

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**BETTENDORF, IOWA**

Unofficial Minutes of the November 16, 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 November 16, 2020. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. 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. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Matherly, Director of Human Resources; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Sean McGinn, Director of Technology; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Jennifer Like, Instructional Technology Coordinator; Joy Kelly, HS Principal; Lisa Reid, MS Principal; Jayme Olson, NA Principal; David Farmer, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa, BEA Representative; Patrick Mooney, Student Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

\*via Zoom

2. Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Holland, to approve the agenda as amended. Discussion 5.03, Department of Education Waiver was moved ahead of 5.02, Return of Learning Planning Updates and Consent Agenda item 4.04, Approve the Resolution Naming Depositories for 2020-2021 is now Discussion Item 5.06.

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.

Ed Owens, 2923 Cambridge Dr., Bettendorf, said he appreciates the difficult decision the board is in and said pretty much any decision the board makes will probably upset half the people. He asked the board to err on the side of caution and choose science when making a decision. He said if the board does not choose to approve the Department of Education waiver, will parents have the option to change their child's learning model.

Kayleigh Rogers sent via e-mail and read by President Eastman.

Just wanted to say that from what I can tell, the district has been doing a great job with precautions in the school. We have been so glad our kids have had such small class sizes on their in-person days, and this has undoubtedly contributed to the success and our family's good health. The teachers are doing a great job rolling with the punches and making this work. That being said, I believe that with our COVID-19 numbers now and the district's warning that they cannot keep a full teaching staff, we need to go to fully online instruction at this time. In my opinion, combining classes is an absolute no-no and is precisely what we've worked so hard to avoid in order to be safer. While fully online instruction will be very difficult for our family with both parents working full-time, we will make it work because that's what needs to happen right now.

Kara Hank sent vial e-mail and read by President Eastman.

I wanted to send a quick email because I can't attend tonight's board meeting. I understand that the schedule for this year's school year is going to be discussed. I wanted to write to let you know that I am in support of continuing the hybrid model. First of all, I would like to thank the teachers and staff for all that they are doing to help our kids and the extra work for the online and hybrid models. Currently our kids are attending school using the hybrid model. I hope that this can continue. I understand that numbers are rising in the community, but have the numbers shown that the spread of COVID has been through kids attending school? I understand that some staff and students have had to quarantine at times, but that is to be expected. If we have the staff and resources to continue to allow the children to attend school in person, I hope this can continue. We have no idea when this pandemic is going to end and who knows if we will really need to quarantine and go 100% online again in March of this coming year. I hate to see the hybrid model go away right now when the students can continue to receive the best education of attending school in person for longer. I know a lot of other schools have gone 100% online recently but I hope that we can look at how things are going for our specific district. I know there are other districts that are also going in person full time right now also. For those families that prefer to do 100% online, they still have that option. I am just writing to support that I will stand behind Bettendorf school district and staff no matter what, but I support the continuation of the hybrid model for the students and families that would benefit from this model, especially at the elementary level socialization is so important. Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

- 3.02 **Board Shared Communication.** Director Lynch reported he will be representing the district tomorrow night at the IASB Delegate Assembly.

Director Castro thanked the district for recognizing all the Veterans.

- 3.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse thanked Director Holland and Director Champion for their service as President and Vice-President. She appreciates both of their support as she transitioned into the district.

In honor of American Education week, Dr. Morse thanked all the district team, especially our support providers, who are the rock of our district. Without all of you, and the important work you do each and every day, we wouldn't be able to educate our children in the way that we do without each and every one of you.

- 3.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier reported the district has spent or encumbered our entire ESSER allocation of \$272,826 and our entire allocation that was technology

specific of \$122,400. Eastern Iowa Mental Health Group did approve BCSD for Grant funds to help offset some of our COVID expenditures for hand sanitizers, facemasks and retrofit kits for our water fountain.

- 3.05 **BEA Report.** Mary Heeringa said she sent out a survey to BEA members about the possibility of moving to fully remote learning. The overall message from the comments was they are struggling to fill positions when a staff member is absent. Our entire staff is stretched thin and hitting a breaking point. When Mary stood up here two weeks ago, our 14-day positivity rate in the county was 15.1%, today it is 26.7%. It is for these reasons that BEA supports and encourages a move to apply for a waiver from the state to move to fully remote learning.
- 3.06 **Student Board Representative's Report.** Patrick Mooney said they have 3 main events coming up this winter. The Student Hunger Drive has been cancelled, but the Bettendorf Student Council decided to host their own. The Student Council will continue to solicit for donations at the Devils Glenn Hy-Vee every Tuesday and Thursday and they will be accepting non-perishable food items and cash donations all winter. Student Council will be participating in the Dance Marathon with the University of Iowa. They are looking to host more virtual events.
- 3.07 **Veteran's Day Recognition.** In honor of Veterans' Day, the Bettendorf Community School District recognizes the contribution of all those staff members and Directors who serve or have served our country in the armed services. The observance of this day helps preserve the spirit of patriotism, sacrifice, and the willingness to work together for the common good that these men and women have demonstrated.
- 3.08 **BHS Cheer Team Places in State Cheerleading Championships.** On November 7th the Iowa Cheerleading Coaches Association State Cheerleading Championships were aired on Iowa High School Sports Network. To participate in the state competition this year, teams had to prepare their material earlier than usual and submit videos to the state in October. Bettendorf High School placed 2nd in the 4A TimeOut Non-Stunt Division! All schools across the state are eligible to compete. The competition squads are coached by Tanya Gilmore, Jillian Knott & Haley Brock.
- 3.09 **Bettendorf FBLA Finds Success in Virtual Business Battle.** Congratulations to Charles Silver, Freshman; Rory Spooner, Sophomore; Tatum Buckley, Sophomore; Isabella Hoffman, Junior; and Carolyn Kress, Junior for their success in The Business Battle, a virtual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition in which students competed students from Colorado, Iowa and Missouri. The Business Battle featured seven assessments: Accounting & Financial Management; Business Basics; Business Development & Entrepreneurship; Business Management; Financial Concepts; Information Technology; and Marketing, Sales and Communications.
- 3.10 **BHS Girls Swim Team Places 1st in Regionals.** Congratulations to Mike Ahrens, his staff and the girls' swimming and diving team for taking 1st place at regionals (fifth straight year) and a trip to the STATE swim and dive meet Nov, 13 & 14. Good luck to Maci Greenley, Valerie Gutierrez, Sydney Hanson, Makayla Hughbanks, Katie Ripley, Mary Seldon, Abby Seldon, Riley Wehr, Alyssa Witt, Madeline Witt, and Ella Zillmer. Go Dogs!

4. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the consent agenda as modified. Consent Agenda item 4.04 is now Discussion item 5.06.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 4.01 Approval of November 2, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 4.02 Approval of November 16, 2020 Bills Recommended for Payment
- 4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel
  - Classified Resignation
  - Amy Sherlock**/NA/Paraeducator/Effective 11/20/20
  - Classified Retirement
  - Cheryl Bush**/Operations/Dispatcher/Effective 12/1/20
  - Classified Letter of Assignment Modification
  - Gary Larson**/Operations/From Special Education Driver to Route Driver/\$19.20 to \$19.05 per hour/Same hours per day/Department Need/ Effective 11/17/20
  - Schedule D Approval to Hire
  - Michael Budka**/BHS/Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach/\$3,949/Replacing Zach Paustian/Effective 2020-2021 school year
- 4.05 Newspaper of Record. Approve the Quad-City Times as our official newspaper for publications.

5. Informational/Action Items.

- 5.01 **Approval of American Education Week.** November 16 –20, 2020, is American Education Week within the Bettendorf Community School District. President Eastman read the Proclamation.
- 5.0 **Return of Learning Planning Updates.** Dr. Morse said we did not anticipate to be where  
2 we are right now with the waiver, but she gave an update on the timeline for the Return To Learn plan for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. She also shared some of the parent Intent to Return Survey questions.
- 5.0 **Department of Education Waiver.** Dr. Morse said the district has been monitoring the  
3 COVID positivity rate in Scott County and the impact it is having on the operation of our schools. While the county positivity rate (26.6%) has surpassed the substantial uncontrolled zone, district staff absenteeism has also risen. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult to fill the staff vacancies. She shared Staff Fill Rate data from August-November.

Chief Medical Officer of the Scott County Health Department, Dr. Katz reported that transmission is generally not occurring in classes, assuming maintenance of high masking and distancing compliance. Operational considerations are critical when making decisions of day-to-day operations, such as is there enough staff available to cover for the increase in staff absences.

On July 30, 2020 the Iowa Department of Education, in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health, released the Return to Learn: Reopening Iowa's Schools guidance. This document outlined potential mitigation strategies schools may consider based upon community transmission of COVID-19. When in the Substantial Uncontrolled Zone,

schools may consider applying to the Department of Education for a waiver for “temporary continuous/remote learning for an entire school building or district for up to 14 days”. Our county has moved into the Substantial Uncontrolled Zone with a 26.7% positivity rate.

Administration is recommending that BCSD move to a 100% remote learning model, pending the approval of the waiver by the State. If the waiver is approved, the BCSD will move forward with the remote learning model effective Monday, November 23, through Wednesday, December 9. The remote learning model will require students to join their classes virtually from home on those school days.

Students who are currently enrolled in the BCSD 100% online learning model will proceed in the same manner. If the waiver is approved, district parents/guardians will receive the remote learning schedule for all Bettendorf elementary schools, Bettendorf Middle School and Bettendorf High School later this week.

Moving to the remote learning model will be an adjustment for everyone. Our top priority is the health and well-being of your children and our staff. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff will pivot to remote learning, and we remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction.

**ACTION:** Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve to authorize the Superintendent to move to a Remote Learning Model (100%), K-12 if the waiver is approved by the Iowa Department of Education, and if deemed necessary.

Ayes: 5 Directors Castro, Eastman, Champion, Doerder, Lynch

Nays: 2 Directors Pyevich, Holland

Motion carried 5-2

5.0 **Policies.** Jill Matherly gave an update on the following board policies:

4

- **Policy 411.2**, Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection. All changes are recommended or optional by IASB. The optional portion is giving the superintendent authority to hire support personnel. Some language was deleted in order to allow the central office to prescreen applicants.
- **Policy 411.3**, Classified Employee Letter of Assignment. Language was deleted so that the superintendent has the authority to prepare and sign letters of assignment. Language from 411.5 was moved into this policy since 411.5 describes assignment of duties by the superintendent.
- **Policy 411.5**, Classified Employee Assignment. This policy was deleted and the language was moved to Policy 411.3
- **Policy 411.7, Classified Employee Evaluation.** This policy was deleted due to changes in Chapter 20 and language has been moved to the employee handbook.
- **Policy 411.8**, Classified Employee Probationary Status. The only change is giving authority to the superintendent to terminate a classified employee’s employment.

**ACTION:** Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the policies as presented.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.0 **October Financials.** Brie Collier presented monthly financial report for October. Through  
5 October, General fund revenue totaled \$14,186,940 and expenses totaled \$10,510,307. The fund balance in the General Fund at October 31, 2020 was \$15,580,970.

The following variances were noted: General Fund Revenues and Expenditures are up over the same period last year. Again, Federal revenue is up due to ESSER money. Salaries are down as staffing levels and overtime spending are lower than the prior year.

Activity Fund revenues and expenditures are down compared to prior years. Activity fund revenues are higher than expenditures so the fund is not currently operating in a deficit.

Food Service Fund revenues and expenditures will be monitored very closely this year. While reimbursement for the extended Federal program is higher than normal, we are not serving as many meals as we have in prior years. This is creating a deficit spending situation in the School Nutrition fund.

Our overall cash position is down from the same period last year. This is an improvement from the decrease noted last month. General fund cash position has improved from last month as has PPEL. The two funds causing a decrease in overall cash position are SAVE and School Nutrition.

**ACTION:** Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the October Financials as presented.

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

- 5.0 **Approve the Resolution Naming Depositories for 2020-2021.**

6

**ACTION:** Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the Resolution Naming Depositories for 2020-2021.

Director Holland abstained due to a potential conflict with employment.

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

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- December 7, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- January 4, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- January 19, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- February 1, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

7. Adjournment.

Director Holland motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary