

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the December 16, 2021, Regular Meeting
of the Board of Education
(pending Board approval)

1. Public Hearing.

A public hearing on the Hoover Playground Equipment & Surface Project opened at 6:02 pm. There were no comments and the hearing closed at 6:03 pm.

2. 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 December 16, 2021. Board Secretary Colleen Skolrood called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members present: Directors Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson

Members absent: Director Pyevich

Other officials present: Dr. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Matherly, Director of Human Resources; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Alan Hartley, MS Principal; Lorelei Andedo, Associate Principal; Tammy Chelf, Student Services Coordinator; Jayme Olson, NA Principal; David Farmer, Treasurer; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Rep; Ethan Geifman, Student Rep; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

3. Agenda Approval.

3.01 Motion to Approve the Agenda.

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

4.0 Communications.

4.01 **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.

- 4.02 **Board Shared Communication.** Director Castro attended the Black Voices Matter meeting at the high school with Dr. Morse. He was impressed with the quality of discussion.

Director Smithson attended the 6th grade Chorus Concert and was impressed with the director and the students. She really enjoyed that they put the learning standards on back of their program.

Director Doerder and President Eastman attended the Wayne Chermay Award breakfast at the middle school. Students are selected for this award for being responsible, caring, respectful, and exhibiting a sense of community.

President Eastman spent time at the high school last Friday. She got the opportunity to judge some amazing projects in Dan Drexler's classroom. She saw the new lab for our CNA program. She said there is so much great work taking place in the district.

- 4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse gave a shout out to our tremendous elementary, middle school and high school band and choir teachers and directors. Over the last two weeks, she had the privilege of attending our band and choir concerts. She said what an amazing job they have done.

Conversations with Students has continued this year. She had the opportunity to be with middle school students a couple of weeks ago. She appreciated their wisdom, candor and honesty. They talked about the great things going on at their school as well as the challenges.

Dr. Morse attended the Breakfast of Champions. She thanked Rachel Dierickx for the amazing breakfast they put on. Seventeen students were recognized, not just for their academics, but other qualities that are important to being good people in the world.

She was able to spend some time with our Black Voices Matter group. Christina Burroughs is the advisor for that group and she does an amazing job. They are getting ready to host their very first Poetry Slam as we return from winter break.

Dr. Morse was able to act as a judge over the last couple of weeks. She said it was quite "stressful" because all of our students do great work, but she said it was a lot of fun to be around students and interact with them.

It is hard to believe that the second semester is just around the corner. She talked about The Pathways Program being added at the middle school. It will be a school within a school concept. It will be an additional educational option for students to focus on their academic progress while receiving targeted support for their behavioral needs.

The next SIAC meeting will be January 18 at the High School. She appreciated the thirty-five members that were able to join us for the first meeting in November.

The district is launching an event called State of the District. It will be on January 24 at Grant Wood Elementary. This event is open to current and incoming families.

We will be launching registration for the 2022-2023 school year on February 1 for all our

new and incoming kindergarten families. On February 7, we will open enrollment for all returning families and any new families first grade and above to the district.

Dr. Morse thanked the middle school staff, parents, administration and community. She recognized that last week was a challenging week. With the reported alleged threats that were never found to be credible, it was challenging, but as a team we worked through it. She also thanked the Bettendorf Police Department for working with the district. After an investigation, they were able to report that the social media post had been fabricated and someone had impersonated another student. She commended the counseling staff at Bettendorf Middle School.

- 4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Director of Finance Brie Collier reported they are planning for the next school year. She reviewed the budgeting planning timeline for FY23. There is a budget workshop scheduled for early January.
- 4.05 **Director of Operations Report.** Director of Operations Curt Pratt gave an update on the Hoover construction project. Window frames have been completed in new areas. Existing classroom windows will continue to be replaced over the holiday break. Interior finishes are being painted. He also gave an update on natural gas expenditures and electricity expenditures at the elementary, middle school and high school buildings. He shared a chart showing the utility cost per square foot by school from FY19 and FY21.
- 4.06 **Director of Communications Update** - Director of Communications Celeste Miller gave an update on the District Social Media Audit/Plan. The initial work included:
1. Completing Social Media Audit & Research 2. Monitoring Social Media KPI (Key Performance Indicators) 3. Establishing a Social Media Committee 4. Developing District Social Media Protocols & Strategies 5. Streamlining Social Media Accounts where possible. The Social Media Committee will evaluate social media annually and update the plan and protocol for the next school year.
- 4.07 **BEA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg presented the BEA report on behalf of Mary Heeringa. Leading up to winter break, the days are filled with many activities. Our staff continues to go above and beyond to create positive and memorable learning experiences for our students. Last week, Ms. Heeringa met with members from the ISEA Executive Board where they set their legislative priorities for the year. They are to ensure every student and educational professional is set up for success and to ensure public dollars stay with public schools. She wished everyone a happy and safe winter break.
- 4.08 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg reported they have had an abundance of winter concerts the last few weeks. They are extremely thankful that the district has opened up four floater paraeducator positions to provide some additional assistance to our staff and students in the classroom. They are hopeful these positions will be filled quickly. She announced Kathleen Van Horn, paraeducator at BMS, was elected our new Vice-President. Ms. Laufenberg said the BEA, BESA and BSSA are pleased to see the early retirement package listed for approval on the agenda tonight. She said it is a way to thank our staff who are ready to retire. She wished everyone a safe and happy winter break.
- 4.09 **BSSA Report.** No one was in attendance.

- 4.10 **Student Representative’s Report.** Ethan Geifman reported the Bett Market was this past Saturday and was very successful. They were able to raise \$600 for prom. They also raised \$600 from a Holiday Sweater Campaign and \$600 from Trivia Night. He wished the seniors who are graduating early luck in the future and they are excited to see them back for prom and graduation. Mr. Geifman said they would love to have a student representative on the social media committee.
- 4.11 **Katie Howard-Iowa Thespian's Hall of Fame.** Congratulations to BHS Language Arts Teacher & Theatre Director Katie Howard for being inducted into the Iowa Thespian’s Hall of Fame. Katie was inducted during the Iowa Thespians annual festival held at the University of Northern Iowa, November 13, 2021.
- 4.12 **Fall Letter Of Intent Signings 2021.**

Carter Anderson	Southern Illinois University	Swimming
Sarah Giese	Coe College	Golf
Hollye Gutierrez	Coe College	Swimming
Valerie Gutierrez	Coe College	Swimming
Brady Hill	University of Iowa	Wrestling
Avery Horner	Iowa State University	Soccer
Brock Ohlensehlen	Luther College	Swimming
Alex Stone	Indiana University	Swimming
Shannyn Vogler	University of Iowa	Golf
Tristan Wakefield	Syracuse University	Rowing
Maxwell Wetteland	University of St. Thomas-Miami	Swimming

- 4.13 **BHS Student, Ethan Geifman, honored at StandWithUs Gala.**

5.0 Consent Agenda.

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

Director Castro had some questions regarding an interim filling in for a staff member on maternity leave. Dr. Morse said we are implementing a new math program this year. We just launched an ELA Pilot Committee. The state is requiring all districts to have a computer science plan and that work needs to continue to move forward. And we are implementing a new science program in three of our elementary grades. She said we felt like in order to ensure that the continued focus on curriculum and instruction could move forward, that was a role that needed some dedicated attention during that leave. That is why that decision was made to ask someone to step in on a temporary basis so when the individual on leave returns they are not faced with a mountain of work to accomplish in the last three or four months of school. Director of Human Resources Jill Matherly added that this is a fairly common practice in certain director level

positions.

Ayes: 6 Directors Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson, Castro

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

5.01 Approval November 11, 2021 Regular Annual and Organizational Board Meeting Minutes and Approval of December 7, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes

5.02 Approval of December 16, 2021 Bills Recommended for Payment

5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel

Certified Resignation

Leigh Cliburn/MT/5th Grade/Effective 1/14/2022

Sally Talbot/Lourdes/Math and Reading Interventionist/Effective 11/19/2021

Certified Transfer

Roxanne Schmertmann/BHS/From School Nurse to CTE TeacherNursing/1.0

FTE/New position/Effective 1/18/2022

Certified FYI

Scott Berg/From GW/PN to NA/From Instructional Coach to Interim

Administrative Intern/\$76,323 prorated to number of days/Effective

1/3/2022 end date TBD

Jayne Olson/Admin/Interim Director of Curriculum Instruction and

Assessment/\$3,000 stipend/Effective 12/17/2021

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Keegan Gravert/BMS/Assistant Coach 8th Grade Boys Basketball/\$1,959 /Replacing

Mickey Hines/Effective 1/3/2022

5.04 **Jennifer McFate-Wikan**/BHS/Lunchroom Supervision/\$1,897 prorated to start date/Effective 11/29/2021

Kyle Mink/BHS/Lunchroom Supervision/\$2,170.14 prorated to start date/Effective 10/1/2021

Early Graduates - Quarter 2 - 2021-2022: Rheagan Arboleda, Grant Anderson, Carson

Baltazor, Kayla Barnhart, Kaitlyn Beghtol, Joseph Bergstrom, Walter Blackman,

Piper Careatti, Kayla Carlson, Rhianna Coen, Bradlee Curry, Addison Dalburg, Logan

Desseyn, Hayley Dyer, Kyndall Estlund, Skylar Fausett-Nannemann, Jullian Garcia,

Zach Kipp, Ariauna Kluk-Jones, Hanna Kunz, Carter Lawson, Aryana Lay, Mia

5.05 Lopez, Kristin Manion, Brittan Mariman, Jose McCreight, Trevor McKim, Kathryn

Miletich, Logan Nelson, Elijah Solis, Ashlyn Schmidt, Riley Spooner, Chelsea Stone,

Luke Weckel, Trenton Whitbeck, Alexya Wy

Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only). The following students have been approved for open enrollment.

Into Bettendorf for 21/22

2 - Pleasant Valley

5.06 1 - Davenport

Out of Bettendorf 21/22

1 - Iowa Connections Academy

Approval of a \$500.00 donation provided to BHS Show Choir from Bettendorf

Community Schools Foundation on behalf of the Seth Rowland Family.

6.0 Informational/Action Items.

- 6.01 **Iowa Association of School Boards Conference Debrief.** Directors Lynch, Doerder, Smithson, Eastman and Dr. Morse shared key takeaways from the IASB Conference.
- 6.02 **Approve November Financials.** Director of Finance Brie Collier presented the monthly financial reports for November 2021. Through November, General fund revenue totaled \$17,795,816 and expenses totaled \$15,095,542. The fund balance in the General Fund at November 30, 2021 was \$14,796,348. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports.

The following variances were noted: Activity Fund “other” expenses have increased compared to last year. This comes from a timing of when we paid Riverbend Food Bank for our hunger drive donations as well as an increase in that donation amount. We also have students registering for more student events, which shows in the “other” expense category.

The Nutrition program has lower revenues this month due to a timing of claims payments on the part of the State. Food service supply expenses are up 58% compared to the same time last year. Like all items supply related, costs have increased and delivery times are a challenge to manage. We will continue to monitor both of these areas and adjust where possible.

The transportation line item expenditures have increased. We have additional activity trips this year compared to last year and there were additional fleet repair needs.

One item to note is the food service cash balance. While this shows a decrease from the prior year, this will change in December when we receive our Federal reimbursement.

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

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

- 6.03 **LEP Allowable Costs.** The district is requesting \$131,912.46 in allowable growth for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) allowable costs.

Motion by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the SBRC request of \$131,912.46 in allowable growth for LEP (Limited English Proficiency) allowable costs.

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

- 6.04 **At-Risk Program Update & Budget.** Tammy Chelf, Edison Academy Program Administrator, gave an update on the At-Risk Program. She talked about the district's changing demographics, definition of at-risk students, risk factors, and shared the district's at-risk data. Miryam Andrews-Ohlman shared information on the district's Outreach Program.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the 2022/2023 at risk program as presented and the 2022/2023 maximum MSA of \$1,352,681 to support this program.

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

- 6.05 **Approval of Herbert Hoover Playground Equipment and Surface Project.** Director Pratt said this is the first step in the process. He noted \$200,000 is in the ballpark of what we spent on the playgrounds at Grant Wood and Mark Twain. He noted they will be reusing some of the newer equipment from Herbert Hoover. He is hoping we will have a vendor to approve at the January board meeting.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the scope of work and proposed budget of \$200,000 for the Playground Equipment and Surface at Herbert Hoover Elementary School.

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

- 6.06 **Approval of Early Retirement.** Dr. Morse said they feel like this is the right thing to do for our staff to acknowledge the loyalty and dedication to our district. She said we have incredible educators and staff in this district and after a lot of thought and analysis, they feel like this is the right time. She noted there are thirty-two staff eligible. Historically about a third of our staff have accessed that option.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the Bettendorf Early Retirement proposal as presented.

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

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- Thursday, January 6, 2022, Board Workshop 6:00-8:00 pm
- Thursday, January 20, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, January 27, 2022, Board Workshop (Hanover) 6:00 pm
- Thursday, February 10, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary