

Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2026 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	
2.A.1. SLCGP Round 2 – Cybersecurity – Part 2	
2.A.2. Big Y Gift Card	
3. BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES	
3.A. Rockwell and Berry School Improvement Plan	
4. Consent Calendar	Speaker(s) : Policy 9326
4.A. Approval of Minutes	
4.A.1. August 20, 2026	
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. 2026-2027 BOE District Data Sheet	
8. Reports to the Board	
8.A. Resource Management & Business Operations	
8.A.1. Personnel	Speaker(s) : Policy

8.A.1.a. Bethel Middle School Unified Sports Coach

8.A.2. Budget Transfers

8.A.2.a. 2026 Final Budget Transfers

Speaker(s) : Jen
Viale

8.A.3. Transportation Update

Speaker(s) : Jen
Viale

9. **Recommended Executive Session**

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

10. **Adjourn**

**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:

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Subawards — Other Eligible Projects Bundle

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

Bethel Public Schools will use these grant subawards from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP) to implement six critical cybersecurity priority projects. These projects directly target high-risk gap areas identified in our district-wide cybersecurity assessments, aligning with the State of Connecticut Cybersecurity Strategy and federal CISA guidelines under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Round 2. These subawards operate under an 80% Federal / 20% Local cost-share model.

Project	Description
Enterprise Credential Management	Implements centralized password management to enforce strong access controls, facilitate secure credential sharing among IT support staff, and safeguard administrative accounts.
Cybersecurity Posture Reassessment	Engages independent security consultants to conduct an updated vulnerability assessment, measuring ongoing security progress and updating the strategic roadmap for continuous maturity.
Incident Response & Preparedness	Enhances the organization's incident response framework by developing comprehensive operational playbooks, formalizing external escalation protocols, and funding regular tabletop exercises to validate procedures.
Perimeter Network Resilience	Upgrades perimeter security infrastructure with high-availability, redundant firewall systems to ensure continuous operational uptime and eliminate single points of failure.
IT Workforce Development	Invests in advanced technical training and industry-recognized cybersecurity certifications to maintain specialized expertise within the internal IT team.
Vulnerability Management & Remediation	Establishes a continuous vulnerability management framework to systematically identify, prioritize, and patch potential system weaknesses across network infrastructure.

Estimated Cash Value of the Gift, Grant, or Bequest: \$79,559

Round 2 of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (Period of Award: 12/01/2023 to 11/30/2027) is an 80/20 cost-share award. The total combined budget for these six 'Other Eligible Projects' is \$99,449, which is funded by a Federal Award Share of \$79,559 (80%) and a required local district match of \$19,890 (20%). The award operates on a reimbursement model for services, licensing, and professional fees.

Grant No.	Project Title	Federal Share	Sub-recipient Match (BPS Responsibility)	Total Budget
23C009D	BPS Incident Response Plan	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
23C009E	BPS Cybersecurity Reassessment	\$24,000	\$6,000	\$30,000
23C009F	BPS Remediate Vulnerabilities	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,000
23C009G	BPS Elimination of Fixed PW	\$1,279	\$320	\$1,599
23C009H	BPS High-Availability Firewall	\$4,680	\$1,170	\$5,850
23C009I	BPS IT Cybersecurity Training	\$9,600	\$2,400	\$12,000

Donor's Name and Address:***State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection******Awarding Agency: US Department of Homeland Security***

DESPP Commissioner or Designee
 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
 1111 Country Club Road, 3rd Floor North
 Middletown, CT 06457

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

Receiving School:

Bethel Public Schools
 1 School Street, PO Box 253
 Bethel, CT 06801

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

Bethel Public Schools

Applicants:

- Donna Burns, Director of Instructional Technology
- Ivelisse Velez, Supervisor of Technology Infrastructure and Operations

Date Received:

- Notified of award on 8/20/26
- Signature of Authorized Bethel Officials 8/26/26 and submission to DEMHS
- BPS has not received countersigned documentation yet from DEMHS—per their representative, *DEMHS is currently processing the subaward documentation for final execution. Due to some previous delay in getting countersigned documentation, we cannot estimate when we will receive the fully executed document to begin the projects.*

Copy to: Donor
 Principal
 Superintendent

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

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

RECEIVED

Notification of Receipt of Gifts, Grants, and Bequests Received

SEP 14 2026

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:

\$25 Big Y Gift Card

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

~~Items will be used in Rockwell Library lessons with a focus on collaboration, communication, curiosity (STEM), and play-based learning.~~

purchase cereal boxes for
Rockwell Cereal Box Challenge event

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

\$25

Donor's Name and Address:

Big Y
83 Stony Hill Rd
Bethel, CT 06801

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

Receiving School:

Rockwell School

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

Kerry Collins, Library Media Specialist

Date Received:

9-9-24

Copy to:

Donor
Principal
Superintendent

(Ref: Board Policy 3280)

Rev: 6/2017

**Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting held on Thursday, August 20, 2026, in
Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253
Bethel, CT 06801 and Live Stream**

Attendance:

Jane Gangi

Administrative Attendance: A Sackey, K Brooks, J Variale, D Burns

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

Board Members Attendance:

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Present
Mr. Bill Foster:	Present
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Present
Ms. Jen Larsen:	Absent
Dr. Rick Magee:	Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Present
Ms. Brenda Reed:	Absent
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Present
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Present

1. Call to Order

1.A. Roll Call for Quorum

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence

2.A. Gifts, Grants, & Bequests

2.A.1. State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Subawards

Dr. Sackey shared that Bethel Public Schools received the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$113,110. The grant money will be used to improve cybersecurity for the district. Dr. Sackey thank Mrs. Burns for applying and securing the grant for the district.

2.A.2. High Quality Special Education Incentive Grant

Dr. Sackey shared that the district received the High Quality Special Education Incentive Grant in the amount of \$500,000. This grant will be used to support the ground-up construction of a regional transition house, providing students ages 18-22 full access to their local community. This will be a collaborative partnership with Brookfield Public Schools. The grant funds will cover facility construction, the procurement of a 12-passenger vehicle, and specialized assistive technology hardware. Dr. Sackey thanked Mrs. Stabile for finding and applying for this grant.

3. Consent Calendar

3.A. Approval of Minutes

3.A.1. May 28, 2026

Move to approve the minutes of May 28, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Dr. Rick Magee:	Abstain
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

3.A.2. August 15, 2026 - Special Meeting

Move to approve the minutes of August 15, 2026 Special Meeting. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Dr. Rick Magee.

Mr. Bill Foster:	Abstain
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Abstain
Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea

3.B. Approval of CABA Board Leadership Application

Move to approve applying for the CABA Board of Distinction Award. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Gabriela Hernandez.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

4. Correspondence

5. Public Comment

Dr. Jane Gangi, 60 Whippoorwill Rd. - shared printed copies of the email she sent to the Board in May which included resources on Eid. She also gave the Board copies of a presentation she gave last year at the Children's Literature Conference.

6. Administrative/Board Member Update

6.A. Board Chairperson Update

Mr. Clayton welcomed everyone to the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Clayton shared that the Board met on August 15th for their annual retreat. He shared that the Board engaged in wonderful and effective dialogue. At the retreat, Dr. Sackey presented his transition plan. Mr. Clayton shared that the Board developed their 2026-2027 goals. Mr. Clayton discussed the CABE self-reflection document and will share it with all Board members. Mr. Clayton reminded the Board that the CABE/CAPSS convention will take place in November, any Board member that would like to attend needs to tell Kylie. Mr. Clayton will attend and present at Convocation, which will take place on Monday, August 24th.

6.B. Administrative Update

Dr. Sackey shared that he attended the Board retreat and was very impressed with the discussion and collaboration that took place. Dr. Sackey shared that BHS achieved its highest rating from US News and World Report. BHS is ranked number 25 in the state of Connecticut and number 1,130 out of 17,945 public high schools nationwide. He congratulated Mr. Troetti and BHS on this amazing achievement. Dr. Sackey shared that BMS was recognized as an IXL Champion School for being one of the highest achieving schools. He congratulated Mr. Watson and BMS on this amazing achievement. Dr. Sackey shared that the 2026/2027 Evaluation and Support Plan has been submitted. Dr. Sackey shared that the 2026 Mirage Book was available for the Board to review.

6.B.1. Opening Update

Dr. Sackey shared an opening update. He and Mr. Stevens walked through all the buildings this week and everything looked great. Dr. Sackey thanked Mr. Stevens and the custodial staff for all their hard work in getting the buildings ready for our students and staff. Dr. Sackey also noted that he was impressed to see so many teachers already working on getting their rooms set up for the year.

6.B.2. 2026 CABE/CAPSS Convention

Dr. Sackey gave a reminder to the Board for them to let Kylie know if they want to be registered for the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November.

7. Reports to the Board

7.A. Resource Management & Business Operations

7.A.1. Update Authorized Signers of the ED-099

Ms. Variale shared that we need to change the signature on the ED-099 - remove Dr. Carver and add Dr. Sackey.

Pursuant to the requirement of the CSDE, the Bethel Board of Education hereby revises the authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs as follows: Signature 1: Dr. Albert Sackey, Superintendent of Schools and Signature 2: Jennifer Variale, Director of Finance and Business Operations. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Lauren Shekari.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

7.A.2. Personnel

7.A.2.a. Appointment - Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

Dr. Sackey shared that there was an extensive search process, 2 rounds of interviews where the second interview contained a performance task. Dr. Sackey is very pleased to nominate Meghan Stabile as the new Director of Special Education and Pupil Services.

Motion to approve Meghan Stabile as the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

7.A.2.b. Appointment — Supervisor of Special Education 6-12 and Community Partnership

Dr. Sackey shared that there was an extensive search process, 2 rounds of interviews where the second interview contained a performance task. Dr. Sackey is very pleased to nominate Dr. Alexa Studer as the new Supervisor of Special Education 6-12 and Community Partnership.

Motion to approve Alexa Studer as the Supervisor of Special Education 6-12 and Community Partnership. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Gabriela Hernandez.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea

Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

7.A.2.c. New Hires and Resignations 2026-2027

Dr. Sackey shared the list of employees who have retired or left the district and our new employees.

8. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 7:46 PM. Passed with a motion by Mr. Scott Clayton and a second by Gabriela Hernandez.

Mr. Scott Clayton:	Yea
Mr. Bill Foster:	Yea
Ms. Gabriela Hernandez:	Yea
Dr. Rick Magee:	Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin:	Yea
Mr. Daniel Serencsics:	Yea
Ms. Lauren Shekari:	Yea

Respectfully submitted,



Kylie D'Arcangelo
Board Recorder



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

bussing

1 message

Rob Jackson <hatrick@att.net>
To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Thu, Aug 27, 2026 at 11:33 AM

I know this is unimportant and you don't want to hear about it and I've addressed the board years ago about it but I'd like to come down to the meeting on the 24th and speak again. I just want to give you a heads up the bus stop at deep Wood is a train wreck. There are at least five buses all coming around the same time neighborhood families are screaming at each other at the bus stop. There's no room for parents to park and drop kids off or pick them up and the bus company refuses to work with anyone as far as picking kids up dropping them off if it happens to be raining or things like that so I just wanted to mention the problem and address it I really don't care about cc but I know you do so it's going to be a safety manner very unsafe dangerous

rob Jackson
Sent from my iPhone



Join us in Bethel on 10/10

Bethel SafeWalk <safewalkbethel@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 4, 2026 at 1:33 PM

To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Dear Members of the Bethel Board of Education,

I am writing to encourage the Board of Education to form a team for this year's Bethel SafeWalk on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center.

SafeWalk supports The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE), an organization that provides vital services and prevention education to our community at no cost to those who need them. CEE also provides free, age-appropriate education programs to our schools—beginning as early as Pre-K and continuing throughout students' academic years. These programs help students build healthy relationship skills, recognize and reduce vulnerabilities to abuse, and strengthen the protective factors that help prevent violence before it begins.

Supporting SafeWalk is a natural fit with the Board's Goal 2: creating safe, inclusive, and connected environments. CEE's work directly supports social and emotional learning, mental health supports, and stronger family and community engagement. By participating as a Board team, you would demonstrate a shared commitment to the safety, well-being, and healthy development of Bethel's students and families.

CEE's education programs are entirely self-funded through fundraising activities like SafeWalk. Forming a Board of Education team would not only help raise needed funds, but would also send a meaningful message that Bethel stands together against interpersonal violence and in support of prevention, education, and community connection.

I hope the Board will consider joining the Bethel SafeWalk as a team and encouraging staff, families, and community members to participate as well. Together, we can help ensure these important programs remain available to the students and families who benefit from them.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the Bethel community.

Sincerely,
Lesley Fratto

<https://secure.frontstream.com/2026-bethel-safewalk>



Bethel.png
608K



Request for Safety Review of School Bus Stop Location

Elizabeth Martinez <elizabethmartinez9256@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 4, 2026 at 5:45 PM

To: Debra.Hart@firstgroup.com, boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

Dear Bethel Public Schools Transportation Department,

I am writing to request a safety review of my daughter's Aurora A. Martinez current school bus stop at 11 Sunny Acres Drive.

We live at 9 Sunny Acres Rd. Although the two locations may appear to be very close on a map, the walking route to the current bus stop presents a safety concern. There is no sidewalk along the route, and the stop is located near a curve where visibility between pedestrians and approaching vehicles is limited. My daughter has to walk through this area, and because drivers and pedestrians cannot clearly see one another around the curve, I am concerned about the risk of an accident.

I also understand that the school bus already travels directly past our residence at 9 Sunny Acres Rd. Therefore, I would respectfully ask that the District consider whether the bus stop could be relocated to a safer location in front of or immediately near our residence, rather than requiring my daughter to walk through this area.

I am specifically requesting that this be reviewed as a student transportation safety concern under Bethel Public Schools' transportation policy and Connecticut General Statutes §10-186.

Bethel's transportation policy defines a "hazard" as a condition affecting the safety of students walking to and from a designated bus pick-up area. Given the lack of a sidewalk, the curve, and the limited visibility of approaching vehicles, I believe the current walking route warrants a safety evaluation.

I would appreciate it if someone from the District or transportation department could evaluate the location in person and consider whether a safer stop could be established at or near our residence.

Please also let me know what the District's process is for formally reviewing or appealing a bus stop location when a parent has a safety concern.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously. My goal is simply to ensure that my daughter can safely access her school transportation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Martinez
Parent/Guardian

9 Sunny Acres Rd.
Bethel, CT
475-529-1379

Sent from my iPhone

Bethel Middle School Unified Sports Coach

Position Summary

The Middle School Unified Sports Coach is responsible for planning, organizing, and leading an inclusive athletic program that brings students with and without disabilities together through sports. The coach creates a positive, supportive, and respectful environment where all students can participate, build friendships, develop athletic skills, and experience the benefits of teamwork and school community.

Essential Responsibilities

- Plan and conduct practices that are engaging, inclusive, age-appropriate, and focused on skill development and teamwork.
- Coach Unified Sports teams in accordance with school, district, and athletic program policies.
- Provide instruction and encouragement to students with a wide range of athletic abilities and experience levels.
- Foster an environment of inclusion, respect, sportsmanship, and belonging.
- Develop positive relationships with athletes, Unified partners, families, teachers, and school staff.
- Adapt drills, activities, rules, and expectations to ensure meaningful participation for all students.
- Collaborate with special education staff, general education staff, athletic personnel, and administrators to support student participation and success.
- Monitor student safety and follow all school, district, and athletic safety procedures.
- Communicate regularly with students, families, and school personnel regarding schedules, expectations, and team activities.

Qualifications

- Experience coaching, teaching, mentoring, or working with middle school students preferred.
- Experience working with students with disabilities and/or inclusive athletic programs preferred.
- Knowledge of sports fundamentals, coaching techniques, and student-athlete safety.
- Strong communication, organization, and interpersonal skills.
- Current CPR/First Aid certification or willingness to obtain certification, if required by the district.
- Successful completion of all district-required background checks and training.

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous experience with Unified Sports, Special Olympics, adaptive physical education, or inclusive recreation.

- Experience coaching the specific sport offered by the school.
- Understanding of middle school social-emotional development and positive behavior supports.

Compensation

Compensation will be provided in accordance with the school district's established extracurricular coaching stipend schedule.