

The Board of Education met in a Work Session/Regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2020 via ONLINE ZOOM with Board President Jacob King presiding.

Roll Call @ 7:09 PM

Present: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Absent: Miss Bergeron, Miss Harris

Approval of the following resolutions:

2020-117

**BETHEL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ALLOWING BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION
IN MEETINGS VIA ELECTONIC OR TELEPHONIC MEANS**

WHEREAS, the Governor of Ohio has issued a declaration of emergency to address the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an Order Limiting and Prohibiting Mass Gatherings in the State of Ohio, which specifically prohibits more than 50 persons gathering in a single room or space at the same time, and which strongly discourages social, non-family gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Stay at Home Order with the intent to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Ohio Attorney General David Yost issued a letter of guidance related to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) for the purpose of reconciling the declaration of emergency from the Governor and the order from the Ohio Department of Health, which prohibits mass gatherings and urges social distancing, with the OMA's requirement that members of a public board be present "in-person" at public meetings to be considered present for establishing a quorum and voting; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health and safety of its members, the Board wishes to express its willingness to allow concerned Board members to attend and participate in meetings of the Board by electronic or telephonic means during the pendency of this state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to amend certain policies to allow for the electronic and/or telephonic participation of those Board members who do not feel safe in attending meetings in person; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to amend its public participation policy to address public health concerns and to adapt to Board meetings being conducted via electronic and/or telephonic means; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to express its intention that the measures adopted in this Resolution shall continue only for the duration of the current state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Board of Education for the Bethel Local School District as follows:

1. The Board hereby expresses its intention, due to emergency, to forego the requirements in **Board Policy 0131 – Legislative** that action to amend the Board policies stated in this Resolution be taken only after being proposed at a previous Board meeting.

2. The Board temporarily amends **Board Policy 0100 Definitions**, and specifically the term “voting” to include the possibility that a Board member may be present for a meeting via electronic or telephonic means in order to have their vote officially recorded in the Board minutes.
3. The Board temporarily amends **Board Policy 0162 – Quorum** to state: “Three (3) members present in person or via electronic or telephonic means at a meeting shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum.”
4. The Board temporarily amends **Board Policy 0167 – Voting** to allow for motions to be adopted by the requisite vote of those Board members present in-person and/or present via electronic or telephonic means.
5. If conducting a meeting whereby one or more Board members attend by electronic or telephonic means, the Board will:
 - a. Consistent with any orders that have been or may be issued by the Ohio Department of Health, the Governor, or any other local, state or federal body, establish a primary meeting location that is open to the public with at least one Board member in attendance in-person;
 - b. Ensure meeting-related materials that are available before the meeting be sent via electronic mail, facsimile, hand-delivery, or United States postal service to each Board member;
 - c. In the case of an interactive video conference, the Board will cause a clear video and audio connection to be established that enables all meeting participants at the primary meeting location to see and hear each Board member;
 - d. In the case of a teleconference, the Board will cause a clear audio connection to be established that enables all meeting participants at the primary meeting location to hear each Board member;
 - e. In the event that any Board member participating in a meeting through an interactive video conference or teleconference is cut off, the Board shall immediately cease all discussion and deliberations until such time as the Board member is reconnected to the meeting.
 - f. All Board members will be given the capability of receiving meeting-related materials that are distributed during a Board meeting;
 - g. A roll call voice vote must be recorded for each vote taken;
 - h. The minutes of the Board meeting must identify which Board members remotely attended the meeting by interactive video conference or teleconference;
 - i. Not more than one Board member remotely attending a meeting by teleconference is permitted to be physically present at the same remote location as another Board member;
 - j. The Superintendent and Treasurer are hereby directed to establish guidelines for distributing and circulating meeting-related materials to Board members, the public, and the media in advance of or during a meeting at which Board members are permitted to attend by interactive video conference or teleconference; and
 - k. Establish a method for verifying the identity of a Board member who remotely attends a meeting by teleconference.
6. The Board will continue to provide access to the public to attend meetings in-person, consistent with any Orders that have been issued or that may be issued in the future by the Ohio Department of Health, the Governor, or any other local, state or federal body governing mass gatherings. The Board will enforce social distancing best-practices for those persons in attendance.
7. The Board will provide electronic or telephonic means by which members of the public may attend/observe the meetings of the Board. Such electronic or telephonic means shall ensure that the public can hear the discussions and deliberations of all Board members, including those attending through interactive video conference or teleconference.

Motion to Accept Board Resolution for Electronic or Telephone Meetings to be held:

Motion by: Mr. Elam
Seconded by: Mrs. Reese

Roll Call:
Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

The undersigned Treasurer for the Bethel Local School District hereby certifies that the foregoing is an accurate and true Resolution passed by the Board of Education on April 13, 2020 and that all actions of the Board taken regarding this resolution were conducted in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Treasurer Date

2020-118

Board Resolution Regarding 2019-20 Teacher Evaluations

The Board of Education of the Bethel Local School District, Miami County, Ohio, met on April 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

WHEREAS, Section 17(M) of Am. Sub. H.B. 197 of the Ohio General Assembly permits a board of education to elect not to conduct evaluations of teachers under Chapter 3319 of the Ohio Revised Code for the 2019-20 school year based on a determination that it would be impossible or impracticable to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to make such an election for the 2019-20 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board finds that it may be impossible or impracticable to conduct evaluations of teachers pursuant to Chapter 3319 of the Ohio Revised Code for the 2019-20 school year if said evaluations were not completed prior to the Ohio Director of Health’s Order on March 14, 2020, ordering the closure of K-12 schools in Ohio;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board elects to allow teachers to proceed at their discretion in order to complete their evaluations under Chapter 3319 of the Ohio Revised Code for teachers during the 2019-20 school year, to the extent that such evaluations were not completed prior to March 14, 2020. Any teacher who elects to not proceed this year will restart again during the 2020-21 school year.

Motion to accept Mrs. Sebastian

Mr. Elam seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

The resolution passed.

Passed: April 13, 2020

Attest: _____
Treasurer Date

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Reese asked about the evaluations that have already been completed. Mr. Firks stated we are waiting on ODE for guidance.

2020-119

Board Resolution Regarding Distance Learning

The Board of Education of the Bethel Local School District, Miami County, Ohio, met on April 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

WHEREAS, Governor Mike DeWine has declared a state of emergency in Ohio, and the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health have closed all Ohio schools to students from March 16, 2020, until at least May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education have stated that schools should work to provide education through alternative means during the period of extended school closure; and

WHEREAS, Section 15 of Ohio House Bill 197, signed into law by Governor DeWine on March 27, 2020, permits a board of education to adopt a plan for distance learning for students during the school shutdown, even if it had not adopted one previously pursuant to Revised Code § 3313.482; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Education guidance indicates that schools may use “blizzard bags” during this extended school closure, beyond the normal three days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Ohio House Bill 197, Section 15, the Board hereby approves the provision of distance learning retroactive to March 16, 2020, and continuing through the period of extended school closure due to COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board ratifies and authorizes the Superintendent’s development and implementation of a plan of distance learning to enable and require students of the district to access and complete classroom lessons in order to make up hours because of the closing of schools in compliance with orders of the Governor, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, a local board of health, and/or an extension of such an order due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion to accept Mrs. Mansfield

Mrs. Reese seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

The resolution passed.

Passed: April 13, 2020

Attest: _____
Treasurer

Date

Additions to Agenda (if needed)
Approval of Board Docs Agreement (#8)

Review of Old Business

*Proposal to change Valedictorian/Salutatorian
Has been moved to discuss further in a Work Session

Administrative Reports

Superintendent-Justin Firks-

Mr. Firks gave an update on the following: IMPACT Group, Professional development, and next Community Forum meeting.

Hearing of the Public regarding Agenda Items

President Mr. King called for the Hearing of the Public regarding agenda items, to which there was no response.

Communications, Meetings, Announcements

- April 13 - Facilities Meeting-6:00 PM-Online ZOOM
- April 13 - Board of Education Meeting-Online ZOOM
- April 16 - IMPACT Group-Online ZOOM-
1pm-3pm-Administrators; 5:30 Board of Education
- April 20 - Community Forum-via You Tube

**Treasurer’s Items Requesting Board Action
2020-120**

Motion by: Mrs. Mansfield to place items from the amended treasurer’s report on the consent calendar.

1. The Bethel Board of Education approve the minutes:

March 3, 2020 – Work Session/Regular Meeting
March 9, 2020 –Regular Meeting

2. The Bethel Board to approve the Payment of Bills.
3. The Bethel Board of Education approves the monthly financial reports as prepared by the Treasurer.
4. The Bethel Board of Education to approve the following **amended** Appropriation:

| FUND | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 003 | Permanent Improvement | \$ 65,180.00 |
| 006 | Food Service | 3,600.00 |
| 200 | Student Activity | 85.00 |
| 300 | District Activity Fund | 3,501.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ 72,366.00 |

5. META Solutions Master Service Agreement:

The Bethel Board of Education to approve the Master Agreement between META Solutions and Bethel Local School District for school year 2020-2021.

6. Engagement Letter Agreements:

The Bethel Board of Education to approve the following engagement letters:
*Stifel, Nicolaus, and Company, Inc.- potential issue of COPs
*Remax-Rental property

7. Approval of proposal:

The Bethel Board of Education to approve a service contract with Reliable for the modular unit project.

8. Approval of Board Docs

Seconded by: Mr. Elam

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

Motion carried: 5-0

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Sebastian asked to mark the calendar for January 2020 for Remax contract. Mrs. Sebastian asked if the \$1,000 fee is waived for Board Docs. Mr. Hattery stated yes, it has been waived. Mrs. Mansfield thanked Mr. Firks and Mr. Hattery for asking the Board for approval of Board Docs even though the dollar amount was not required for Board approval.

2020-121

Motion by: Mrs. Mansfield to adopt amended consent calendar with items from Treasurer’s Report

Seconded by: Mrs. Sebastian

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

Motion carried: 5-0

Superintendent’s Items Requesting Board Action

2020-122

Motion by: Mrs. Mansfield to place items from the amended superintendent’s report on the consent calendar.

1. Approval of Program Agreement:

The Bethel Board of Education to approve the program agreement between The Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) and Bethel Local Schools. (attached)

2. Supplemental Volunteer:

The Bethel Board of Education to accept the recommendation of approval for the 2019-2020 school year following volunteer, pending Pupil Activity certification, FBI/BCI and drug screening checks:

Dru Bescoe-Baseball volunteer
Kenneth Williams-softball-volunteer

~~3. Approval of 2020-2021 Handbooks:~~

~~The Bethel Board of Education to approve the 2020-2021 handbooks for Elementary, Middle School and High School.~~

4. One year limited Contracts for Certified Staff:

Upon the recommendation of the Bethel Superintendent, one year limited contracts will be issued to the following individuals pending required certification. These contracts will be effective the 2020-2021 school year.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Anderson, Josh | Oldiges, Ted |
| Baker, Megan | Owens, Kristen |
| Brinson, Christine | Peck, Barbara |
| Brookhart, Brett | Purvis, Michael |
| Chmiel, Mandy | Randall, Christine |
| Clute, Mark | Risner, Barbara |
| Cook, Jennifer | Ritter, Gabrielle |
| Davidson, Sara | Sampson, Anna |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Denlinger, Casey | Sease, Heather |
| Dowd, Chelsea | Seebach, Barbara |
| Duhan, Lauren | Sherick, Allison |
| Eggenschwiller, Madison | Spears, Tyler |
| Gerdeman, Sydney | Steinke, Corey |
| Gravunder, Molly | Stephens, Samantha |
| Gross, Alisha | Strobridge, Jaime |
| Hamlin, Barb | Tayse, Michael |
| Hamlin, Bob | Thompson, Zoe |
| Haun, Molly | Tipton, Mindy |
| Hecht, Jessica | Varvel, Courtney |
| Hughes, Amanda | Vocke, Joy |
| Kalt, Melissa | Weideman, Molly |
| Lawson, Caroline | Wharton, Leah |
| Lindsey, Marie | Wolford, Lara |
| Livesay, Carrie | Worman, Lauren |
| McDaniel, Sarah | Zinnecker, Matt |
| McElroy, Ashley | |
| Milewski, Stormy | |
| Mullen, Bryan | |
| Nicodemus, Jaclyn | |

5. Groundskeeper employment:

The Bethel Board of Education to accept the recommendation of approval for temporary summer groundskeeper pending, FBI/BCI and drug screening checks:

Richard Brown @ \$12.00/hour

6. Summer Employment:

The Bethel Board of Education to accept the recommendation of approval for summer workers pending, FBI/BCI and drug screening checks @ \$12.00/hour.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Connie Bir | Lukas Irons |
| Brett Brookhart | Brett Kopp |
| Rich Brown | Marie Lindsey |
| Regan Butler | Susan Pytel |
| Mark Clute | Brenda Tauscher |

Seconded by: Mr. Elam

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

Motion carried: 5-0

DISCUSSION:

Mr. King asked for item #3 to be removed from agenda. Mrs. Reese asked about the assistance maintenance position. Mr. Firks stated we have applications and are trying to figure out how to do the interviews. Mr. Brown is filling in to mow until a new person is hired. Mrs. Mansfield asked if a long term sub has been found for the CTC class. Mr. Firks stated yes but was only here a day or two before the closure. Mrs. Sebastian thanked Mr. Brown for helping out.

2020-123

Motion by: Mrs. Sebastian to adopt the consent calendar with items from Superintendent’s Report

Seconded by: Mrs. Reese

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Nays: none

Motion carried: 5-0

Information from the Superintendent

Mr. Firks had nothing additional to report.

Board Report

Mrs. Reese provided an update to the most recent facility committee meeting. Mr. King mentioned how proud the Board is to be part of Bethel. Staff, teachers, and administrators are doing a great job. Thank you. Mrs. Sebastian thanked seniors for their video.

Hearing of the BEA President

Mrs. Brewer encouraged everyone to check out the BEA Facebook page for some amazing videos. Mrs. Brewer thanked Mr. Hattery for including her in the HSA discussion. Mrs. Brewer sent an email to teachers reminding them to ask for their absentee ballot.

Hearing of the Public

Board President Mr. King called for the Hearing of the Public, to which there was no response.

Other Items

No additional items

Adjournment

Motioned by: Mrs. Mansfield to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Mr. Elam

Roll Call: Mr. King, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sebastian, Mr. Elam, Mrs. Mansfield

Motion carried: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

NOTE:

If an executive session is required, it may be placed anywhere in the order of the agenda but often comes at the beginning or at the end. It is often anticipated in advance that an executive session will be necessary, but the Board may call for such should the occasion arise even though it does not appear on the prepared agenda. Executive sessions are permitted for certain specified situations. Only discussion may take place on-site in executive sessions. Voting must be done in an open meeting.

_____ Treasurer

_____ President