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.A.1.	Code of Ethics	
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 9326
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 Variale
8.A.3.	Transportation Update	**Speaker(s):** Jen Variale
9.	**Recommended Executive Session**	
9.A.	CT General Statues 1-210(b)(2) Personnel	
10.	**Adjourn**	

Form 3280

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

Form 3280

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2026
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: $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:

9-9-26

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 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 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

bussing

1 message

Rob Jackson <hatrick@att.net> Thu, Aug 27, 2026 at 11:33 AM
To: boe@bethel.k12.ct.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

September 2026: student representation on the Board and by-laws

jane gangi <janegangi@snet.net> Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 10:47 PM
To: "boe@bethel.k12.ct.us" <boe@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Kristen Brooks <brooksk@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "rutledgem@bethel.k12.ct.us" <rutledgem@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "burnsd@bethel.k12.ct.us" <burnsd@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "sackeya@bethel.k12.ct.us" <sackeya@bethel.k12.ct.us>, "stabilem@bethel.k12.ct.us" <stabilem@bethel.k12.ct.us>, Kylie D'Arcangelo <darcangelok@bethel.k12.ct.us>

September 21, 2026

Dear Bethel Board of Education and Bethel Administrative Council,

During a spring meeting, the topic of including student representation on the Board was discussed. I whole-heartedly agree with this idea. Helping young people engage with civic responsibilities is key to continuing democracy. My favorite education philosopher is John Dewey, who encouraged learning through experience. Dewey wrote Experience and Education in the 1930s, observing the rise of fascism in German schools; he was trying to create the type of school system that would support the participation needed to sustain democracy. By giving young people a place on the Board, they could learn through experience and, hopefully, become civic-minded adults. I don't know if you know of Ralph Tyler's Eight Year Study in the 1930s and 40s. With Dewey's influence, many schools became progressive schools in the early 1900s—learning by doing. Tyler studied graduates of progressive schools and traditional schools, and provides longitudinal data supporting Deweyan notions. Of the hundreds of graduates from progressive schools and traditional schools, progressive school graduates showed they achieved slightly more academically honors than traditional schools, and, more importantly, graduates of progressive schools had higher civic engagement, which Dewey thought essential to sustaining democracy. More recent experiments with progressive learning includes Kevin Leander's "Polycontextual Construction Zones: Mapping the Expansion of Schooled Space and Identity," which describes all the math and skills high school students learned while building Thoreau's cabin (pdf attached—if it doesn't come through, please email me at janegangi@gmail.com). I don't have a subscription the Washington Post anymore, but https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1981/08/23/the-bad-old-days-when-school-was-fun/7fb77c45-1627-488a-8b79-0813bd5df3c3/ might be of interest to you. "The Bad Old Days When School Was Fun" was written in 1981 by a WaPo writer, Michael Kernan, who was lucky enough to attend a progressive school.

From AI:

 "The Setting: The author recalls attending Utica Country Day School, where going to school felt wonderful and students genuinely loved arriving each day. [1]

 Creative Activities: Early grades featured sensory and imaginative projects rather than rigid testing, such as painting at standing easels with thick brushes, building a train out of blocks, and listening to radio music courses. [1]

 Immersive Learning: Students built a full-sized cave out of chicken wire and burlap to sit in while studying cavemen, made bread and cocoa while learning about Holland, and constructed plaster of Paris Roman arches and model catapults. [1]

 The Spirit of Progressive Education: The piece highlights how these schools prioritized hands-on, creative experiences—noting with dry humor that if progressive education ultimately failed, it was probably just because they ran out of plaster of Paris."

Finland is known for its excellent education system, based in-part on the ideas of Dewey and Jerome Bruner. This from AI:

"Core Pillars of Finnish Experiential Learning

Phenomenon-Based Learning (PhBL): Real-world themes (like climate change, the European Union, or community transport) replace traditional subject silos, encouraging students to investigate interdisciplinary topics collaboratively. [1, 2]
Education Outside the Classroom (EOC): Nature and cultural venues serve as year-round extensions of the school. Grounded in the cultural concept of luontosuhde (the human-nature relationship), outdoor learning continues through all weather seasons via snow experiments, forestry studies, and practical fieldwork. [1, 2, 3, 4]
Play-Based Early Education: Formal academic instruction begins at age 7. Early childhood education focuses entirely on child-led exploration, playful interaction, and the gradual development of motor and social-emotional skills. [1, 2]

Authentic Vocational Bridging: In older grades and adult education, students gather data from real stakeholders, manage long-term projects, and partner with local institutions or companies to solve active professional challenges."

To include students on the Board will require changes to the by-laws.

While looking at the by-laws to include student representation, the Board might also consider changing the by-laws on how the Board Chair appoints newly elected Board members to the four committees: curriculum, policy, community, and RMBO/facilities. Currently, the Chair can tell members what committee they will be on without consulting the Board members' preferences, and the Chair can tell members they have been appointed to that committee based on their background, even when it isn't. The Chair can disregard significant experience and education in a Board member's background, assigning them to their fourth choice when the Board member knows nothing about the fourth choice. When there is disagreement between the Board member and the Chair, the Chair can, and has, bring in the Town Attorney and the First Selectman.

Might it be in the best interest of students in the district if:

1. The Chair consult with Board members what their preferences are? If it's not possible to give the Board member their first preference, then try for the Board member's 2nd preference. If it's not possible to give the Board member their 2nd preference, then their 3rd.

2. Without consulting the Board member, the Chair cannot tell the Board member the Chair's decision is based on the member's background, when it isn't.

3. The Chair must consider significant experience and education in a Board member's background.

4. When there is disagreement between the Board member and the Chair on a committee assignment, instead of bringing in the Town Attorney and the First Selectman, the Chair consults with fellow Board members.

Which scenario better serves K-12 students?

Thank you for your consideration,

Jane M. Gangi, PhD

While you are examining the by-laws you might look at the by-laws that permit the Chair of Board to assign committee appointments without consulting members of the Board. If a Board member requests a different committee, the Chair can (and has) call the Town's Attorney to make the Board member, who has no expertise in the assigned committee but much expertise in any of the other three committees, do what the Chair wants. Before the Chair calls the Town Attorney, it would be in the best interest of students in the district that the Chair talk with Board members. Why should students be deprived of expertise that might help them succeed in life based on one Chair's unilateral decision? Why would a Chair not utilize the wisdom of fellow Board members who the citizens of Bethel duly elected to make important decisions that affect all of the K-12 students in the district?

We live in fraught times, when even SCOTUS seems to want to silence voters, especially black voters, with its recent ruling gutting of the Voting Rights Act. Surely, in our lovely town, we don't want a Chair to have the power to silence the voices of elected Board members, which also silences the voices of the citizens who voted for them.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Gangi, PhD

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2 attachments

2026 September by laws.docx
21K

leander-polycontextual.pdf
119K

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

Invitation: Educational Summit, October 17, 2026

Kara Pompano <pompak@danbury.k12.ct.us> Wed, Sep 23, 2026 at 10:26 AM
To: sackeya@bethel.k12.ct.us, boe@bethel.k12.ct.us, "Benigni, Mark" <mark.benigni@meridenk12.org>, email@meridenk12.ct.us, suptoffice@newmilfordps.org, faioess@norwalkps.org, board@norwalkps.org, boe.elected@stamfordpublicschools.org, dschwartz@waterbury.k12.ct.us, ebrown@waterbury.k12.ct.us, latoya.ireland@waterbury.k12.ct.us, yarixa.lopez@waterbury.k12.ct.us, terence.lott@waterbury.k12.ct.us, marguerite.heyward@waterbury.k12.ct.us, rorso@waterbury.k12.ct.us, kay.munoz@waterbury.k12.ct.us, tvanstone@waterbury.k12.ct.us, anthony.ireland@waterbury.k12.ct.us, jacqueline.jackson@waterbury.k12.ct.us
Cc: "Luisa M. Zagottis-Britton" <zagotl@danbury.k12.ct.us>, Kara Casimiro <casimk@danbury.k12.ct.us>

Dear Board of Education Members and Superintendents,

We are pleased to invite you to an upcoming Educational Summit focused on bringing education leaders together to share ideas, identify common priorities, and explore opportunities to join forces in advocacy for our students, schools, and communities.

Each district is invited to select up to 3 board members plus their superintendent or designee to attend.

This summit will be an opportunity for us to connect, learn from one another, and build a stronger collective voice on issues that matter to public education.

Kindly review the attached invitation and respond here by October 7. We would also welcome your thoughts, questions, and concerns as we work together to make this summit meaningful and productive.

We hope you will join us for this important conversation and help us shape the path forward together.

Best Regards,

Luisa Zagottis Britton,
Board of Education Chair



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Kara K. Pompano
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education
Danbury Public Schools
40 Apple Ridge Road
Danbury, CT 06810
Office 203-797-4702
Cell: 310-386-6696

Code of Ethics

The success of our school system depends on an effective working relationship between the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. This code incorporates those standards and responsibilities most critical to productive Board and Superintendent relations.

- **Board members and Superintendents ensure the opportunity for high-quality education for every student and make student achievement the fundamental goal of all decision-making actions.**
- **Board members and Superintendents are staunch advocates of high-quality free public education for all Connecticut children.**
- **Board members and Superintendents honor all national, state, and local laws, and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.**
- **Board members and Superintendents recognize that clear and appropriate communications are key to the successful operation of the school district.**
- **Board members and Superintendents will carry out their respective roles with the highest levels of professionalism, honesty, and integrity.**
- **Board members recognize that they represent the entire community and that they must ensure that the community remains fully informed on school-related matters.**
- **Superintendents and Board members recognize that the Superintendent serves as the Board of Education's agent and will, in that role, faithfully apply the policies adopted by the Board.**
- **Board members adhere to the principle that they shall confine the Board's role to policy-making, planning, and appraisal while the Superintendent shall implement the Board's policies.**
- **Board members and Superintendents both recognize that they serve as a part of an educational team with mutual respect, trust, civility, and regard for each other's respective roles and responsibilities.**
- **Board members are committed to the concept that the strength of the Superintendent is in being the educational leader of the school district.**
- **Board members and Superintendents practice and promote ethical behavior in the Board room as a model for all district employees.**
- **Board members and Superintendents consider and decide all issues fairly and without bias.**

Bethel Board of Education

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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.

BETHEL BOE BUDGET 2025-2026

BUDGET TRANSFERS SUMMARY BY PERIOD

Object Codes		Approved Budget	July-Sept Adjustments	Oct-Jan Adjustments	Feb-Mar Adjustments	Apr-Jun Adjustments	Total Transfers	Final Budget
Salaries	1000	37,395,674	-	325,000	350,000	229,024	904,024	38,299,698
Employee Benefits	2000	11,971,719	-	(325,000)	(200,000)	(113,344)	(638,344)	11,333,375
Professional Services	3000	682,484	-	(300)	(1,575)	113,833	111,958	794,442
Purchased Property Services	4000	236,675	-	-	-	76,591	76,591	313,266
Other Purchased Services	5000	6,445,341	-	-	(151,598)	(473,863)	(625,461)	5,819,880
Supplies	6000	1,389,178	(4,369)	1,060	3,173	88,469	88,333	1,477,511
Property	7000	161,862	4,369	(1,145)	-	93,339	96,563	258,425
Dues & Fees	8000	94,556	-	385	-	(14,049)	(13,664)	80,892
Total Budget		58,377,489	-	-	-	-	-	58,377,489
Total Transfers To			(4,369)	(326,445)	(353,173)	(601,256)	(1,277,469)	
Total Transfers From			4,369	326,445	353,173	601,256	1,277,469	
% of Total Budget							2.19%	

Budget Transfers April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

	Account Number	Description	Increased	Decreased	Notes
1	100.13.1100.111.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - BS - LITERACY	2,761	-	Principal's Request
	100.13.1100.101.7302	EQUIPMENT - FURNITURE & FIXTURES - BS	-	(261)	Literacy decodable book sets
	100.13.2410.101.7302	FURNITURE & FIXTURES - BS	-	(500)	
	100.13.1100.101.7304	EQUIPMENT - TECHNOLOGY - BS	-	(2,000)	
			2,761	(2,761)	
2	100.16.2130.101.4303	EQUIPMENT REPAIR - GENERAL - SW - HEALTH	95	-	Director of Special Education & Pupil Services' s Request
	100.16.2130.101.6112	HEALTH SUPPLIES - SW - HEALTH SERVICES	-	(95)	Audiometer machine repair
			95	(95)	
3	100.11.1100.125.6901	OTHER SUPPLIES - HS - TASK	500	-	Principal's Request
	100.11.1100.125.7302	FURNITURE & FIXTURES - HS - TASK	-	(500)	Supplies needed due to increased student population in program
			500	(500)	
4	100.11.1100.105.7303	EQUIPMENT - INSTRUCTIONAL - HS LIFE STUDIES	2,029	-	Principal's Request
	100.11.1100.105.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - HS - LIFE STUDIES	-	(2,029)	Items for new culinary kitchen
			2,029	(2,029)	
5	100.13.1100.101.5500	PRINTING - BS - SW	209	-	Principal's Request
	100.13.1100.101.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - BS - SW	-	(209)	Kindergarten banner
			209	(209)	
6	100.14.1100.101.7302	FURNITURE & FIXTURES - JS - SW	566	-	Principal's Request
	100.14.1100.101.6502	TECH SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTIONS - JS	-	(349)	Purchase of additional kidney table
	100.14.1100.112.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - JS - SCIENCE	-	(216)	
			566	(566)	
7	100.16.1100.101.1310	SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - SW	167,039	-	Director of Finance & Business Operations's Request
	100.16.2110.101.1110	CERTIFIED STAFF - SW - SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES	61,985	-	Cover substitute and social worker services, SPED professional fees and
	100.16.1200.101.3202	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - SPECIAL EDUCATION	113,833	-	instructional supplies, Facilities overages, and final Tech purchases
	100.16.2600.101.4310	CONTRACTED SERV - BUILDINGS - SW	76,496	-	
	100.16.2230.119.6502	TECH SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTIONS-SW	59,905	-	
	100.16.1200.101.6110	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - SPECIAL EDUCATION	28,202	-	
	100.16.2230.119.7304	EQUIPMENT - TECHNOLOGY - SW	94,004	-	
	100.16.2500.101.2600	BENEFITS	-	(113,345)	
	100.16.1200.122.5604	TUITION - SPECIAL ED	-	(267,767)	
	100.16.1200.122.5103	TRANSPORTATION - SPEC ED	-	(206,305)	
	100.16.2310.101.8100	DUES & FEES - SW	-	(14,049)	
			601,465	(601,465)	