

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the September 29, 2022, Regular Meeting
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 their regular Board meeting at the Administration Center, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, on September 29, 2022. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. 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, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson
Members absent: None

Other officials present: Dr. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Karen Allison, Director of Student Services; Jayme Olson, Director of Curriculum; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Celeste Miller, Director Communications; Kristy Cleppe, BHS Principal; Kevin Skillet, BHS Associate Principal; Alan Hartley, BMS Principal; Kait Burke, BEA Representative; David Farmer, Treasurer; Dillon Tholin, Student Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

Director Pyevich arrived at 6:05 pm.

2. Agenda Approval.

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

Ayes: 6 Directors Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

3. Communication.

3.01 **President's Statement.** Any member of the audience may address the board with comments about items of interest or concern. Please state your name and address and please limit your comments to three minutes. Iowa law prohibits discussing specific employees or their job performance. Please refer to policy 213.E1 - Public Input At Board Meetings.

President Eastman read the following statement:

The District has received a number of contacts related to social media posts claiming to capture a presentation from District legal counsel to high school staff. The presentation related to laws protecting transgender students.

First, it is important to express that the District serves as a supportive and inclusive community for ALL our students.

The social media posts we have been made aware of contain inaccurate information and seem aimed to cause distress and alarm rather than to be informative. The presentation summarized the content of the presentation and answered specific questions and was provided in part to address public comments and questions about student preferred names, preferred pronouns, and District responses related to transgender students.

Federal and state laws provide protections to our students based on a number of protected statuses including gender identity and sexual orientation. We comply with all these laws, and they are incorporated into our policies.

The guidance from those agencies charged with enforcing the laws in relation to gender identity, is that a transgender student is allowed to use the facilities of the gender with which they identify. We make arrangements for any student to make sure they are comfortable as we comply with this guidance.

We do not encourage our teachers, staff, or students to “lie” to parents or guardians. We do encourage families to talk to their students about sensitive issues. We also work to make sure all students feel supported and accepted.

There have been allegations of forcing certain actions by teachers and students; of forcing students to sleep in beds with other students; and of criminally charging staff for not enforcing these behaviors. These allegations misrepresent the guidance, the presentation, and the District’s policies. As you become aware of these social media comments, please consider reaching out directly with any questions about District policy or the presentation of the information provided.

If you have questions that are related to your particular student and a current situation, please contact administration. We support all students.

Laura Engels addressed the board regarding transgender policy communication to parents.

Janiece Goldsberry addressed the board regarding the safety of our children.

Cindy Diercks addressed the board on transgender policies.

Patricia Dywiak addressed the board regarding children.

Melissa Zumdom addressed the board regarding transgender beliefs.

Jameson Smith addressed the board on grading in subjects.

Matt Shaw addressed the board regarding objective truth.

- 3.02 **Board Communication.** Director Pyevich was interviewed by several Boys Scouts. He said it was a rewarding experience.

Director Smithson participated in the Homecoming Parade last Thursday. She said it was a great time and the Student Council did an awesome job.

Director Castro said he feels uninformed regarding the federal law and implications it has for school districts. He recommended having a discussion item or workshop to review it.

Director Lynch reported the IASB held a special Delegate Assembly and voted to change the bylaws so that IASB will no longer be required by bylaw to be a member of NSBA but can choose which national school board group to join.

- 3.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse gave a huge shout out to the Student Council, Student Council advisors, Christina Burroughs and Katy Mahoney, high school teachers, and administrative team for an outstanding homecoming week. She said what made it even more special was how the Student Council reached out to all of the elementary schools, Edison and middle school to ensure that there was collaboration and partnership between all schools across the district.

We continue to focus on our district initiative of PBIS. Our building leadership teams have continued their training and dug into the first module around PBIS. Dr. Morse appreciates their time and leadership.

Dr. Morse appreciates everyone that came to the first SIAC meeting. The focus was on branding.

Elementary Curriculum night was last night at all five elementary buildings. Dr. Morse said it was great to be at the sites and see all the families engaged in learning with their students.

The Facilities Advisory Committee kicks off its work next week.

- 3.04 **BEA Report.** Kait Burke said they appreciate how communicative BEA members have been with them. She said they are doing their best to support the teachers. The next BEA meeting is at Hoover next week.
- 3.05 **BESA Report.** Melissa was not in attendance.
- 3.06 **Student Board Representatives Report.** Dillon Tholin gave an update on homecoming week. It was the biggest homecoming they have ever had with increased profits and participation. He also gave an update on the Student Hunger Drive.
- 3.07 **Iowa School Safety Workshop Debrief.** Kevin Skillett, Associate Principal at BHS, provided a brief summary of the Iowa Schools Safety Workshop.
- 3.08 **BHS Speech and Debate Team Earns National Recognition.** Bettendorf High School's Speech and Debate Team is proud to announce they have earned membership into the National Speech and Debate Association's (NSDA) 100 Club for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, Bettendorf High School's Max Rantilla has earned the Academic All-American award from the NSDA.

4. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the consent agenda as printed.

Ayes: 7 Directors Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson, Castro

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 4.01 Approval of September 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 4.02 Approval of September 29, 2022 Bills Recommended for Payment
- 4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel
Administrative Resignation
Sean McGinn/District/Director of Technology/Effective 9/30/22
Administrative Approval to Hire
Erin Pestka/District/Director of Technology/\$63,733/196 day contract/ Replacing Sean McGinn/Effective 9/30/22
Certified Resignation
Sarah Arter-Reese/HH/Art/Effective 9/30/22
Certified Approval to Hire
Carla Gonyo/District/Elementary Orchestra/1.0 FTE/MA,2/\$48,885/ Prorated to number of days/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Sara Calderon/Effective date TBD
Brooke Ruesch/GW-HH/Art/1.0 FTE/MA+15,9/\$51,434- 161 day contract/Prorated to number of days/Pending verification/Replacing Sarah Arter-Reese and Kelly Schnell/Effective 10/3/2022
- 4.04 Scott County Kids Flexible Funding Agreement 2022-2023
- 4.04 Approval of BHS Cooling Tower Installation Bids Ragan Mechanical bid of \$104,960 for BHS Cooling Tower Installation
- 4.05 Approval of 2022-2024 University of Iowa Student Field Placement Agreement
- 4.06 MOU Bethany Service Agreement Revision 2022-23
- 4.07 MOU Hope Counseling Iowa Service Agreement 2022-23
- 4.08 MOU Universal Social Emotional Screener for 2022-2023
- 4.09 MOU Scott County Agricultural Extension District (SCE) for 2022-2023
- 4.10 MOU College Connections 2022-2023
- 4.11 River Bend Food Bank Mini Pantry Agreement
- 4.12 Approval of Quad Cities Community Foundation - First Day Fund in the amount of 587.92 from Quad Cities Community Foundation - First Day Fund, 852 Middle Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722
- 4.13 Approval of Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation Donation in the amount of \$31,039 for the purchase of math intervention material (K-5) from the Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722
- 4.14 Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only). The following students have been approved for open enrollment.
- 4.15 Out of Bettendorf 22/23
- Iowa Virtual Academy - 1
 - Iowa Connections Academy - 2
 - Davenport - 1
 - Pleasant Valley - 7

5. Informational/Actions.

- 5.01 **LETRS Presentation and Update.** Rhonda Nelson, Ryan King and Mary Johnson presented on Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). LETRS teaches the skills needed to master the fundamentals of reading instruction—phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language.
- 5.02 **August Financials.** Director of Finance Brie Collier presented the monthly financial reports for August 2022. Through August, General fund revenue totaled \$287,354 and expenses totaled \$2,460,899. The fund balance in the General Fund at August 31, 2022 was \$9,927,730. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food

Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports.

The following variances were noted: General Fund revenues are up over the same period last year, largely due to the negative State and Federal revenues in FY21. These negative amounts were the result of FY20 receivables booked but not received until September of 2021.

Our overall cash position is up from the same period last year. This is largely due to the increased balance in our PPEL, Food Service and Self Insurance funds. SAVE balances are down due to the Hoover project closing out and the Fiduciary/Scholarship balance is down because funds were transferred to the Custodial fund in FY22. This will be a trend throughout the year as the balances were not transferred until the last few months of FY22.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the August Financials as presented.

Ayes: 7 Directors Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson, Castro, Champion
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

- 5.03 **FY 22 Certified Annual Report & Special Education Report.** The Certified Annual Report (CAR) is a report of financial data required by Iowa Code to be filed annually with the Department of Education by each school district. The CAR is due no later than September 15 following the close of the fiscal year. The CAR consists of a Chart of Account upload and online data collection and is located in the Iowa Education Portal.

The 2021-2022 Special Education balance was (\$590,759.29).

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the FYE 22 Certified Annual Report & Special Education Report as presented.

Ayes: 7 Directors Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

- 5.04 **Approval of Modified Allowable Growth & Supplemental Aid.** The state requires that the board authorize a request to the School Budget Review Committee for the amount of the district's special education for the 2021-22 fiscal year in order for the district to receive the additional spending authority.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the Allowable Growth request of \$590,759.29 for the FY21-22 Special Education Deficit as presented.

Ayes: 7 Directors Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

- 5.05 **Interfund Borrowing Resolution.** An interfund loan is when a district receives a temporary loan from another fund that has sufficient cash on hand to cover anticipated cash flow needs. Interfund loans are allowable if the district school board by resolution authorizes the loan, and the loan is paid back with interest by October 1 following the fiscal year in which the loan was made.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the 2022-2023 Interfund Borrowing Resolution.

Ayes: 7 Directors Pyevich, Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

- 5.06 **Close out Activity Fund Accounts.** This is the last piece in the requirement of moving everything where it needs to be. Brie Collier thanked Sara Rock for all her research.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Doerder, to close the activity fund accounts listed and move into the appropriate funds as recommended.

Ayes: 7 Directors Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

- 5.07 **First and Final Read of Policies.** The following policies were revised with minor wording and format changes and to align with IASB language, unless otherwise noted.

- *603.7 Career Education*
- *603.8 Teaching About Religion*
- *603.8R1 Teaching About Religion Regulation - Religious Holidays*
- *603.8R2 Religion & Public Schools Regulation Religions in the Curriculum - there is no corresponding IASB regulation. The topics in this policy are addressed under the language set forth in policy 603.8 Teaching About Religion, regulation 603.8R1 Teaching About Religion - Religious Holidays, policy 604.5 Religion Based Exclusion from School Program, and in the attendance guidelines articulated in the BCSD District Handbook.*
- *603.10 Global Education*
- *603.11 Citizenship*
- *604.2 Individualized Instruction*
- *604.2R1 Individualized Instruction (Alternative Program) - no changes*
- *709: Insurance Program*
- *710.1: School Nutrition Program*
- *710.2: Free or Reduced Cost Meals Eligibility*
- *710.3: Vending Machines*
- *710.4: Meal Charges*

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Doerder, to approve the policies listed above as presented.

Ayes: 7 Directors Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson
Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.08 **Discussion of Policies.** The purpose of this discussion is to make sure we are adhering to a policy we have set and to make sure the policy is appropriate for conducting business while still allowing our community to come forward. This has nothing to do with eliminating citizens' opportunity to speak at a board meeting.

Directors discussed moving public comment to a different time in the meeting. They also discussed either following the policy or changing the policy to reflect current practice. The current policy, Citizen Participation, was reapproved in 2019 and states that those wishing to address the board during public comment must notify the board secretary prior to the board meeting. The board requested looking at what surrounding districts do and to continue discussion on this at a future board meeting.

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- October 17, 6:00 pm - Board Development Workshop
- October 20, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting (Rescheduled - New Date)
- November 14, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting (Monday)
- November 16-18, Iowa Association of School Boards 77th Annual Convention in Des Moines
- December 5, 6:00 pm - Board Development Workshop
- December 15, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting

7. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary