

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the April 20, 2020, 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 April 20, 2020. President Adam Holland 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*, Holland, Lynch*, Pyevich*

Members absent: None

Other officials present: Dr. Jim Spelhaug, Interim Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Cirivello*, Director of Human Resources; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Curt Pratt*, Director of Operations; Sean McGinn, Director of Technology; Joy Kelly, BHS Principal; David Farmer*, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa*, BEA Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

* present via Zoom

2. Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the agenda.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

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.

There were no comments.

3.02 Board Shared Communication.

President Holland read the following letter sent by Dena Pyevich and others:

This letter is being written by several senior class leaders as we wish to convey to you our sincere hopes of having a somewhat traditional graduation in the summer.

We understand that it is not just our world that has been rocked by the coronavirus, but

everyone's world. Our mission as leaders of the Class of 2020, however, is to attempt to close out our Bettendorf educational journey the way we started: all together.

We do not feel it necessary to wait for our neighboring schools districts to come up with a plan which we would be encouraged to follow. Rather, we would like the opportunity to execute our own plan and play a part in how our last day, literally, will look. We have not had much time to iron out all the details, though we would like to propose an option that has been decided by other school districts across the nation:

1. Assuming Scott County has relaxed social distancing restrictions, we want graduation to take place on the football field. Chairs would be spaced six feet apart, similar to how the U.S. Air Force Academy designed its celebration, which was held on April 18th.
2. The bleachers hold 6,000 people; this can safely accommodate social distancing guidelines for the proposed two guests per graduate limit, while others can enjoy the ceremony via livestream.
3. There has been an overwhelming amount of support from non-senior Student Council members throughout this difficult time, reassuring us that they are willing to do whatever it takes to help the senior class in any way we need.
4. Finally, we would make sure to follow the guidelines of whatever phase we happen to be in on the day of graduation.

We know that you all will be very thoughtful with your decision, and the weight we feel in our hearts will be felt by you all as well. Also, we understand it may be outside of the district's control if the state says we are unable to follow through with this alternative graduation plan. We are not blaming anyone for this extremely unfortunate, rare, and unforeseen situation; however, we need to be an integral part of the decision-making process concerning the graduation ceremony of the Bettendorf Class of 2020. The last and arguably most important chapter of our senior year was abruptly stolen from us, so we trust that you will fight for us to be all together one last time, and not in a virtual setting.

With much respect,

Dena Pyevich (Student Council Vice President), Sarah Rogers (class representative), and the Bettendorf Class of 2020 Student Council Members

Class of 2020 Student Council Members:

Parker Beck (class representative)
Abby Behrends (class representative)
Annika Braaten (class representative)
Madison Foht (Senior Class President)
Jake Hornbuckle (class representative)
Jon'a Levi (class representative)
Lauren O'Brien (class representative)
Erica Smith (Senior Class Vice President)
Reagan Watkins (class representative)
Mitch Winterlin (Student Council President)

- 3.03 Superintendent's Report.
Dr. Spelhaug acknowledged they have received comments from a number of families related to the graduation issue. Those will be addressed under that agenda item. He extended a heartfelt thanks to all parents and community members that are supporting their children through the lessons the district has provided in these difficult times. With that support, he is confident we will work through the continued closure of our schools achieving the highest level of learning possible for all of our students within the constraints that we face. He thanked faculty and staff for working hard to discharge those alternative plans.
- 3.04 Director of Finance Report.
Brietta Collier mentioned the district renewed a \$2M Certificate of Deposit (CD) that came due. They renewed \$1M at 1% and put \$1M in cash flow. She is continuing to look at the impact of business closures on SAVE revenue. She will have more information at the end of April. The district's new MedOne Privacy Benefits Manager has rolled out as of April 1. There have been some questions and concerns and she is working with MedOne on those.
- 3.05 BEA Report.
The BEA met for their Round Table Meeting last week. They worked through how evaluations will work for the remainder of the year. With the closure of the remainder of the school year, the last few days have been tough for staff. No one wants to end the year this way, but they know it is the safest for students, staff, and families. Ms. Heeringa said the teachers have done an amazing job with creating online learning opportunities and connecting with students.
- 3.06 Volunteer Week Proclamation.
April 19-25, 2020 is Volunteer Week within the Bettendorf Community School District and is a time for recognition of the contributions provided by volunteers working throughout the school year for the benefit of children.
- 3.07 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week Proclamation.
The Bettendorf Community School District designates the week of May 4-8, 2020, as Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in this community.
- 3.08 BMS Staff Honored for Work on Creating a Safe, Positive Environment.
The Iowa Department of Education has awarded schools statewide for their work on implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Bettendorf Middle School was recognized as Emerging for completing training during the 2018-19 school year and developing all of the products needed to begin the implementation of their PBIS plan. PBIS is a multi-tiered system of support for behavior and provides the framework for teachers to implement and monitor prevention and intervention practices.
- 3.09 BHS Student Council Earns National Recognition.
For its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community, the Bettendorf High School student council has been recognized as a 2020 National Gold Council of Excellence by National Student Council (NatStuCo). To meet the requirements for the National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must meet a variety of criteria. In addition to basic requirements such as a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process, the councils have

demonstrated successful sponsorship and participation in activities such as leadership development and service to the school and community. Councils awarded the gold level of the award have successfully demonstrated the highest levels of leadership.

4. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

4.01 Approval of April 6, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

4.02 Approval of April 20, 2020 Bills Recommended for Payment

4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel

Classified Retirement

Deborah Mayhew/TE/Secretary A/Effective 06/12/20

Classified Letter of Assignment Modification

Heather Bagby/MT to BHS/Paraeducator to Secretary B/\$16.94 to \$17.06 per hour/5.75 to 7.0 hours per day/Replacing Jana Jackson/Effective 08/12/20

Terri Conklin/BMS/Secretary A/Same rate of pay/8.0 hours per day/Replacing Betsy Messmer/Effective 07/01/20

Jennifer Gallagher/MT to Administration Center/Secretary A to Administrative Assistant-Technology/\$18.23 to \$21.45 per hour/8.0 hours per day/Replacing Cindy Kothenbeutel/Effective 07/01/20

Kristi Henson/BHS/Secretary A/Same rate of pay/8.0 hours per day/Replacing Terry Goodall/Effective 07/01/20

Melissa Laufenberg/BHS/Secretary B to Secretary A/\$16.64 to \$18.63 per hour/8.0 hours per day/Replacing Kathy Ouellette/Effective 07/01/20

Joanna Pridemore/BMS/Paraeducator to Secretary A/\$16.74 to \$18.18 per hour/Replacing Cindy Franklin/Effective 07/01/20

Administrative Resignation

Jeremy Heeringa/BMS/Dean of Students/Effective 6/30/20

Certified Resignation

Taylor Barros/HH/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20

Anmarie Melchert/HH/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20

Certified Transfer

Laura Milburn/From PN to GW/From 1st Grade to Instructional Coach/1.0 FTE/Voluntary transfer replacing Deborah Daniels/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Jennifer Schmidt/From HH to PN/From 3rd Grade to 1st Grade/1.0 FTE/Voluntary transfer replacing Laura Milburn/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Schedule D Resignation

Angela Farmer/BHS/Club Sponsor, National Honor Society/Effective 6/30/20

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Everett Hamner/BHS/Head Freshman Baseball Coach/\$3,863/Replacing Zach Paustian/Effective 1/1/20

Madelyn Matthys/BHS/Head JV Softball Coach/\$3,863/Replacing Haley Duwa/Effective 1/1/20

4.04 Approval of Juvenile Court Agreement FY21

- 4.05 Augustana College Student Teaching Agreement 20-21
- 4.06 Open Enrollment Requests (info only)
FOR INFORMATION ONLY. The following students have been approved for open enrollment.
Into Bettendorf 2019/20
Ben Carter, grade 5, continuation (PV)
Olivia Carter, grade 5, continuation (PV)
Chloe Dailing, grade 5, continuation (PV)
Ellie Dailing, grade 8, continuation (PV)
Sierra Elias, grade 3, continuation (PV)

5. Discussion Items & Reports.

5.01 COVID-19.

The biggest change from the last board meeting is that Governor Reynolds announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the school year. In the same announcement, she indicated that there would be a requirement of all districts to present a Return to Learn plan by July 1. There is not much information on what those requirements look like, but it underscores the fact that even in the best of circumstances, the online learning that we are doing now is not a one-to-one comparison to the standard schedule. Administrators have been thinking about what steps and measures will be needed in order to close achievement gaps amongst our students K-12.

In the Governor's closure announcement, she also waived the start date regulation, which currently prevents schools from starting before August 23. There has not been a creation of extra dollars to support any additional teacher contract days. As the district receives guidance on this waiver from the state, the board will need to determine if there will be any change to the start date of August 24 and any other matter related to the school calendar for next year. Directors said they could support starting earlier if that is the recommendation.

When the initial three-week school closure was announced, the last school day was moved back to no later than June 12. This was done in anticipation that students would return to school on the standard schedule. Now that students are not physically returning to school, the district will make the determination as to the last school day based on what is the best use of resources in order to achieve the goal of doing all that we can to prepare students for the 20/21 school year. They are looking at data that would help decide if student learning benefits going to June 12 or somewhere closer to June 3.

There has been some consideration of moving the middle school from its voluntary status to required. They are looking at whether or not there are differences in levels of engagement between the high school and middle school that could be attributed to the fact that the high school is required and the middle school is voluntary.

Food Service has served over 900 meals in the last several days. The pickup meal support, as it is operating now, will continue through June 30. The district has not received any guidance from the state as to what it will look like after that.

5.02 BHS Graduation & Prom Update.

Dr. Spelhaug proposed an extension for the graduation ceremony, but said once a date is set, that is it. Depending on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health departments, any sort of in-person ceremony might not be possible. The district will make plans to confer diplomas after May 31 for any student who indicates they are unable to attend the newly established date in August.

Joy Kelly, BHS Principal, said the class of 2020 is loaded with high character kids and they have represented themselves, their families, and their school exemplary from the time they stepped foot on campus. She has met with student council via Zoom twice. The board agreed that any graduation ceremony would have to happen the weekend of August 1. If the ceremony is outside, the rain date will be August 2. The board emphasized that the format of any ceremony on this date would be controlled by requirements/restrictions in place at that time by the health department/Governor. High school staff is putting together a senior class video to get to graduates on or near May 31 as a way of celebrating the original graduation date.

Ms. Kelly has been working with the student council on Prom. She is looking at either July 30 or 31 for Prom. She wanted to be very clear and upfront that the dance might not be possible, depending on safety guidance at the time. Some Directors expressed concern about hosting a large group of students in close proximity, even if restrictions were eased. Other board members said they could go either way.

5.03 Discussion of Financials: March.

Director of Finance Brietta Collier reviewed the March Financials.

6. Action Items.

9.01 Approval of Financials: March

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- May 4, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- May 18, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Closed Session – Interim Superintendent Evaluation.

8.01 Motion to Enter into Closed Session

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Eastman, to go into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(i), for the purpose of evaluating

the professional competency of individuals whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge are being considered, when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to those individuals' reputations and those individuals request a closed session.

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

Directors entered into closed session at 7:37 p.m. Directors returned to open session at 8:51 p.m.

9. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Adam Holland, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary