

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the February 3, 2018 Work Session
of the Board of Education
(pending Board approval)

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Directors of the Bettendorf Community School District, in the County of Scott, State of Iowa, met in open session according to Iowa law for a Board work session at Herbert Hoover Elementary Commons, 3223 S. Hampton Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa, on February 3, 2018. President Gordon Staley called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary, verified that the meeting notice had been posted and mailed to the media as required by law.

Members present: Directors Castro, Champion, Lynch, Pyevich, Staley

Members absent: Directors Holland, Stuck

Other officials present: Mike Raso, Superintendent; Dallon Christensen, Director of Finance; Kay Ingham, Director of Student Services; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Jennifer Like, Director of Instructional Technology & Data Management; Lisa Reid, BMS Principal; Tammy Chelf, Student Services Coordinator Edison Academy; John Cain, GW Principal; Caroline Olson, MT Principal; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

Director Holland arrived at 8:07 AM.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 5 Directors Castro, Champion, Lynch, Pyevich, Staley

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 Directors Holland, Struck

Motion carried 5-0-2

3. Discussion Items and Reports.

3.01 Facility Discussion Public Input.

Pepper Trahan, *6328 Patrick Pointe Rd.*, said the public has not received cash flow for current projects. She said the financials show the district will be short \$9.4M and it has yet to be shown where the money will come from. She noted the swimming pool was such a priority and asked why it is so far down on the priority list. She pointed out that the questions she asked at the January 16th meeting were never answered.

Connie Eikenberry, *1830 Sussex Ct.*, shared a petition to support the 6-year Facility Plan. The petition urged leaders to act now and pass the 6-year Facility Plan for the Bettendorf Community School District.

Louis Haas, *1511 21st St.*, asked the following questions:

1. Is the new 3-section school and the repurposing of Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson fully funded?

2. Has the City and Park Board concurred with your plans?
3. Do you have site plans showing how a 3-section school will fit within each of the two proposed park locations?
4. Will you need to purchase and demolish any of the perimeter housing at either proposed location to accommodate a new school? Have these costs been considered? When would the owners need to move?
5. When is the new school projected to open?

Yen Dao, *924 Mississippi Blvd.*, hopes the decision is being made with a lot of thought. She said she did not move to the Jefferson neighborhood so her son could start school there and then it closes and he has to go somewhere else. She said the staff at Jefferson has gone above and beyond to help her son be successful.

Tom Holladay, *818 Brown Street*, does not know why all the projects are lumped together as all or nothing. He said there is not a good traffic pattern at either of the proposed locations. He is opposed to closing either school.

Justin Hawker, *1537 30th Street*, said they looked very hard when deciding where their children were going to go to school. PV had a lot of new facilities but that did not matter to them. What mattered was what was going on inside the buildings. He said there are a lot of questions but not a lot of answers.

Annika O'Melia, *835 Jones Street*, said all parents in the district need to be valued. She feels closing two schools will create inequities between schools north of Middle Road and south of Middle Road. She said she has looked into transferring her children to a different district if their neighborhood school closes.

Jim Farber, *3029 Middle Rd.*, said when the science scholar spoke last week, he talked about teachers and administrators who made him who he is today, not shiny new buildings.

Jim Bauswell, *818 Jones Street*, said closing Thomas Jefferson will change the neighborhood.

Tom Luton, *2923 Walnut St.*, said his neighborhood has seen the closure of three schools since they have lived there. He thinks it is time for the district to upgrade its facilities and move on.

Fred Anderson, *2208 Lincoln Rd.*, lives across the street from Edgewood Park and said it is the smallest property compared to other district properties. He does not feel the option of building at either the current Mark Twain site or Thomas Jefferson site has been fully explored.

Sherry lives by Paul Norton but her children attended Thomas Jefferson. They loved the school because of its size. Her children were well socialized when they got to middle school.

Maria Levetzow, *1123 Hall Street*, sat on the Elementary Facilities Committee. She said this plan does not speak to any of the community concerns that were identified. She encouraged the board to go back through the plan and separate it

out.

Sandy Vanwinkle, *2139 Glenn Street*, lives near Edgewood Park. She liked that so many people showed up today. She listed several reasons why building a new school at Edgewood Park is not a good option.

Lisa Miotto, *1123 Brown Street*, asked everyone to think about the geography of Jefferson's location. She said Jefferson is a one-section neighborhood.

Becca Eastman, *835 Hall Street*, listed all the things that neighborhood schools provide. She asked the board to take into consideration the safety of the kids.

Kami Wall, *644 Brown Street*, said this is about the community as whole. It is about children, families and jobs. She is all for the wrestling room and auxiliary gym but also for keeping the elementary schools open because they are important to the neighborhoods.

Todd Wade, *431 Mississippi Blvd.* moved into the neighborhood not knowing what to expect. He said the neighborhood has grown and it is a great place to be. He believes academics and athletics should be separate. He encouraged the board to keep listening and hearing what the community has to say.

Scott Berg, *2555 East Crest Ave.*, personally is against the plan, but noted his personal feelings are not what is best for all students. He said he cannot find research that supports a one-section school.

Amy Swearingen, *16 Riverview Park Dr.*, was hoping to hear clarification on the information that was provided. She did not hear the word innovation once. She said these are our tax dollars and we should have a voice at the table.

Bettendorf City Administrator Decker Ploehn said there is a rich history of the city partnering with the school district. He does not think McManus Park will be an option but the city will consider Edgewood Park. The school district is in the initial stages and has discussed some options with the city but there have not been any formal requests.

3.02 Board Facility Discussion.

Director Lynch said this is a long-term decision and we need to come to some sort of decision together. He believes the following:

1. Priority maintenance should be addressed
2. Does not think we can pay for everything in this plan
3. Is not comfortable signing a five-year lease for Edison without knowing what comes next
4. Thomas Jefferson and Mark Twain – need to find a way to break this cycle. He said there are good arguments for closing the schools and he could support a 3-section if the new school is in a good location.
5. Need to think about what happens if the state would allow parents to redirect state funds to private schools
6. Does not know if we can look at Paul Norton, Herbert Hoover, Middle

School, and High School until we have discussed the critical issues

Director Champion said he is fortunate to live in a district that has a good tax base, parents who care and good residential neighborhoods. He supports keeping Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson open. He said just because he supports keeping them open, does not mean he does not support the other projects.

Director Pyevich agreed with a lot of what has already been said. He was hoping the swimming pool at the high school was more of an urgent matter. He said the decision is clear when you look at the cost per student. Subjectively it is a hard decision. He would like to look at district properties that can be used for a new 3-section school so we do not have to jump through hoops with the city.

Director Holland would like to see some separation of the plan. There is consensus on security updates at the schools. He would like to discuss what we are doing to position ourselves as a premier district, not just building new buildings, but the educational programs that are happening inside the buildings.

Director Castro supports the administration plan. He noted some issues at the high school were leapfrogged the last time improvements were made at the high school. He agrees that what goes on inside the buildings is the most important thing. He said it is also true that facilities and curb appeal have an impact in attracting families to the district.

President Staley sat on the Facilities Committee and supports the administration plan. He provided some history on the how the plan came about.

Superintendent Raso said the recommendation is a K-12 plan. He would like to continue through this process to find out where directors are to see if more discussion is needed.

Matt Gillaspie, Piper Jaffray & Co., shared Infrastructure Improvement Plan Funding Scenario. Finance Director Dallon Christensen shared cost analysis of a three-section school to current Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson, Building Timeline and Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs from 2018-2024.

Director Champion would like to know what it will cost to individually replace Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson. Superintendent Raso will ask Legat to put together costs for a new one-section school at Thomas Jefferson and a new two-section school at Mark Twain.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m.

4. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Gordon Staley, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary