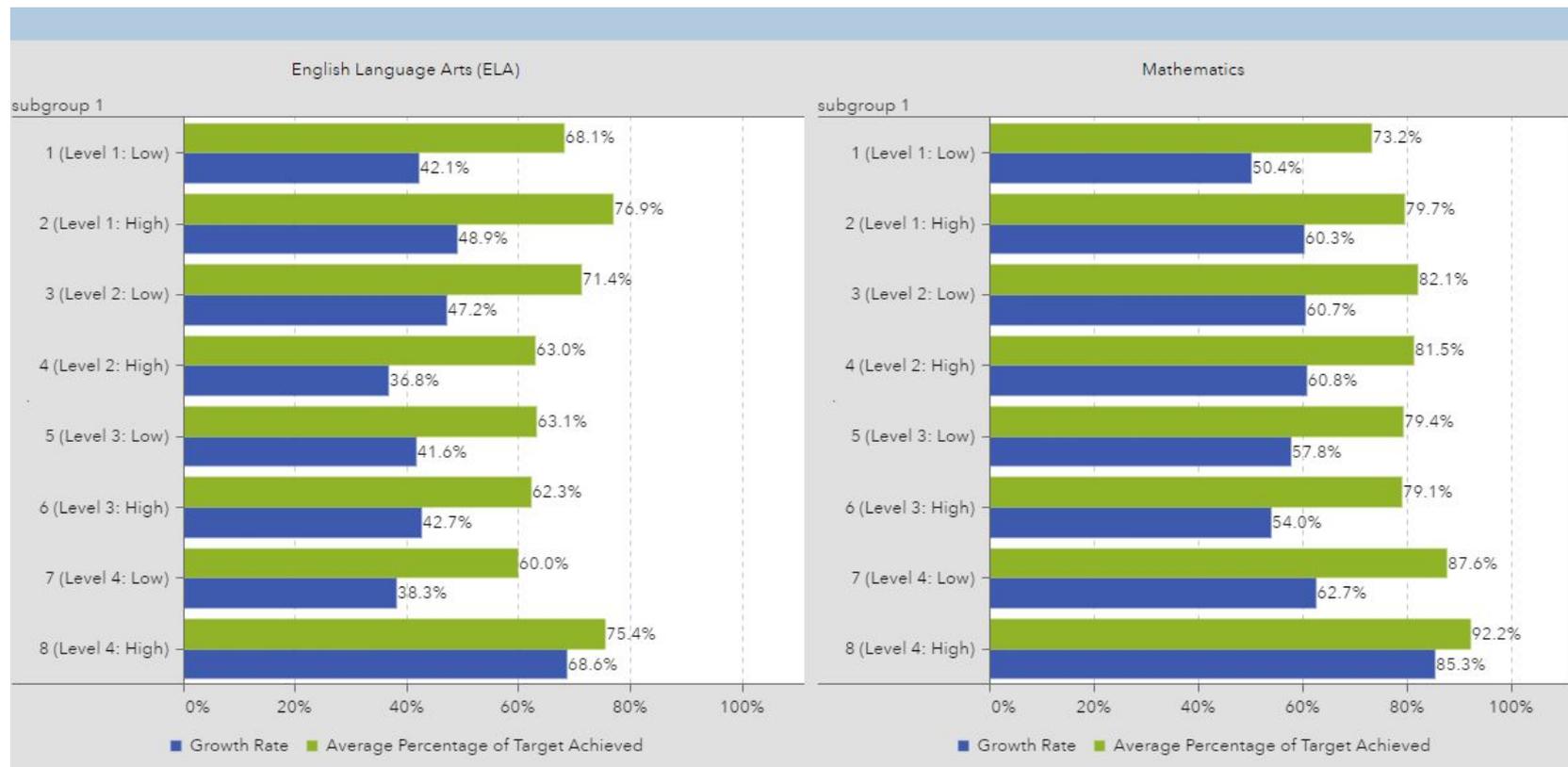


Implications:

- Time to get to know students and determine needs and supports
- Our greatest needs are appearing at the secondary level where the deficits are larger which impacts staffing

Celebrations!

Smarter Balanced Growth Data



**Our goal is to provide rigorous,
standards-based, grade level
instruction that engages all students
so that we decrease the amount of
students needing intervention**

Tier 1



Thank you.

Minutes of the Board of Education POLICY Committee Meeting held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: Anthony Cassio

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks

S. Clayton, Ex-Officio, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mr. Scott Clayton, Ex Officio: Present

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Present, via phone

Mr. Bill Foster: Present

Mrs. Jen Larsen: *Absent*

Ms. Pat Rist, Alternate: Present, via phone

1. Second Reading

1.A. Policy 4117.1 Retirement

Move to recommend Policy 4117.1 Retirement for deletion. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

1.B. Policy 4115.3 Coaches Evaluation

Move Policy 4115.3 Coaches Evaluation to Board for a for a second reading/approval. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

1.C. Policy 4115 Certified Evaluation

Move Policy 4115 Certified Evaluation for a second reading/approval. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

Mr. Scott Clayton: Yea

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Yea

Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

1.D. Policy/Regulation 6145 - Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs

Move Policy/Regulation 6145 - Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs for a second reading/approval. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

1.E. Policy 4117.5 Professional Staff Termination of Employment

Move Policy 4117.5 Professional Staff Termination of Employment for a second reading/approval with recommended addition. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

1.F. Policy 4118.21 Academic Freedom and Regulation

Move Policy/Regulation 4118.21 Academic Freedom for a second reading/approval with recommended changes. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

1.G. Policy 4117.4 Suspension/Non-Renewal

Move Policy 4117.4 Suspension/Non-Renewal for a second reading/approval. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

2. Policies for future review/discussion

Policy 5114, Graduation Requirements language needs to be changed. It is now illegal to require a Capstone Project as a requirement. The bullying policy needs to be updated again due to legislative changes. The FMLA policy needs changes due to a reduction in the hours needed to qualify for FMLA.

3. New Business

Dr. Carver informed the committee the Title IV & Nondiscrimination polices need to be updated due to legislative changes. Administrators have received training from Shipman & Goodman. Parents will be provided the revised regulations and it will be posted on the district's website.

4. Public Comment

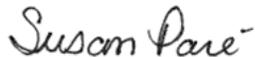
None. No public.

5. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 6:51 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder

Minutes of the Board of Education POLICY Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 5, 2024, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253 Bethel, CT 06801 and via Live Stream.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale

J. Larsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist, Alternate:	Present

1. Policy 5114 - Student Discipline

Dr. Carver informed the committee that revisions are due to a number of legislative changes. Language was added to include supportive interventions and restorative practices. Changes also include notification of hearings for expulsion, the lengths of in-school and out-of-school suspensions, changes in definitions for bullying, and teacher requests for a meeting of the crisis intervention team. Parent notification of Behavior Intervention meeting and required follow-up summary of the meeting.

Move Policy 5114 Student Discipline to the Board for a first reading. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

2. Policy 0521 - Non-discrimination Statement

Move to table Policy 0521 - Non-discrimination Statement. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3. Policy/Regulation 4118.112 - REGARDING PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Dr. Carver informed the committee that this policy and regulation went into effect effective August 1, 2024. There were some substantial changes in the law that caused major revisions to both the policy and regulation.

4. Policy/Regulation 5145.42 - PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SEX-BASED HARASSMENT

Dr. Carver informed the committee this policy and regulation also went into effect effective August 1, 2024. Again, some substantial changes in the law cause major revisions to both the policy and regulation. Dr. Carver noted that the regulations are almost identical to those of an employee.

Move Policy/Regulation 4118.112 - REGARDING PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE and Policy/Regulation 5145.42 - PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING SEX-BASED HARASSMENT to the Board for a first reading. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

5. Policy 5131.911 - School Climate

Dr. Carver informed the committee that the School Climate Policy (replaces bullying policy). With this policy, which formally was entitled "Bullying", districts are required to adopt (by law) the model policy by CABE. The policy is the model policy. The District Social Emotional Learning Collaborative and Safe School Climate Committee will use it to develop the District Climate Plan.

Move Policy 5131.911- School Climate to the Board for a first reading. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

6. Policies for future review/discussion

Dr. Carver spoke to the committee about the need to review the student performances policy and the fundraising policy due to inconsistencies between them.

7. Public Comment

Gabrielle Hernandez, 114 Knollwood Dr., spoke about the policies providing clearly what is acceptable and the consequences. She spoke about the student discipline policy.

8. Adjourn

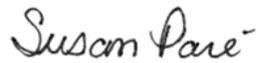
Move to adjourn at 6:36 PM. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Bill Foster: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Ms. Pat Rist: Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder

Minutes of the Board of Education Resource Management & Business Operations Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 5, 2024, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801 and via Live Stream.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, J. Variale

B. Foster, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mr. Anthony Cassio: Present

Mr. Bill Foster: Present

Ms. Pat Rist, Alternate: Present

1. Final Transfers & Year-End Wrap-Up

Mrs. Variale, Director of Finance & Business Operations, informed the committee transportation for the start of the school year went smoothly. First Student is currently fully staffed and continues to hire and train new drivers. She spoke about all buses now being equipped with interior and exterior cameras. Exterior cameras capture cars that pass a bus with their stop sign and lights activated.

Mrs. Variale reviewed the end-of-year transfers. The insurance savings were able to be used in multiple accounts to pay for needed special education services as well as needed facilities repairs and playground ADA compliance. All transfers were aligned with the memo to the Board of Education in June and subsequently voted on in the regular meeting in June.

Mrs. Variale updated the committee on the 2024-2025 budget. Starting the year on a very tight budget, she and the administration are monitoring Special Education and Facilities spending very closely as these are the areas where we anticipate the most risk to our budget.

2. New Business

None.

3. Public Comment

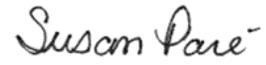
None.

4. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 7:06 PM. Passed with a motion by Anthony Cassio and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, M. Rutledge

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

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: *Absent*
Anthony Cassio: Present
Mr. Scott Clayton: Present
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo: Present, via phone
Mr. Bill Foster: Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen: *Absent*
Mrs. Courtney Martin: *Absent*
Ms. Pat Rist: Present, via phone
Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Present

1. Call to Order

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

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

Congratulations to Mr. Arcano. Mr. Arcano received recognition from the Recording Academy for his participation as a musician on the Grammy Award-nominated recording of Stephen Schwartz's Snapshots, World Premiere Cast.

2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

None.

3. Consent Calendar

3.A. Approval of Minutes

3.A.1. June 13, 2024 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024, Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Anthony Cassio: Abstain
Mr. Bill Foster: Abstain
Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Abstain

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.A.2. June 20, 2024 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024, Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Bill Foster:	Abstain
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.A.3. June 20, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024, Regular Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Anthony Cassio.

Mr. Bill Foster:	Abstain
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

3.A.4. July 23, 2024 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024 - Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea

3.A.5. August 1, 2024 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of August 1, 2024 - Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Abstain
Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain

Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea

3.B. Approval of CABE Board Leadership Application

Move to approve applying for the CABE Board of Distinction Award. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Anthony Cassio.

Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

3.C. Board Goals 2024-2025

At the last meeting, Dr. Carver and the Board members discussed the need to add a goal around infrastructure. A goal has been added for infrastructure.

Move to approve the Board of Education goals for 2024-2025. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

4. Correspondence

- Letter from CABE to BOE Chair regarding Board's continued membership

5. Public Comment

None. No public.

6. Administrative/Board Member Update

6.A. Board Chairperson Update

S. Clayton, Chair, welcomed new Board member, Jeffrey Spies. Mr. Clayton appointed Jennifer Ackerman as the Board's Vice Chair. Mr. Clayton spoke about the Board's self-evaluation, which

was rated a B+, and, through the process the Board was able to see where they can improve as a Board. Mr. Clayton is looking forward to the new year and the duties of the Chair. Mr. Clayton also spoke to the Board about a letter he sent to Hearst Media regarding a story they had done about CT school district's spending of COVID funds. He outlined how Bethel, unlike other districts in the news story was fiscally responsible with the funding. He also addressed unfunded mandates. He will reach out to see when they will publish the letter.

6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver updated the Board on the status of work that was or is being done on the campus and in the schools. Paving was done in front of BMS and the parking lot was relined. Resurfacing of the tennis courts is scheduled for September and will include lining for pickleball on two courts. The last oil tank was removed from Berry and they have moved to a dual system. The mold issue at BMS due to condensation has been addressed, and ceiling tiles were removed from the auditorium. Follow-up testing is being done by Hygenix. The Board of Finance approved the funding of the JACE's. Once installed, it will provide automation. The HVAC grant has received 3 bids, and 3 bids were received for the owner's rep. The building site committee will need to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen may appoint at their Tuesday night meeting which will help with the timeline of reviewing the bids. Dr. Carver noted that, based on the bids, the district won't be able to do the full scope of the project. Dr. Carver noted the schools are clean and ready to start the new school year.

Dr. Carver spoke to the Board about the Public Act concerning menstrual products. Dr. Carver informed the Board that student enrollment is currently 3,188 to start of the year. She reviewed elementary class sizes which are in good shape due to moving teachers. Dr. Carver has communicated to parents and staff on the district's reunification plan, school climate plan, and the use of smart devices. She spoke to the Board about Yonder bags that allow students to hold the device during the school day in a locked bag to avoid the distractions caused by use during the school day. Dr. Carver has shared a survey with parents and so far 60% are in favor. She will share the data with the Board once completed.

Dr. Carver reviewed with the Board policies that will need revisions due to legislative changes, FMLA, discipline, Title IV, graduation requirements, and bullying.

Dr. Carver informed the Board she will be meeting with our delegation regarding the Johnson School/Rockwell School Projects audit review. The totality of the budget was under budget. During the project, the district needed to transfer funding from Johnson School to Rockwell School to pay for environmental issues. Approval was given by Mr. Kostas Diamantis, Office of School Construction. However, the district is now being told Mr. Diamantis was not authorized to make those approvals.

Dr. Brooks reviewed the AP Scores Five-Year Summary with the Board.

6.B.1. 2024-2025 BOE District Data Sheet

The monthly data entry begins in Sept.

6.B.2. 2024 CABE/CAPSS Convention

Dr. Carver informed the Board the 2024 CABE/CAPSS Convention Early Registration is Open. If you would like to attend, please let Sue Pare know which registration package you would like and she will register everyone as a group. *Early Registration discount ends on August 23rd.*

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

None.

7.B. Policy

7.B.1. Second Reading/Approval

7.B.1.a. Policy 4117.1 Retirement

Move to delete Policy 4117.1 Retirement. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

7.B.1.b. Policy 4115.3 Coaches Evaluation

7.B.1.c. Policy 4115 Certified Evaluation

7.B.1.d. Policy/Regulation 6145 - Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs

7.B.1.e. Policy 4117.5 Professional Staff Termination of Employment

7.B.1.f. Policy 4118.21 Academic Freedom and Regulation

7.B.1.g. Policy 4117.4 Suspension/Non-Renewal

Move to approve with recommended changes as noted in the following policies:

Policy 4115.3 Coaches Evaluation

Policy 4115 Certified Evaluation

Policy/Regulation 6145 - Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs

Policy 4117.5 Professional Staff Termination of Employment

Policy 4118 Academic Freedom and Regulation

Policy 4117.4 Suspension/Non-Renewal Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mr. Bill Foster.

Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Abstain
Anthony Cassio:	Yea

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

7.C. Resource Management & Business Operations

7.C.1. Personnel

7.C.1.a. New Hires and Resignations 2024-2025

Dr. Carver provided the Board with the list of new hires and resignations for 2024-2025.

7.C.2. Facilities

7.C.2.a. Opening Update

See Admin Update Section.

8. Recommended Executive Session

Move to table Executive Session due to lack of in-person quorum needed for Executive Session. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.
--

Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

8.A. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Personnel - Negotiations

8.A.1. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - UPSEU - Bethel Food Service Workers Negotiations

8.A.2. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Paraeducator Negotiations

8.A.3. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries

9. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:17 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Anthony Cassio.
--

Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea

Mr. Jeffrey Spies: Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pare

Susan Pare
Board Recorder

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Special Meeting held on Monday, August 19, 2024, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: None.

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver

J. Ackerman, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Anthony Cassio:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	<i>Absent</i>
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Present

1. Call to Order

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Recommended Executive Session

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Anthony Cassio:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	<i>Absent</i>
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist:	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Present

2.A. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Personnel - Negotiations

Move to enter into Executive Session at 6:18 PM. Inviting Dr. Carver & Dr. Brooks. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.
--

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

2.A.1. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - UPSEU - Bethel Food Service Workers Negotiations

2.A.2. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Paraeducator Negotiations

2.A.3. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Bethel Association of Educational Secretaries

Move to come out of Executive Session at 6:38 PM. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Anthony Cassio.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

Move to approve the MOU for UPSEU - Bethel Food Service Workers, Paraeducator, HR Secretary, and Bookkeeper. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

Move to amend the motion to: Move to approve the contracts for both the UPSEU - Bethel Food Service Workers and Paraeducators, and the MOUs for both the HR Secretary and the Bookkeeper. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea

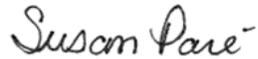
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

3. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 6:39 PM. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Kara DiBartolo.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
Commission on Public Schools

Director for Accreditation and School Improvement

ALYSON M. GEARY

781-425-7736 | ageary@neasc.org

Associate Directors for Accreditation and School Improvement:

CARL R. JOHNSON

781-425-7718
cjohnson@neasc.org

FRANCIS T. KENNEDY

781-425-7749
fkennedy@neasc.org

KATHLEEN A. MONTAGANO

781-425-7760
kmontagano@neasc.org

BRUCE R. SIEVERS

781-425-7716
bsievers@neasc.org

August 23, 2024

Christopher M. Troetti
Principal
Bethel High School
300 Whittlesey Drive
Bethel, CT 06801

Dear Mr. Troetti:

The Commission on Public Schools, at its June 24, 2024 meeting, reviewed the Three-Year Report of Progress and Planning of Bethel High School and voted to award the school continued Accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission would like to commend the following:

- the consolidation of processes to attain an overall assessment of academic programming effectiveness with a focus on the school's intervention system
- the added collaboration time among teachers and the ongoing curriculum work
- the increased professional learning opportunities for the professional staff to help EL students access the curriculum in inclusive classrooms
- the continued commitment to update all curricula using the UbD process with over half of the school's curriculum finished or in the beginning stages
- the use of PowerSchool to report biannually to students and parents on student progress on global competencies to help students reach proficiency
- the use of common planning time and instructional alignment protocols to ensure teachers review student data, create unified learning targets responsive to that data, and refine performance tasks and assessments to demonstrate student growth in learning content and global competencies
- the district-wide PLC protocols and Professional Learning continuum that provide structure and flow through all stages of PLC work, supporting vertical collaboration to help ensure student success
- the revision of the school's advisory program to a full weekly cycle, providing a weekly social emotional lesson to all students
- the peer leadership course and annual leadership summit, which build the capacity of student leaders, allowing them to create and facilitate activities, assemblies, and Advisory lessons that reflect the real-time needs of the student body

- the creation of a protocol for identifying and recommending students on a quarterly basis and using placement criteria to determine if students would benefit from a specific intervention, making these determinations through the PLC process
- the use of district and school-based learning walks to observe learning progressions and make recommendations based on best instructional practices
- the addition of a STEM instructional coach to provide needed support for teachers and learners
- the use of Parent Square to streamline communication between parents, teachers, and district staff
- the alignment and integration of competencies into the senior capstone project and the expectation that students demonstrate proficiency in these key skills, as measured by the school-wide rubrics and the culminating capstone experience
- the teachers' nurturing of a growth mindset in their students with a focus on intellectual and emotional engagement through personalized learning experiences
- the shared vision between all stakeholders concerning the direction of the school district and high school
- the work of the school climate committee to guide the transformation of the school's culture through eliciting student and parent feedback on the academics and social supports of the school

The Commission acknowledges that the following Foundational Element has not been met by the school since the First Report of Progress and Planning, and the school will continue to work on it as a Priority Area for Growth as part of the Accreditation Process:

- there is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school (2.2a)

In addition, the Commission was pleased that the school has identified the following as future Priority Area for Growth:

- The school's will provide its learners with a wide range of assessment practices to support and improve learning (2.7).

The school will submit a Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning, which is due on May 1, 2027. Information concerning the preparation of the Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning can be found at neasc.org/resources-schools-public in the section marked *Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning*. In that report, the school will indicate any changes to the ratings of the Foundational Elements, progress on the current Priority Areas for Growth, future Priority Areas for Growth, changes in the 4Cs, progress toward the additional recommendations listed in the Decennial Accreditation Report. Also, the school will submit a revised School Growth/Improvement Plan.

Priority Areas for Growth should be in the mid- to final stages of implementation when the school submits its Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning. Inadequate progress toward completion of the Priority Areas for Growth or meeting the Foundational Elements could result in a request for additional Progress Reports or a change in the school's accreditation status.

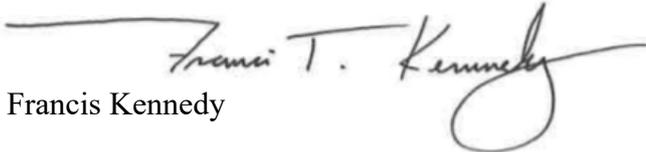
Christopher M. Troetti
August 23, 2024
Page Three

The Commission requests that it be kept apprised of any substantive changes in the school before that date. For your convenience, a copy of the Substantive Change Policy is attached. Please notify the Commission office of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to cpss-air@neasc.org.

The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Six-Year Report of Progress and Planning, which should be submitted by the principal through the Accreditation Portal. Be sure to complete the report by clicking on the green "Mark Progress Report Complete" button.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis T. Kennedy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Francis Kennedy

FTK/as
Attachment

cc: Christine Carver, Superintendent, Bethel Public Schools
Scott Clayton, Chairman, Bethel Board of Education
Kevin McCaskill, Chair, Commission on Public Schools



Founded in 1885

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE POLICY

Principals of member schools must report to the Commission within sixty (60) days of occurrence any substantive change in the school which has an impact on the school's ability to align with any of the Standards for Accreditation. The report of a substantive change must describe the change itself as well as detail the impact on the school's ability to align with the Standards. The following are potential areas where there might be substantive changes which must be reported:

- elimination of fine arts, practical arts, and student activities
- diminished upkeep and maintenance of facilities
- significantly decreased funding
- cuts in the level of administrative and supervisory staffing
- cuts in the number of teachers and/or guidance counselors
- grade level responsibilities of the principal
- cuts in the number of support staff
- decreases in student services
- cuts in the educational media staffing
- increases in student enrollment that cannot be accommodated
- takeover by the state
- inordinate user fees
- changes in the student population that warrant program or staffing modification(s) that cannot be accommodated, e.g., the number of special needs students or vocational students or students with limited English proficiency.

reviewed 08/2022



WESTERN CONNECTICUT SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

September 17, 2024

Dear Members of the Special Education Task Force,

First, we would like to thank you for the work of the task force. We recognize the complexity of the issues as it relates to the education of our students with disabilities. We also acknowledge that we have an ethical, moral, and legal obligation to provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. For those of us who are unable to attend the feedback session, please accept this letter as formal feedback from the Western Connecticut Superintendents.

As broader feedback on the actual document, the committee should consider that many of the recommendations are not written in a clear manner which could pinpoint a position on a topic.

Funding

We believe that there should be no cap to the **Excess Cost Grant** and that it should be the recommendation of the task force. We agree that there should be a lower threshold (3.0) for in-district programs. The state did collect the data from individual districts on the number of programs costing between 3.0 and 4.5, as we were asked to [submit the data in the spring of 2023](#). We understand that it will require a significant amount of additional appropriations, but your recommendation as written, does not advocate for full funding.

While this was not explicitly stated, we do not disagree that there should be an exploration of the weighting of the **ECS formula**, but it should not affect the recommendation to fully fund the Excess Cost Grant, as it provides for reimbursement of expenses within the same fiscal year and if we lost that grant, it could have even higher catastrophic effects, particularly for unplanned outplacements or students who move in the district. We are also concerned that if this is included as part of the formula, would it be an incentive to identify more students?

We are concerned the only recommendation appears confusing and refers to, about how schools of choice are paid for the cost of special education services. We would like to see a recommendation about creating clarity in cost structures, expectations for in-kind services (i.e., evaluations, related services, etc.).

Approved Private Special Education Placements

Private special education programs are approved through the State of Connecticut. Requiring each district to be the responsible party, even through a model contract, is unreasonable and not a good use of our limited resources. Some of us, in our former role as Directors of Special Education, remember and participated in a robust approval process for these facilities. It seems that function has shifted to districts. Your recommendation should be for the legislature to appropriate funding for SDE to resume that responsibility.

In addition, nowhere in your recommendations is how will costs be controlled for these facilities. A recommendation could be that every outplacement be sent to the state and financial reports which provide a budgetary accounting of why these expenses are so high. The Task Force should also consider doing an independent analysis of these expenses and set caps. Creation of a “model contract” will not in any way address the real issues associated with placements.

It was also disappointing that there were no recommendations exploring regulating transportation costs for placements. In some cases, private transportation is more expensive than the cost of the placement.

Identification

We are highly concerned that identification rates continue to rise every year and that the current state rate of 17.9% is the result of overidentification. We do not believe that just because it is aligned with other New England states is an acceptable rationalization. We wonder to what extent we need an independent qualitative and quantitative study to really understand the true reasons for the increases in identification.

We agree that there is likely a tremendous amount of variation in the SRBI process in districts. We also know that it contributes to over identification. We wonder if there should be consideration of creating legal requirements for districts to provide programs? This will help parents who are using special education as a means for getting support.

Behavior

We were disappointed to see the report (or document) did not address the increased complexity of student behaviors that significantly impact a student’s ability to attend or be successful in school. Furthermore, students need increased access to pediatric mental health services. We would like to have seen recommendations for addressing providers requiring cash compensation, despite families having insurance, increased programs for young children, and increased beds for children that are in crisis.

We agree that in-school suspensions provide an opportunity for students to receive skill development and should not be viewed in the same manner as out of school suspensions.

We also agree that private special education facilities should have the same reporting requirements as public schools regarding behavior, restraint, and seclusion.

Staff Shortages

We agree with many points made regarding the cause of staff shortage. We agree that in all subjects our workforce needs to be diversified. We were disappointed to see that there were no recommendations, reference to higher education partnerships, and/or SDE in this work.

Pre-Kindergarten

We agree that universal Pre-K will have a direct impact on reducing identification rates and improve student outcomes. We need recommendations that would include: funding models; facilities expansion; and increasing staffing levels to meet the demands.

Transition to Adulthood

We believe that our district transition programs are robust, and we need a recommendation that would provide mandates for adult agencies to participate in those transition meetings and subsequently services for our adults that are transitioning out of our systems. Due to staffing issues at adult agencies, we rarely

get representation at transition PPT's. Services for adults have been scaled back greatly, leaving parents with little to no support. The state needs to invest in supporting these adults with disabilities. We recommend that the Task Force make stronger recommendations regarding adult services.



Dr. Christine Carver
Bethel Public Schools



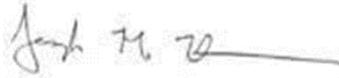
Dr. John Barile
Brookfield Public Schools



Dr. Jason McKinnon
Easton, Redding, Region 9



Dr. Kara Casimiro
Danbury Public Schools



Mr. Joseph Kobza
Monroe Public Schools



Mr. Kenneth Craw
New Fairfield Public Schools



Dr. Janet Parlato
New Milford Public School



Ms. Anne Uberti
Newtown Public Schools



Dr. Robert Miller
Oxford Public Schools



Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Regional School District 12



Mr. Joshua Smith
Regional School District 15



Dr. Susie Da Silva
Ridgefield Public Schools



Dr. Patricia Cosentino
Sherman Public Schools



Dr. Alison Villanueva
Watertown Public Schools

BETHEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Briefing Summary

Date of Briefing to the Board: Sep 5, 2024

Presenter: Jen Variale

Topic: Resource Management & Business Operations Committee Meeting

Importance of this topic to the Board: Continued Financial and Operational Management

Key Points of the Briefing:

- Transportation Update
- Budget Transfers
- Budget Update

Summary of the Briefing:

Transportation Update:

The start of the school year went smoothly in terms of bussing. First Student is currently fully staffed, and continues to focus on hiring and training new drivers. Also, all buses are now equipped with interior and exterior cameras.

Budget Transfers:

At the end of June, 2024 we were able to use savings in multiple accounts to pay for needed special education services as well as facilities repairs. The Special Education services overages were primarily driven by increased costs for services required to support Special Education Students. Facilities overages were driven by HVAC repairs, BMS boilers repairs and elementary school playground upgrades for ADA accessibility. All transfers were aligned with the memo to the Board of Education in June and subsequently voted on in the regular meeting in June.

Budget Update:

The finance team is working to close out all remaining items from the 2023 - 2024 school year. Going into the 2024 - 2025 school year we are monitoring Special Education and Facilities spending closely as these are the areas where we anticipate the most risk to our budget.

Action Requested of the Board of Education:

Recommended Motion: No motion needed. For informational purposes only.

Budget Transfers May 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Account Number	Description	Increased	Decreased	Notes
1 100.16.2210.101.6410	TEXTBOOKS - SW - CURRICULUM	2,339	0	Principal's Request
100.16.2210.101.3302	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES - SW - CURR	0	(2,339)	Purchase of AP Environmental Science textbooks
Total For Request		<u>2,339</u>	<u>(2,339)</u>	
2 100.00.1200.101.1216	PARAEDUCATORS - SW - SPECIAL EDUCATION	459,861	0	Director of Spec Ed & Pupil Services' Request
100.16.2500.100.2100	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE - UNDIST PR EXP	0	(459,861)	Transferred paraeducator funding from ESSER grant to BOE and additional needs
Total For Request		<u>459,861</u>	<u>(459,861)</u>	
3 100.16.1200.101.3202	PROFESSIONAL SPEC. ED. SERV - SW	137,159	0	Director of Spec Ed & Pupil Services' Request
100.16.1200.122.5602	TUITION - SPECIAL ED - OTHER LEAS - SW	0	(113,901)	Increased outside evaluation requests from parents and increased BCBA and contracted speech/language/audiological services due to increased student needs
100.16.2500.101.8100	DUES & FEES - SW - FISCAL SERVICES	0	(7,554)	
100.16.2500.100.2100	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE - UNDIST PR EXP	0	(15,703)	
Total For Request		<u>137,159</u>	<u>(137,159)</u>	
4 100.16.2500.101.6502	TECH SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPS-FS	39,247	0	Director of Instructional Tech's Request
100.16.2230.119.6502	TECH SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPS-TECH	63,657	0	Upgrading programs and equipment for increased cybersecurity
100.16.2230.119.7304	EQUIPMENT - TECH - SW - TECHNOLOGY	52,334	0	
100.16.2500.100.2100	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE - UNDIST PR EXP	0	(155,237)	
Total For Request		<u>155,237</u>	<u>(155,237)</u>	
5 100.16.2600.101.4310	CONTRACTED SERV - BUILDINGS - SW - FACILIT	276,157	0	Director of Finance & Business Ops' Request
100.16.2600.101.4301	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - SW - FACILITIES	7,405	0	Facilities maintenance and repairs and
100.16.2600.101.4311	CONTRACTED SERV - GROUNDS - SW - FACILIT	58,723	0	Elementary School playground upgrades for
100.16.2600.101.4303	EQUIPMENT REPAIR - GENERAL - SW - FACILIT	53,955	0	ADA accessibility
100.16.2600.101.7307	EQUIPMENT - BUILDINGS - SW - FACILITIES	47,249	0	
100.16.2500.100.2100	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE - UNDIST PR EXP	0	(443,489)	
Total For Request		<u>443,489</u>	<u>(443,489)</u>	

Bethel Board of Education
Quarterly & Year to Date Expenditures

Account	FY Budget	Q1 Expenditures	Q2 Expenditures	Q3 Expenditures	Q4 Expenditures	FY Expenditures	FY Balance
Fiscal Year 2022-2023							
(Audited)							
BOE Operating Budget	\$51,164,831	\$9,087,035	\$13,891,387	\$12,823,618	\$15,306,865	\$51,108,905	\$55,926
Facilities Budget	\$450,000	\$221,831	\$171,314	\$89,891	-\$33,036	\$450,000	\$0

Note: Funds were utilized from the Unexpended Funds Account in 4Q

Fiscal Year 2023-2024							
(Unaudited)							
BOE Operating Budget	\$53,159,164	\$9,326,351	\$15,285,297	\$11,865,416	\$16,679,663	\$53,156,728	\$2,436
Facilities Budget	\$463,880	\$227,991	\$128,987	\$114,799	-\$7,898	\$463,880	\$0

BETHEL BOE BUDGET 2023-2024
BUDGET TRANSFERS SUMMARY BY PERIOD

Object Codes		Approved Budget	July-Sept Adjustments	Oct-Dec Adjustments	Jan - Apr Adjustments	May & Jun Adjustments		Total Transfers	Final Budget
Salaries	1000	35,490,873	-	-	-	459,861		459,861	35,950,734
Employee Benefits	2000	9,470,626	-	-	-	(1,074,291)		(1,074,291)	8,396,335
Professional Services	3000	742,984	-	-	5,552	134,820		140,372	883,356
Purchased Property Services	4000	237,000	-	895	(800)	396,240		396,335	633,335
Other Purchased Services	5000	5,558,812	-	(1,700)	(3,914)	(113,901)		(119,515)	5,439,297
Supplies	6000	1,351,892	3,000	(4,386)	(39,743)	105,242		64,113	1,416,005
Property	7000	218,162	(3,000)	1,930	39,837	99,583		138,350	356,512
Dues & Fees	8000	88,815	-	3,261	(932)	(7,554)		(5,225)	83,590
Total Budget		53,159,164	-	-	-	-		-	53,159,164
Total Transfers To			3,000	6,086	45,389	1,195,746		1,199,031	
Total Transfers From			(3,000)	(6,086)	(45,389)	(1,195,746)		(1,199,031)	
% of Total Budget								2.26%	