

## **Board of Education Resource Management & Business Operations Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 19, 2025 6:30 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. **Food Services Management Contract (FSMC)**

2. **Changing Banking Institutions**

3. **New Business**

4. **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.)

5. **Adjourn**

# **BETHEL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Briefing Summary**

**Date of Briefing to the Board: June 19, 2025**

**Presenter: Jennifer Variale, Director of Finance & Business Operations**

**Topic: Recommendation of FSMC for 2025-2026 with 4 one-year optional renewals**

**Importance of this topic to the Board: Important**

### **Key Points of the Briefing:**

\* It is important to the Bethel Board of Education that an excellent Food Service Management Company administer the food service operations for the district in accordance with all of the regulations of the National School Lunch Program under the direction of the USDA and the CSDE.

\* It is important that the FSMC manage the food service operations with a financial break-even or better result; otherwise the BOE operating funds must cover any loss.

### **Recommendation of the Review and Evaluation Committee:**

- 1) Three comprehensive proposals were received in response to our RFP. The RFP was developed using all the requirements of the CSDE.
- 2) A review and evaluation committee was formed including Pat Rist (BOE Member), Suzanne Rodgers (Accounting Manager) and Jennifer Variale.
- 3) Based upon the independent scoring of the stipulated rubric, the committee chose Whitsons. Several highlights of their proposal are as follows:
  - a) The highest year one guaranteed profit of \$295K
  - b) A history of good management in CT school districts
  - c) Highest score - #1 choice of each member of the review and evaluation committee
  - d) The submission of a very comprehensive and innovative proposal with strong evidence of capability. A financially sound organization with an emphasis on locally sourced fresh ingredients and creative menus.

### **Action is Requested of the Board of Education**

Motion to authorize Jennifer T. Variale, Director of Finance & Business Operations, to finalize all paperwork with the CSDE and sign a CSDE approved contract with FSMC Whitsons for the year 2025-2026.

# **BETHEL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Briefing Summary**

**Date of Briefing to the Board: June 19, 2025**

**Presenter: Jennifer Variale**

**Topic: Changing Banking Institutions**

**Importance of this topic to the Board: Important**

### **Key Points of the Briefing:**

Due to the notice from Wells Fargo Bank, the holder of the Menegay Scholarship Funds, that they no longer support Municipal Brokerage accounts the following resolutions are required:

- \* Fidelity Investments requires a board resolution to establish a new brokerage account(s) where the Menegay Scholarship Funds will be transferred from the current Wells Fargo accounts.

**Action Requested of the Board of Education: Motion needed.**

(State the motion if requested)

### **Recommended Motions:**

- 1) The Bethel Board of Education adopts the attached resolution to establish a new brokerage account(s) at Fidelity Investments to hold the Menegay Scholarship Funds currently held in Wells Fargo accounts 1540-7156 and 8379916524. This resolution appoints Jennifer Variale, Director of Finance and Business Operations, and Suzanne Rodgers, Accounting Manager as individuals authorized to act on behalf of the above mentioned accounts.

In regard to Fidelity Business Account Z40493544, the BETHEL CT BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) hereby duly adopts the following in regards to the listed individuals:

Jennifer Variale, Director of Finance and Business Operations  
Suzanne Rodgers, Accounting Manager

RESOLVED:

FIRST: That the individual(s) listed on this form hereby are authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of this Business (herein called the "Business"), to establish, maintain, and act on this account (which may be a margin account), and each of them hereby is authorized and empowered for and on behalf of this Business, with Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC and its affiliates (collectively "Fidelity") for the purpose of purchasing, investing in, or otherwise acquiring, selling (including short sales), possessing, transferring, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of, or turning to account of, or realizing upon, and generally dealing in and with any and all forms of securities including, but not by way of limitation, shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, scrip, participation certificates, rights to subscribe, options, warrants, certificates of deposit, mortgages, evidences of indebtedness, commercial paper, certificates of indebtedness and certificates of interest of any and every kind and nature whatsoever, secured or unsecured, whether represented by trust, participating and/or other certificates, or otherwise. The fullest authority at all times with respect to any such commitment or with respect to any transaction deemed by any of the said officers and/or agents to be proper in connection therewith is hereby conferred, including authority (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) to give instructions (whether oral, written, electronic, or otherwise) to Fidelity with respect to said transactions; to borrow money and securities and to borrow such money and securities from or through Fidelity, and to secure repayment thereof with the property of the Business; to bind and obligate the Business to and for the carrying out of any contract, arrangement, or transaction that shall be entered into by any such officer and/or agent for and on behalf of the Business with or through Fidelity; to pay by checks and/or drafts drawn upon the funds of the Business such sums as may be necessary in connection with any of the said accounts; to deliver securities and contracts to Fidelity; to deliver securities to and deposit funds with Fidelity; to order the transfer or delivery of securities to any other person whatsoever, and/or to order the transfer of record of any securities, to any name selected by any of the said officers or agents; to affix the corporate seal to any documents or securities to any name selected by any of the said officers or agents; to affix the corporate seal to any documents or agreements, or otherwise; to endorse any securities and/or contracts in order to pass title thereto; to direct the sale or exercise of any rights with respect to any securities; to sign for the Business all releases, powers of attorney, and/or other documents in connection with any such account, and to agree to any terms or conditions to control any such account; to direct Fidelity to surrender any securities to the proper agent or party for the purpose of effecting any exchange or conversion, or for the purpose of deposit with any protective or similar committee, or otherwise; to accept delivery of any securities; to appoint any other person or persons to do any and all things that any of the said officers and/or agents are hereby empowered to do, and generally to do and take all action

necessary in connection with the account, or considered desirable by such officer and/or agent with respect thereto.

SECOND: That Fidelity may deal with any and all of the persons directly or indirectly empowered by the foregoing resolution, as though they were dealing with the Business directly.

THIRD: That the officers of the Business be and hereby are authorized, empowered, and if requested by Fidelity, directed to certify: (a) a true copy of these resolutions; (b) specimen signatures of each and every person by these resolutions empowered; (c) a certificate (which, if required by Fidelity, shall be supported by an opinion of the general counsel of the Business, or other counsel satisfactory to Fidelity) that the Business is duly organized and existing, that its operating documents empower it to transact the business by these resolutions defined, and that no limitation has been imposed upon such powers.

FOURTH: That Fidelity may rely upon any certification given in accordance with these resolutions, as continuing fully effective unless and until Fidelity shall receive due written notice of a change in or the rescission of the authority so evidenced and the dispatch or receipt of any other form of notice shall not constitute a waiver of this provision, nor shall the fact that any person hereby empowered ceases to be an officer of the Business or becomes an officer under some other title in any way affect the powers hereby conferred. The failure to supply any specimen signature shall not invalidate any transaction if the transaction is in accordance with authority actually granted.

FIFTH: That in the event of any change in the office or powers of persons hereby empowered, the officers of the Business shall certify such changes to Fidelity in writing in the manner herein above provided, which notification, when received, shall be adequate both to terminate the powers of the persons theretofore authorized, and to empower the persons thereby substituted.

SIXTH: That the foregoing resolutions and the certificates actually furnished to Fidelity by the Business pursuant thereto be and hereby are made irrevocable until written notice of the revocation thereof shall have been received by Fidelity.

SEVENTH: That the Business and its officers indemnify and hold Fidelity harmless from any claim, loss, expense, or other liability for effecting any transactions and acting upon any instructions given by the officers of the Business.

Adopted this 19th day of June 2025

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Bethel Board of Education