

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the February 1, 2017 Special 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 special Board meeting at the Bettendorf High School Performing Arts Center, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, on February 1, 2017. President Gordon Staley called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, Justis, Pyevich, Staley, Struck, Tinsman, Trahan - via conference call

Members absent:

Other officials present: Michael Raso, Interim Superintendent; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications, Chris Andrus, Director of Operations; Lana LaSalle, TJ Principal; Caroline Olson, MT Principal; Julie Trepka, PN Principal; Jeff Johannsen, HH Principal; John Cain, GW Principal; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary

2. Agenda Approval.

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

Ayes: 7 Directors Castro, Justis, Pyevich, Staley, Struck, Tinsman, Trahan

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0.

3. Discussion Items & Reports.

Elementary Facilities Discussion.

In August the board appointed Estes Construction as construction manager for the Grant Wood renovation and addition project. In September the board approved Legat Architect to design the project. The board found that the original projected costs did not include expenditures such as asbestos removal and HVAC, and had minimal updating of current structures to blend in with additions and renovated areas. Since Grant Wood, Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson are more than 50 years old and project costs are estimated to be more than half the cost of new construction, the board wanted to look into the costs of replacing of buildings with new schools. The board also discussed their interest in potentially closing a school.

After listening to several different scenarios presented by Legat Architects, the majority of Directors agreed Grant Wood should be first, but they differed on whether to renovate or build new. The board and community offered alternate scenarios to be considered.

Community members spoke and expressed their desire in keeping all six neighborhood elementary schools open. They also voiced frustration over the length of time this process has taken. Grant Wood parents dismissed the idea of building a new school north of 53rd and said Grant Wood has become their neighborhood school. They noted that one of the best things about Grant Wood is that it is a balanced building and relocating north of 53rd would change the balance of the school. They asked the board to make a decision that would be the least disruptive for kids. Community members agreed that other elementary schools need improvements and they did not want all of the funds to go to just one school.

The goal is for the Grant Wood Elementary project to be completed for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson elementary schools are slated to be the next elementary schools for facility improvements.

4. Action Item.

Budget for Elementary Construction Projects.

Motion by Director Trahan, seconded by Director Castro to approve \$16.7M for Grant Wood.

Ayes: 4 Directors Staley, Trahan, Castro, Justis

Nays: 3 Directors Struck, Tinsman, Pyevich

Motion carried 4-3

5. Closed Session - Negotiations.

Motion to Enter into Exempt Session.

Motion by Director Castro, seconded by Director Justis to enter into exempt session, as provided in the Code of Iowa section 20.17(3) and 20.9 for the purpose of discussing strategies for negotiations.

Ayes: 7 Directors Struck, Tinsman, Trahan, Castro, Justis, Pyevich, Staley

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

Directors entered into exempt session at 8:08 p.m. Directors returned to open session at 8:56 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Gordon Staley, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary