

Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2025 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. Consent Calendar	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
3.A. Approval of Minutes	
3.A.1. March 27, 2025	
4. Correspondence	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
5. 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
6. Administrative/Board Member Update	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
6.A. Board Chairperson Update	
6.B. Administrative Update	
6.B.1. 2024-2025 BOE District Data Sheet	
7. Reports to the Board	
7.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices	
7.A.1. ELA Department	
• Science Fiction and Fantasy Curriculum	
• Gender Studies Curriculum	
• Honors Literature	
7.B. Policy	Speaker(s): Policy 9310, 9311, 9313
7.B.1. First Reading	

7.B.1.a. Policy 5144.2 - Restorative Practices Response

7.B.1.b. Policy/Regulation 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate

7.B.1.c. Policy/Regulation 6141.3273, 4118.53/4218.53 - Generative AI

7.B.1.d. Policy/Regulation 4118.5/4218.5 - Employee Responsible Use of the District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications

7.B.1.e. Policy/Regulation 6141.321 - Student Responsible Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

7.B.2. **Second Reading**

7.B.2.a. Policy/ Regulation 4118.51 - Employee Use of Social Media **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

7.B.2.b. Policy 4152.6 - Family Medical Leave **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

7.B.2.c. Policy/Regulation 2232 - Retention and Disposition of Records and Information **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

7.B.2.d. Policy 5145.42 Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

8. **Action Items**

8.A. Class of 2025 Graduation Date

9. **BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES**

9.A. School Improvement Plan - Johnson School & Bethel Middle School - Part II

10. **Recommended Executive Session**

10.A. CT General Statues 1-210(b) (2) Personnel - Non-Renewals **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

10.B. CT General Statues 1-210(b) (9) - Negotiations - Teamsters Local Union No. 677, Bethel Custodians

11. **Adjourn**

Form 3280
RECEIVED

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

APR 01 2025

Notification of Receipt of Gifts, Grants, and Bequests Received BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CENTRAL OFFICE

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: \$35

How the Gift, Grant, or Bequest Will Be Used: Most Improved Student Baseball Tickets hosted by the Hartford Yard Goats and ProHealth

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift, Grant, or Bequest: \$35

Donor's Name and Address:

Monica Black
28 Country Club Ln
Easton CT 06612

(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
300 Whittlesey Dr.
Bethel CT 06801

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

Date Received: 3/31/25

Copy to: Donor
Principal
Superintendent

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

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, 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, D. Burns

J. Larsen, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Present
Anthony Cassio:	Present
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present, arrived 7:12 pm.
Mrs. Kara DiBartolo:	Absent
Mr. Bill Foster:	Absent
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Ms. Pat Rist:	Present
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

Dr. Carver recognized the following:

- Girls Basketball played Northwest Catholic in the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME on March 15th, at Mohegan Sun. Championship Game Fan Bus - Thank you for the incredible outpouring of support from the community, over 100 donations, and local businesses in getting our fans to the Championship game. Thank you Putnam House Restaurant for sponsoring a student fan bus to the championship game, and Terzian & Son General Contracting for sponsoring student tickets. While the girls lost to Northwest Catholic, they played a great game and were the second seed in the state. In addition, Emma Huedepohl was recognized on the achievement of the 1000-point milestone. Lastly, congratulations to our Unified Team for playing Oxford at the half-time show.
- Congratulations to Olivia Chamberlain and Sam D'Amico for being named the 2025 SWC leadership award recipients. In addition, Emily Turek and Josh Heyel as the 2025 CIAC Scholar Athletes.

- Congratulations to Chiru Akkili for being named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. He is one of only 15,000 students in the nation to receive this honor.
- Congratulations to our DECA team who recently competed in the DECA State Career Development Conference. Congratulations to Aidan Badia who place first in the state in the Financial Consulting Competition.
- Bravo to our students who performed in the musical, Urinetown, last weekend. The play was very well acted, and the music was phenomenal.
- A huge shout of thanks to Maddy Tamburri for organizing the Unified Prom last weekend. This was Maddy's capstone project and the prom was enjoyed by students from Bethel, as well as unified programs from other communities. I would also like to thank all of our special education and PPS who volunteered to support the project.
- Congratulations to the BHS debate team, who took first place overall in a tournament at Fitch High School (Groton) in February.

Teacher, Rookie, Pillar of the Year, CHAMP, and Friends of Bethel Award Winners

Each year our schools and the district award a Teacher of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Pillar of the Year. In addition the district awards the Friend of Bethel and CHAMP award to individuals who have significantly impacted our schools and programs. Congratulations to all!

2025 Pillars of Year

Bethel High School - Kristan Giroux
 Bethel Middle School - Danelle Egan,
 Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Julia Malota
 Frank A. Berry School - Bernadette Apellaniz-Bryant
 Anna H. Rockwell School - Dr. Carolyn Keller
 Bethel Public Schools -

- Michael Tonucci
- Cyndi Giordano-Donati
- Lindsay Jankun-Harsch
- Brittany Pizzano

2025 Rookie Teachers of the Year

Bethel High School - Lori Spero
 Bethel Middle School - Brianna Ferraro
 Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Nicole Bentson
 Frank A. Berry School - Kayleigh Murphy
 Anna H. Rockwell School - Noemi Gristina

2025 Teachers of the Year

Bethel High School - Dr. Reine Issa
 Bethel Middle School -Marie Jowdy
 Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Gregory Reid
 Frank A. Berry School - Aimee Bajor
 Anna H. Rockwell School - Elaine O'Keeffe

2025 Friends of Bethel Award

Greg Henry, Parent, All Sports Booster Club President & School Volunteer

2025 CHAMP Award

Brandon Husvar, Network Administrator

Creativity, Innovation, & Excellence Recognition 2025

We give recognition to staff members who demonstrate creativity & innovation for the students in the Bethel Public Schools, aligned to our mission, core beliefs, and strategic focus areas.

Aimee Bajor

Diana Bernardo

Christy Bibb
Zachary Craybas
Irene Drake
Melissa Dube
Catherine Emerick
Heather Farisello
Robyn Gerety
Danielle Legnard
Sheila Levine
Sabrina Luis
Danielle Lynch
Taryn McCormick

Gina McKenzie
Laura Montero
Jeff Moscovitz
Kelly Muckell
Kit Nielsen
Joe Perreault
Donna Rick
Debbie Tierney
Samatha Tisi
Danielle Troetti
Kim Trombetto

2.A. CABE Board Member Appreciation Month

The Month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation Month. Dr. Carver thanked our hardworking and dedicated board members for the time and effort they devote to board business.

2.B. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

None.

3. Consent Calendar

3.A. Approval of Minutes

3.A.1. February 20, 2025

Move to approve the minutes of February 20, 2025. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jen Larsen and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

Ms. Pat Rist:	Abstain
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

4. Correspondence

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Anti-bullying program eliminated - C. McGuire
- Letter - Kindergarten Paraeducators - K. Luchsinger & K. Sprock
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Education budget - K. Rissolo
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Rockwell School Cafeteria - K. Schmitt

- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Fwd_ Rockwell School Cafe - K. Schmitt2
- Budget meeting - L. Davenport
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Proposed Budget Cuts - K. Poklrma
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - The Critical Importance of Full-Day Preschool for Circle of Friends - J. Kurtz
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Support our Education Budget - A. Crumb
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Support for proposed school budget - J. Valencia
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Input to public hearing because cannot make it in person as planned - C. McQuire
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Protecting arts education in Bethel Public Schools - from a former student - I. Tipton-Krispin
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Bethel School Budget - M. Emrick
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Schools Budget - Z. Wahba
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - THE BUDGET!! PLEASE READ - J. OConnor
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Letter regarding public hearing 3_19_25 - A. Schneider
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Board of Finance Budget Meeting - J. Sedlor
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Proposed BETHEL EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS - D. Morey
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Re_ Communication from the Superintendent 3-5-25 - B. Ochs
- Bethel CT Public Schools Mail - Re_ Communication from the Superintendent 3-5-25 - E. Abel-Tatis

5. Public Comment

Sally Ajello,, 65 Codfish Hill Road, spoke about the Board of Finance receiving 76 pages of emails, of which only two were in opposition of the budget.

6. Administrative/Board Member Update

6.A. Board Chairperson Update

Mr. Clayton, Chair, informed the Board he attended CABE's Board Chair Update

Mr. Clayton spoke about a range of topics, including legislative testimonies, budget discussions, and social media challenges. He spoke about legislative issues involving placeholder bills, special education transportation, electric bus mandates, and various other proposed bills impacting school districts.

He spoke about the placeholder bill regarding formalized pooling of special education transportation services. He is concerned about a potential mandate for electric buses, which could result in another unfunded mandate.

Mr. Clayton is opposed to SB 001 due to additional, burdensome data reporting requirements for school districts. Mr. Clayton supports SB 1511 as it proposes changes to the ECS formula,

beneficial for the district. Mr. Clayton is opposed to HB 7219 as it duplicates existing federal laws (Section 504 and IDEA) unnecessarily.

He spoke to the Board about social media challenges. He spoke about responding to misinformation including an example of addressing misinformation about district accreditation.

6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Carver informed the Board:

- Jen Variale submitted testimony regarding food services.
- Spring sports have begun
- Dr. Carver is giving a presentation on high school graduation requirements and will present next year at the CABE/CAPSS Convention.
- Town Meeting will be held on April 2nd with the potential referendum on April 22nd.

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

Dr. Carver provided the Board with the 2024-2025 BOE District Data Sheet. Dr. Carver reviewed the district's enrollment data with the Board. There have been 63 new students enrolled since the beginning of the school year.

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Curriculum, Assessment, & Professional Practices

7.A.1. Science

7.A.1.a. Physics 43 and Science Research Curriculum

Motion to approve the Physics 43 and Science Research curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

7.A.2. CTE

7.A.2.a. Python 1 and Python 2 Curriculum

Motion to approve the new courses, Python 1 and Python 2, and their curricula. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

7.A.2.b. Business, Marketing, Accounting 1, Technological Design, and CAD

Motion to approve the Intro to Business, Marketing 1, Accounting 1, Technological Design, and CAD curriculum. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

8. Action Items

8.A. 2025-2026 School Calendar - Approval

Move to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jen Larsen.

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

8.B. 2026-2027 School Calendar - Accept Draft

Move to accept the Draft 2026-2027 School Calendar. Passed with a motion by Ms. Pat Rist and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea

Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

9. Recommended Executive Session

Board Members Attendance:

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

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

Move to enter into Executive Session at 7:36 PM inviting C. Carver, K. Brooks, J. Variale. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman.

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

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

9.B. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) - Negotiations - Teamsters Local Union No. 677, Bethel Custodians

9.C. CT General Statues 1-210(b)(9) - School Nurses' Association of Bethel

Move to come out of Executive Session at 8:40 PM. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

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

Move to approve Nurses one-year contract extension. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Ms. Pat Rist.

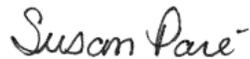
Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman:	Yea
Anthony Cassio:	Yea
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Ms. Pat Rist:	Yea
Mr. Jeffrey Spies:	Yea

10. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Anthony Cassio.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Pare
Board Recorder



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

Protecting Student Health

2 messages

Brenda Argentine <brendamontero12@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 10:56 AM

To: "carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us" <carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "boe@bethel.k12.ct.us" <boe@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Dear Dr. Carver and Members of the Board of Education,

I'm writing to you as both a school nurse and a parent in this district, deeply concerned about the future of healthcare in our schools. Johnson Elementary currently has two full-time nurses, and I cannot stress enough how critical it is to keep both positions. With 663 students and staff depending on us every day, losing one nurse would put their health and safety at serious risk.

Since the start of this school year (August 28, 2024 – March 26, 2025), our nurse's office has handled an overwhelming 4,677 visits—that's over 30 visits per day per nurse. On top of that, we manage 44 EpiPens, 51 inhalers, daily medications, and countless unexpected issues. We don't just handle minor scrapes and bruises; we deal with life-threatening allergies, chronic conditions, mental health crises, and injuries that require immediate attention.

Unlike other school staff, nurses have no backup—no one else in the building can step in if we are absent. Teachers, administrators, and support staff can cover for each other when needed, but a nurse's role is unique. If our numbers shrink, so does the safety net that keeps students healthy and in the classroom. We also carry professional liability insurance, something no other school personnel are required to do, which further highlights the responsibility we shoulder.

Beyond treating students, we are problem-solvers, advocates, and caregivers. We support children with complex medical needs so they can learn without fear. If nursing staff is reduced, the care we provide will inevitably suffer, leading to longer wait times, delayed emergency responses, and avoidable health complications.

This is not just about Johnson Elementary—it's about the entire district. We are already stretched too thin. Reducing the number of nurses would leave gaps in care that no one else can fill. Each school has its own unique medical needs, and cutting staff would put more pressure on those of us who remain, creating unsafe conditions for students and staff alike.

The numbers don't lie—our workload demands at least the staffing we currently have. I urge you to keep both full-time nurses at Johnson Elementary and to ensure that nursing staff remains adequate throughout the district. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Argentine

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

Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 11:47 AM

To: Brenda Argentine <brendamontero12@gmail.com>, Susan Pare <pares@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Cc: "boe@bethel.k12.ct.us" <boe@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Thank you for your email. I will ensure the Board gets a copy.

Christine Carver, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Bethel Public Schools
P.O. Box 253
Bethel, CT 06801
(203)794-8601



[Quoted text hidden]



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

Student health and safety

1 message

Jill Young <jsa10282@yahoo.com>

Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 2:23 PM

Reply-To: Jill Young <jsa10282@yahoo.com>

To: "Carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us" <Carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "BOE@bethel.k12.ct.us" <BOE@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Dear Dr. Carver and Members of the Board of Education,

As both a school nurse and a mother of four children in Bethel public schools, I'm writing to share my deep concern about the possibility of cutting a nursing position from the district. I care greatly about the children in our community—not just my own, but every student who walks through our school doors. Our nurses are a vital part of keeping them safe, and reducing staff would put that safety at risk.

The needs of our students are more complex than ever. At Johnson Elementary alone, we develop and oversee 39 Individual Health Care Plans and 39 Emergency Care Plans to make sure students with chronic illnesses and life-threatening conditions get the care they need. These aren't just pieces of paper—they are lifelines for students who rely on us every single day.

Beyond handling daily sick visits, school nurses conduct annual vision and hearing screenings for 663 students, often identifying issues that require medical follow-up. Without enough nurses, these crucial screenings could be delayed, meaning some children might struggle in school simply because they can't see or hear properly.

But our responsibilities don't stop there. We are part of attendance meetings, safety and security meetings, PPT and 504 meetings, and we ensure that students with medical needs are safe on field trips, managing medical orders and medications so they can fully participate. We do all of this while handling unexpected injuries, illnesses, and emergencies that arise throughout the school day.

Cutting even one nurse from the district would make it harder to provide the care our students need. It would mean longer wait times for sick kids, fewer resources for students with medical needs, and more pressure on the nurses who remain. Our students deserve better.

I urge you to keep all current nursing positions in place—not just at Johnson Elementary, but across the district. The health and safety of our students depend on it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Young



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

2025-2026 Budget Plan

1 message

Luis Rachel Vazquez <lrvasquez787@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 7:37 AM

To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Cc: carverc@bethel.k12.us

Good Morning-

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Rachel Vázquez. My daughter Lorena isn't a student at the Bethel Public Schools yet however, she will be in a few years. As a parent I have been learning and attending the town hall meetings about the school budget and have become concerned of the recent budget cuts. I am aware of the next few town hall meetings coming up on April 2 and 22nd. I recall in past meetings at the Bethel Public High school and town hall it was highly encouraged to write to the state encouraging to give more funding to the schools. Dr.Carver also recommended it in her weekly news letter a few talking points. Is it too late to send an email to the provided representative for this year?

Thank you for your time. All the best to Bethel Public Schools administrators, supportive staff, teachers, parents and of course students!

Rachel Vázquez , MS,OTR/L



Pare, Susan <pare@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Legislation

1 message

Carver, Christine <carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us> Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 10:07 AM
 To: Tony Hwang <Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov>, Eric Berthel <Eric.Berthel@cga.ct.gov>, Martin Foncello <mfoncello2@cs.com>, Raghiv Allie-Brennan <Raghiv.Allie-Brennan@cga.ct.gov>
 Cc: ~BOEmembers <boemembers@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Rich Straiton <rcstrait07@gmail.com>, Dan Carter <carterd@bethel-ct.gov>, Bryan Terzian <bryan153@sbcglobal.net>, James Hancock <jhancockjr82@gmail.com>, "Duff, William" <pipercubct@yahoo.com>, Karen Foster <karenfosterbof@gmail.com>, Nick Ellis <nickellis98@yahoo.com>, "Manfreda, Bob" <bobmanfreda@gmail.com>, John Lennon <johnlennon32@aol.com>, "McCorkindale, Cynthia" <mccorked@gmail.com>, Kristen Brooks <brooksk@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Jennifer Variale <varialej@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Susan Pare <pare@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Brad Heering <heeringb@bethel-ct.gov>

Good Morning Delegation -

We got notified yesterday, and I know it is too late to submit formal testimony, about some bills that are moving forward. As you are considering any final votes, I wanted to communicate the administrative positions on these bills.

Bills BPS SUPPORTS

SB 1511 - Aan Act Concerning Disconnected Youth. I have already communicated our support for this bill in testimony. I wanted to remind you that this changes the threshold for the Education Cost Sharing Grant (ECS) and provides a weight for students with disabilities. This would provide much needed revenue to communities to support education.

HB 7076 An Act Providing Mandate Relief. This bill would change back district requirements to educate students with disabilities through their 21st Birthday, rather than through the entire school year. This would be extremely helpful in reducing district cost.

SB 1244 An Act Making Investments in District Special Education Costs. Even though there is a potential for increased data collection, we support the SDE creating tuition structures for approved special education facilities, in an attempt to control costs. While we support the idea of grants to start in district programs (Section 4), for those of us that already do that important work, we would rather see those funds diverted to increasing the Excess Cost Grant.

Bills BPS are OPPOSED to

HB 1391 An Act Concerning the Transparency of Multilingual Learner Data. This is an unfunded mandate. First, I ask you, in times of significant reductions, who is going to put together these new reporting requirements? If districts are not transparent in report data of multilingual learners, then they should be addressed individually. Creating a statewide mandate makes absolutely no sense. We already report, using a variety of metrics, progress of multilingual learners to their families.

SB 1371 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A JUST CAUSE STANDARD FOR TEACHER CONTRACT TERMINATIONS AND REQUIRING CONTRACT TERMINATION HEARINGS FOR TEACHERS THAT HAVE ATTAINED TENURE BE BEFORE A NEUTRAL HEARING OFFICER. We are strongly opposed to revisions to this bill. CAPSS and CABE have also written testimony in opposition of this bill. Connecticut has decades of experience with a fair system that allows for teacher contract termination. One could argue that the teachers, when they have achieved tenure, have greater protections when it comes to termination. Introducing the "just cause" language, complicates a system that has worked. I formally testified against a similar bill last year.

I thank you for taking the time to read this email and if you have any questions, I am always available to speak by phone.

I am also wondering what the status of any legislation related to excess cost is? Can one of you please reply so we have a sense of what is happening?

Christine Carver, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Bethel Public Schools
P.O. Box 253
Bethel, CT 06801
(203)794-8601





Pare, Susan <pare@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Fwd: [FirstSelectman:70362] Budget Cut Concern

1 message

Mary Churchill <churchillm@bethel-ct.gov>

Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 8:16 AM

To: Dan Carter <carterd@bethel-ct.gov>, Christine Carver <carverc@bethel.k12.ct.us>, James Hancock <jhancockjr82@gmail.com>, John Lennon <johnlennon32@aol.com>, Karen Foster <karenfosterbof@gmail.com>, Cynthia McCorkindale <mccorked@gmail.com>, Robert Manfreda <BobManfreda@gmail.com>, Will Duff <wmduffusa@gmail.com>, Nick Ellis <nickellis98@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Pare, Susan" <pare@bethel.k12.ct.us>

Good morning,

This email was received this morning, 4/3/2025, even though the attached letter is dated 3/19/2025. As requested, I am forwarding it.

Board of Finance members: please do not "reply all."

Sue: Would you please forward to the BOE members?

Thanks,
Mary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lydia** <lydiapetitti@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 7:28 AM
Subject: [FirstSelectman:70362] Budget Cut Concern
To: <budget@bethel-ct.gov>

Good morning,

Kindly find the attached letter regarding my concern for the cuts related to the 2025-26 budget. I ask that this letter be shared with First Selectman Dan Carter, Dr. Carver, members of the Board of Education, and members of the Board of Finance.

Please contact me should you have any questions, concerns, or would like further clarification on any items mentioned.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lydia Petitti
203-892-5048

--

Mary Churchill
Office Administrator
Town of Bethel
203-794-8540

 **25-26 Budget Letter.pdf**
106K

Lydia Petitti
732 Hulls Hill Road
Southbury, CT 06488
Lydiapetitti@gmail.com
203-892-5048

19 March 2025

First Selectman Dan Carter
Town of Bethel
1 School Street
Bethel, CT 06801

Board of Education Members
Board of Finance Members
Bethel Public Schools
1 School Street
Bethel, CT 06801

Dear First Selectman Dan Carter, Board of Education Members, and Board of Finance Members,

I am writing out of deep concern regarding the potential reduction of nursing staff in the upcoming budget. As a Bethel Middle School nurse who also provides nursing services to St. Mary School, I must emphasize how crucial it is to maintain our current staffing levels.

Each day, we serve a high volume of students with increasingly complex health needs that demand our full attention. Eliminating even one nursing position would create an unsustainable burden on the remaining staff and compromise our ability to properly care for our students' diverse medical needs.

I recognize that budget constraints force difficult choices, but student safety must be our paramount concern. This is not about saving my job or any of my colleague's job. Our nursing team is already working at minimum capacity to meet current needs, and our student population is only increasing. Any reduction would put student safety at significant risk, as we simply couldn't guarantee timely, effective care during emergencies, medical crises, time-sensitive medication administration, or scheduled medical procedures.

School nurses are responsible for the health of ALL students district-wide. Our daily responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Responding to medical emergencies
- Managing chronic health conditions
- State mandated health screenings
- Knowing each student's specific medical history and needs
- Performing medical procedures
- Administering medications
 - Prescription, over-the-counter, and medications that only licensed nurses can administer
- Attending to everyday health needs of our diverse student population
- Ensuring all students meet Connecticut's mandatory requirements for school attendance, including immunization compliance

It is critical to understand that other staff members such as teachers, secretaries, or administrators, cannot fill the role of a licensed nurse if we are short staffed. As healthcare professionals, we have specialized training that cannot be delegated to unlicensed personnel. Additionally, sharing sensitive medical information with general staff would violate HIPAA regulations.

As licensed healthcare professionals, we operate under strict standards and regulations. Reducing nursing staff would expose the district to legal vulnerability should an incident occur due to inadequate coverage. I must also consider the risk to my professional license if safe practice becomes compromised by insufficient staffing.

My connection to Bethel is in my roots. I was born and raised here and attended Bethel Schools, so I also feel a personal responsibility to speak on this matter. During my transition from high school to college, I formed a meaningful relationship with the late Larry Craybas, former Chairman of Bethel Board of Education, whose guidance and support was instrumental in the pursuit of my nursing career. His unwavering dedication and commitment to doing what was right for students continues to inspire my advocacy today.

I urge you to reconsider any nursing staff reductions. Our students' health and safety must remain the priority. I am happy to discuss this further or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lydia Petitti', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Lydia Petitti



To: Members of the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

From: Dr. Christine Carver, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Scott Clayton, Board of Education Chair, Mr. Dan Carter, First Selectman, Mr. Nick Ellis, Board of Finance Chair

Date: April 21, 2025

RE: In Support of Raised Bill No. 1561 and Raised Bill No. 7277

The Bethel Public Schools and the Town of Bethel strongly support Raised Bill No. 1561, *An Act Concerning Resources for Special Education*, and Raised Bill No. 7277, *An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education in Connecticut*. Together, these bills represent a thoughtful and comprehensive framework to advance equity, sustainability, transparency, and quality in special education across our state.

We endorse the creation of a Special Education Offset Grant based on a clear, needs-driven formula, accounting for the foundation amount, base aide ratio, and the number of resident students receiving special education services. We also support the introduction of a transportation grant to help offset special education transportation costs. This structure aligns state funding more closely with district needs and enrollment levels, while the proposed maintenance-of-effort provision ensures state aid supplements, rather than replaces, local funding. For the Bethel Public Schools, this could not come at a more needed time, as we have a strong growth in the number of students with disabilities who have significant needs. In addition, due to inflation, health care costs, and the overall increases in resources needed to support our students with disabilities, we are experiencing huge financial challenges. The Offset Grant would be significant in not making significant cuts to our programs.

We commend the bills' focus on strengthening in-district and regional programming to reduce reliance on costly out-of-district placements. The proposed competitive grant program would help districts expand their capacity to serve students in the least restrictive environment. In particular, we applaud the emphasis on early interventions, especially for students with dyslexia and multilingual learners, which can reduce the need for more intensive services later on. While Bethel prides itself on the quality of our district programs to create stronger programs for our students, this will continue to support the statewide problems of out-of-district placement

costs, which result in reductions or caps in the excess cost grant for those students who truly require out-of-district placements.

Rising and inconsistent tuition and service rates remain a challenge for districts. While regional providers have made efforts to control costs, Bethel supports the development of a universal rate schedule for special education services. We recommend that this schedule be created by the Office of Policy and Management in consultation with the State Department of Education. A standardized system will improve fairness, transparency, and predictability in reimbursement procedures. Bethel struggles with the unpredictability of these tuition rates set by out-of-district placements, often after budgets have been set. Rate increases can vary anywhere from 5% to 15%, based on the outplacement. This is significant because tuition can range anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,00 per student.

We support the enhanced oversight measures included in both bills, such as mandatory site visits, audits, public reporting of licensure and staffing changes, and the creation of a statewide provider database. These steps are essential to ensure quality services, protect student welfare, and promote responsible use of public funds. We affirm the State Department of Education's critical role in overseeing compliance and implementation.

The proposed legislation includes meaningful improvements to due process and transition procedures. We support requiring PPT meetings prior to a student's withdrawal or transfer to safeguard service continuity and uphold students' rights to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). We also support measures to streamline legal timelines and improve transportation coordination. These are practical changes that will minimize disruptions and support students and families more effectively. This will also create more fiscal efficiencies.

Together, Raised Bills 1561 and 7277 offer timely, impactful reforms to address long-standing challenges in Connecticut's special education system. We urge the Committee to support these bills and stand ready to collaborate with policymakers, educators, and families to ensure successful implementation.



Bethel Public Schools

1 School Street, P.O. Box 253, Bethel, CT 06801
Fax: (203) 794-8723 – website: www.bethel.k12.ct.us

Kristen Brooks, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
(203) 794-8613

Christine L. Carver, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
(203) 794-8601

Jennifer Variale
Director
Finance & Business Operations
(203) 794-8603

Christine E. Sipala, Ph.D.
Director
Special Education & Pupil Services
(203) 794-8616

Michelle D. Rutledge
Director
Teaching & Learning
(203) 794-8755

Donna Burns
Director
Instructional Technology
(203) 794-8071

Tyler Stevens
Supervisor
Facility & Security Operations
(203) 794-8609

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

As has been previously communicated, state advocacy for funding of education is critical. I am writing you once again to garner your **support in writing to our delegation and the Governor** for bills that have been recently proposed, [Raised Bill No. 1561, An Act Concerning Resources for Special Education](#), and [Raised Bill No. 7277, An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education in Connecticut](#).

These bills, which are identical versions in both the House and Senate, could provide districts across the state much much-needed funding for supporting students with disabilities. Below are the emails of our Bethel delegation and the Governor. To make it easy for you, I have drafted some points you might want to include in your email, or you can write your own email. If you would like to see our formal testimony, please [click this link](#). As I have stated previously, additional state funding will help mitigate future cuts we will need to make.

I am writing to you in support of Raised Bill No. 1561, An Act Concerning Resources for Special Education, and Raised Bill No. 7277, An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education in Connecticut.

- *Support for Our Growing Needs:*
Bethel is seeing a sharp increase in students with significant disabilities. These students deserve strong, consistent support, but rising costs are stretching our budget thin. The proposed Special Education Offset Grant would help cover those costs, so we don't have to cut other essential programs.
- *Fair Funding Based on Real Numbers:*
The Offset Grant would use a fair formula that takes into account how many students need special education services in each district. That means funding would go where it's truly needed — helping students and communities.
- *Help With Rising Transportation Costs:*
A new transportation grant would help pay for special education transportation, which has become extremely expensive. This would be a big help for districts like Bethel.

- *Keep Services Close to Home:*
The bills promote building stronger special education programs in-district and in regional partnerships, so fewer students need to be sent to costly out-of-district placements. This helps keep students closer to home and reduces long-term costs.
- *Invest in Early Support:*
Early interventions, especially for students with dyslexia and multilingual learners, are a smart investment. These supports can reduce the need for more expensive services later on.
- *Control Unpredictable Tuition Costs:*
Out-of-district tuition costs can increase by 5% to 15%, often after school budgets are set. That's tens of thousands of dollars per student. We support the creation of a universal rate schedule to bring fairness and predictability to these rising costs.
- *Better Oversight and Accountability:*
The bills include stronger oversight of out-of-district providers, like regular site visits, audits, and public reporting. These steps are important for making sure our students get quality services and that taxpayer money is spent responsibly.
- *Smoother Transitions and Legal Processes:*
The proposed changes would improve how students are supported when they transfer or leave a program. They would also simplify legal timelines and make transportation coordination easier. These updates protect students' rights and reduce unnecessary disruptions.

I thank you in advance for your support of these bills.

Here are the email addresses of the delegates:

Representative Raghiv Allie-Brennan - Raghiv.Allie-Brennan@cga.ct.gov

Representative Marty Foncello - Martin.Foncello@housegop.ct.gov

Senator Eric Berthel - Eric.Berthel@cga.ct.gov

Senator Tony Hwang - Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov

[Governor Ned Lamont](#)

Thank you again for taking the time to write an email of support for these very important bills.

A reminder that the Referendum or vote for the Town and School budget is Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Sincerely,



Christine L. Carver, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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

Follow Up Letter-NSLP Removal Harmful Chemicals

Ellington Public Schools <ellingtonpublicschools@users.smore.com>
Reply-To: jdzen@ellingtonschools.net
To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Mon, Apr 21, 2025 at 12:40 PM

Not displaying correctly? [View in browser](#)

Translate



National School Lunch Program

Follow Up Letter - Removal Harmful Chemicals (April 2025)

Dear Members of Boards of Education in CT—

I hope all is well in the school districts you serve.

I am writing to update you on the Ellington Board of Education’s ongoing efforts to address health concerns related to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), as outlined in our January 30, 2025, letter to Connecticut’s federal delegation. Unanimously endorsed under our [Ellington Unplugged](#) initiative, [the letter raised alarms](#) about possibility of harmful chemicals and ultra-processed foods in NSLP meals, which pose risks to our students’ well-being.

On April 21, 2025, Superintendent Dr. Scott Nicol sent a follow-up letter:

[Follow Up Letter—NSLP Removal Harmful Chemicals \(April 21, 2025\)](#)

The letter copied our State Delegation (Senators Saud Anwar, Jeff Gordon, John Kissel, and Representative Jaime Foster) and requested a meeting with interested federal representatives. We seek to discuss two proposals: (1) allowing NSLP Entitlement funds to cover labor and equipment costs for healthier meals, and (2) mandating pre-market testing for contaminants like pesticides and synthetic additives in NSLP foods.

We deeply appreciate your support for this critical initiative. Please contact me at jdzen@ellingtonschools.net or Dr. Nicol at snicol@ellingtonschools.net to share insights, collaborate, or learn more about our efforts to ensure safe, nutritious school meals for all Connecticut students.

Jennifer Dzen, Chair—Ellington Board of Education



Ellington Public Schools

Ellington is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Unsubscribe from emails by Ellington Public Schools.

Bethel Public Schools
Invites You to the New Spring Casual
2025 Awards Celebration
IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
ROOKIE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
PILLARS OF THE YEAR
FRIENDS OF BETHEL AWARD
CHAMP AWARD
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS
RETIREES

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
JANICE JORDAN EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

**HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
BEVERAGES FOR PURCHASE
(COFFEE & SODA INCLUDED)**

THE AMBER ROOM COLONNADE
OUTDOOR COVERED PATIO
ROUTE 37 (STACEY ROAD), DANBURY, CT

RSVP by May 14th

\$53 per Person - Online Payments Only

www.myschoolbucks.com

(Under "School Store", "Categories", Choose "Staff Events" & "Staff Only - BPS Staff Recognition - May 22, 2025")



2025 Awards Celebration in celebration of achievement for the following:

Pillar of Bethel Award:

Bethel High School – Kristan Giroux, Social Worker

Bethel Middle School – Danelle Egan, Library Media Specialist

Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Julia Malota, School Psychologist

Frank A. Berry School – Bernadette Apellaniz-Bryant, Special Services Secretary

Anna H. Rockwell School – Dr. Carolyn Keller, Social Worker

Bethel Public Schools:

Michael Tonucci, BCBA, Johnson School & Bethel Middle School

Cyndi Giordano-Donati, BCBA, Johnson School & Bethel Middle School

Lindsay Jankun-Harsch, BCBA, Rockwell School

Brittany Pizzano, BCBA, Berry School

Rookie Teachers of the Year:

Bethel High School – Lori Spero, Mathematics Teacher

Bethel Middle School – Brianna Ferraro, School Psychologist

Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Nicole Bentson, Grade 3 Teacher

Frank A. Berry School – Kayleigh Murphy, Grade 2 Teacher

Anna H. Rockwell School – Noemi Gristina, Kindergarten Teacher

Teacher of the Year:

Bethel High School – Dr. Reine Issa, Mathematics Teacher

Bethel Middle School –Marie Jowdy, Mathematics Teacher

Ralph M.T. Johnson School - Gregory Reid, Grade 4 Teacher

Frank A. Berry School - Aimee Bajor, Special Education Teacher

Anna H. Rockwell School – Elaine O’Keeffe, Special Education Teacher

Friends of Bethel Award

Greg Henry, Parent, All Sports Booster Club

CHAMP Award

Brandon Husvar, Network Administrator

Educational Service Awards

10 Years of Service

Eleni Caffrey, Mark Caron, Grant Cox, Kylie D’Arcangelo, Katherine Edwards, Amber Kane, Linda Siladi, Meghan Stabile, Michael Tonucci, Ivelisse Velez

20 Years of Service

Christopher Ciparelli, Michelle DeBenedetto, Marjorie Dilworth, Laura Dobrindt, Cheryl Hallock, Eugene Hellmann, Anthony Liberati, Catherine McCabe, John Poapst, Lois Tamburino, Bryan Watson

30 Years of Service

Margaret Genuario, Ann Martinelli, Janet Murray, Debra Tierney

40 Years of Service

Albert Robinson

Retirees

Diane Kinkade, Literacy Specialist, Ralph M.T. Johnson School

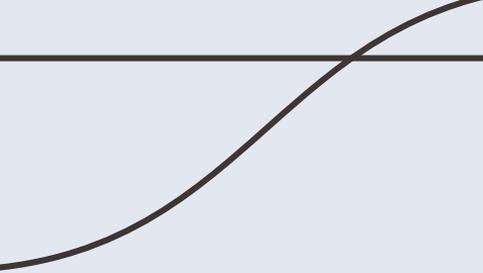
The **2025 Awards Celebration** will also be in celebration of achievement for the following:

Creativity, Innovation, & Excellence in Education:

Aimee Bajor, Diana Bernardo, Christy Bibb, Zachary Craybas, Irene Drake, Melissa Dube, Catherine Emerick, Heather Farisello, Robyn Gerety, Danielle Legnard, Sheila Levine, Sabrina Luis, Danielle Lynch, Taryn McCormick, Gina McKenzie, Laura Montero, Jeff Moscovitz, Kelly Muckell, Kit Nielsen, Joe Perreault, Donna Rick, Debbie Tierney, Samatha Tisi, Danielle Troetti, Kim Trombetta

**Bethel Education Foundation's
Janice Jordan Excellence in Education Award:**

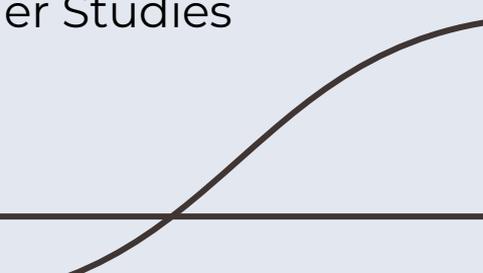
**Kelly Muckell, Elementary Recipient
Jennifer Rooney, Secondary Recipient**



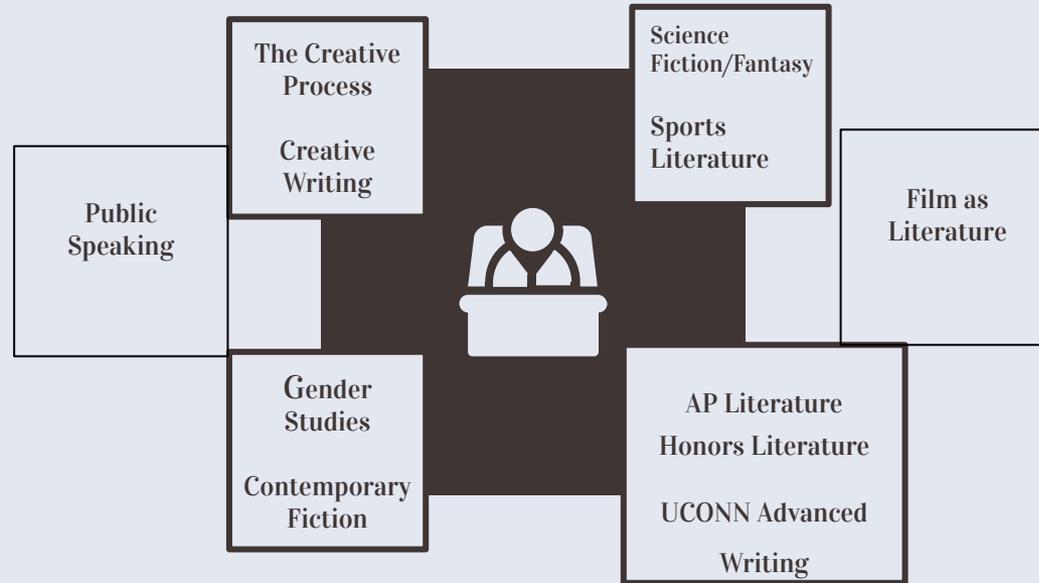
Bethel High School English Curriculum

Senior Semester Options

Honors Literature, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Gender Studies



Senior Options for English Credit



Senior Semester Options: Variety and Purpose

★ **Variety of Options**

- Student interest surveys (2017-2018); ongoing in courses
- Focus on relevancy, interest, talents, and passions
- Semester system
- College credits available for some courses (AP Literature, UCONN Advanced Writing, Creative Writing*, Public Speaking*, Film as Literature*)

★ **Balanced Curriculum**

- Focus on “life beyond” skills: communication, non-fiction reading, personalized writing, performance tasks that challenge and assess soft-skills
 - Acknowledge shifts in technology
 - All have elements of self-reflection
 - Elements of each unit that encourage fun and exploration
-

Senior Semester Credit Options

Science

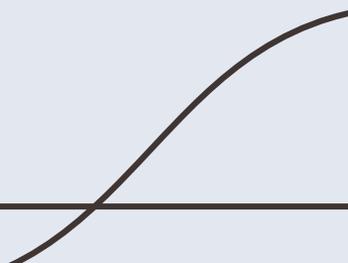
Fiction/Fantasy Curriculum Map

- The College
Essay/Personal Narrative
- Fantastic Voyage
- A Glimpse into the Future

Gender Studies Curriculum Map

- The College
Essay/Personal Narrative
- The Western Microcosm
of Gender
- The Macrocosm of
Gender

Honors Literature Curriculum Map

- The College Essay/Personal
Narrative/Contemporary
Tragedy
 - Society and the Individual
 - The Language of Tragedy
- 

Sample Unit: Science Fiction “A Glimpse into the Future”

Essential Questions:

1. How do we better understand ethical and unethical behavior by reading science-fiction?
2. What is science’s ethical and moral responsibility to humanity?
3. How can society explore and innovate while still ensuring human safety?
4. How can science fiction be a predictive warning for society’s future?

Sample Learning Targets:

Students will be able to identify the conventions of science-fiction and the relationship between the literature and real world events.

Students will be able to present relevant conclusions using well-selected evidence and the appropriate mode for the audience (IE: debate, presentation, formal writing, etc.)

Performance Task: AI and Podcasting: Students will create a 3-minute TED Talk or podcast about a personal memory, develop a written narrative, and compare a self-recorded version with an AI-generated version. They will reflect on AI's role in storytelling and determine whether or not they endorse its use.

Sample Unit: Gender Studies, “The Macrocosm of Gender”

Essential Questions:

1. How do cultural and societal/global norms shape our understanding of gender roles, and how have these norms evolved over the past 150 years in different parts of the world?
2. How does the intersection of factors such as culture, history, and individual experience influence one's personal understanding of gender, and how might this understanding differ across global contexts?
3. How have the various texts and cultural explorations in this course challenged or transformed your initial understanding of gender, and what new insights have you gained about gender roles and expectations globally?

Sample Learning Targets:

Students will be able to reflect on and discuss contemporary (GLOBAL) gender issues while improving their speaking and listening skills.

Students will be able to research, analyze, and present a comprehensive study of gender roles and expectations in a specific country, considering both historical and contemporary contexts.

Performance Task: The Global Exploration of Gender: Students will research and reflect on how gender is defined and shaped by various cultures around the world

Sample Unit: Honors Literature “Contemporary Tragedy/College Essay”

Essential Questions:

1. How do personal narratives express crucial understandings of the individual?
2. What techniques are used by authors to inspire change or create understanding amongst global and local citizens?
3. Why do we read global contemporary texts?

Sample Learning Targets:

Engage in a respectful, academic discussion by actively listening, responding thoughtfully, and building on the ideas of others

Assess the use of structure, tone, and rhetorical strategies in writing to determine how these conventions shape meaning and impact the reader.

Performance Task: The Personal Narrative/College Essay: Students create a personal piece of writing that celebrates their perspective, values and experiences using their own voice. This task asks students to reflect, provide feedback in various ways, and refine their writing to make a final product that is expressive and authentic to themselves.

QUESTIONS?



Bethel High School

DAVID W. DEAKIN EDUCATIONAL PARK
300 WHITTLESEY DRIVE · BETHEL, CONNECTICUT 06801
P 203.794.8600 F 203.778.7448



Christopher M. Troetti
Principal

Gary M. Lawlor
Associate Principal

Mari Lerz
Assistant Principal

To: Dr. Carver

From: Bethel High School Administration

RE: Graduation Date

2/19/2025

Dear Dr. Carver,

The Bethel High School Administration recommends that the graduation ceremony be held on Friday, June 13, 2025 on Ralph DeSantis Field at 6 pm (rain date 6/14/25).

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Troetti

Gary Lawlor

Mari Lerz

Johnson and Bethel Middle School Improvement Plans -Update

Dr. Alison Salerno, Johnson School Principal
Mr. Bryan Watson, Bethel Middle School Principal

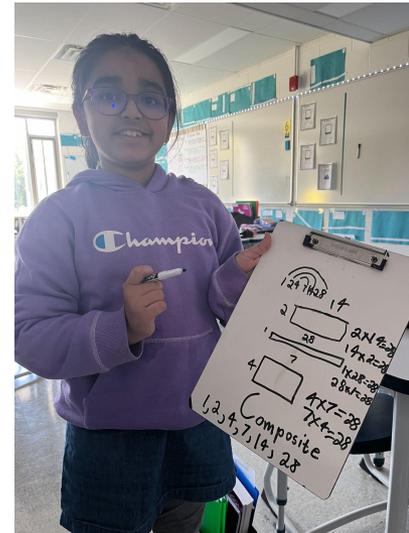
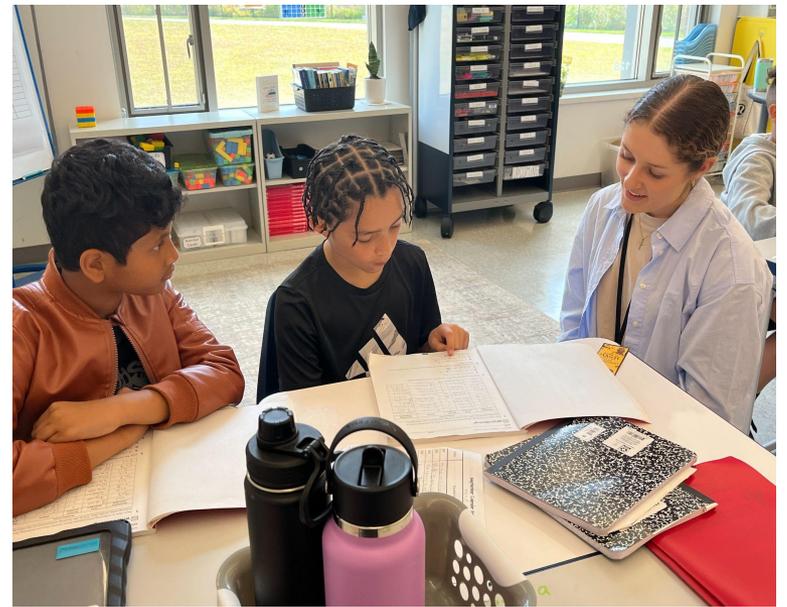


Theory of Action ↔ SIP

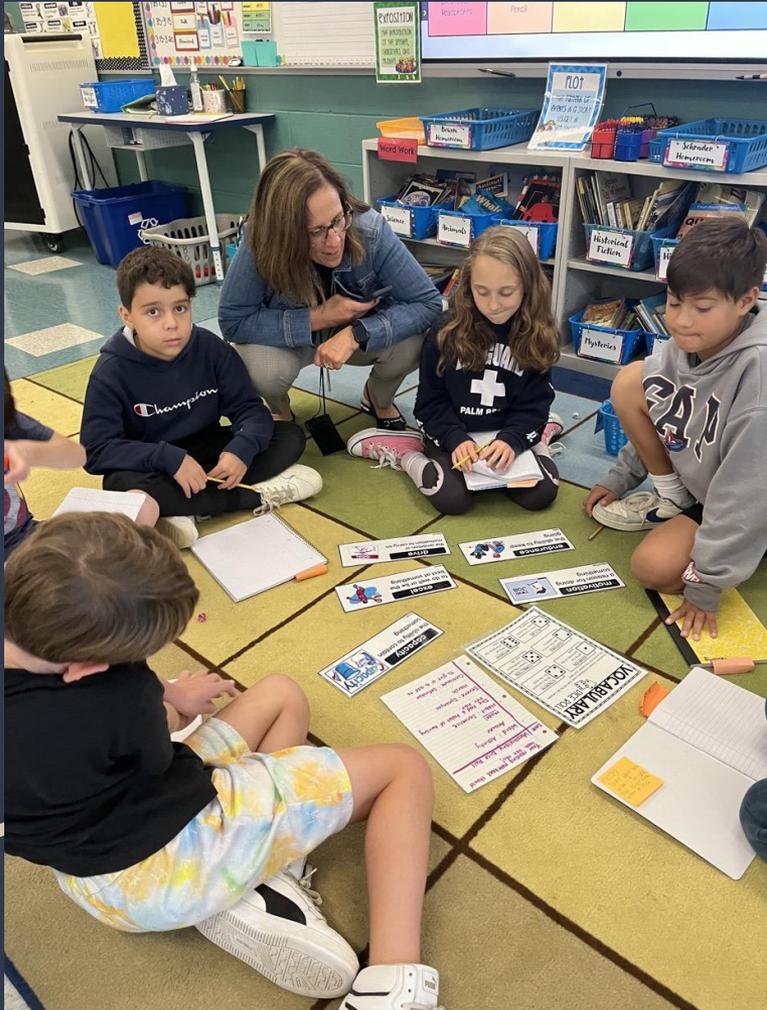
If we use formative assessment data to differentiate grade-level instruction that intellectually engages all learners, then we will improve student outcomes.



Strategy:
Increase student
intellectual
engagement by
cultivating a
culturally
responsive
environment for
all learners.



Johnson School Accomplishments



- **Launched Professional Learning Series-“Culturally Responsive Teaching”** by Zaretta Hammond
- **Implemented Culturally Responsive Instructional Strategies**
 - **Awareness & Information Processing**
- **Learning Walks/Observations Focused on Intellectual Engagement/Responsive Teaching**
- **Increased Student Voice and Belonging**
- **Strengthened Use of Formative Assessment to Promote Equity**
- **Restorative Practice/Accountability Projects**
 - **“Leaving the Village” March 2023**

Next Steps



- Continue Professional Learning Series-“Culturally Responsive Teaching” by Zaretta Hammond
- Continue to provide professional learning on and implement instructional strategies to support the needs of our ML learners
- Continued focus on Responsive Teaching/Engagement
- Expand building-based learning walks to include Principal’s Advisory Cabinet to monitor, adjust, and plan for progress toward SIP
- Continue to grow student voice and ownership

Bethel Middle School's Accomplishments



- Investigated Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies
- Embedded Executive Functioning Rituals and routines
- Continue to empower students through goal setting and reflection
- Enhanced our Responsive Teaching
 - Developed PLC Cycles in all Grades and Content Areas
 - Enhanced PLC to analyze data to target Tier 1 instruction within the classrooms
 - Created structures and protocols for Clusters to target tier 1 executive functioning skills and behavior
 - Coached teachers with Tier 1 scaffolds and instructional strategies
 - Revised SRBI process
- Revise and adapted curricula to meet the needs of students and provide high level of rigor

Bethel Middle School's Next Steps

- Continue to build teachers tier 1 strategies and scaffolds
- Enhance PLC cycles targeted towards academic, executive functioning and behavioral skills
- Continue to build upon the data cycle process and refine timelines to better align with our units of study
- Continue to provide responsive teaching opportunities based on formative data.