

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the May 17, 2021, 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 Bettendorf High School Performing Arts Center, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, on May 17, 2021. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Matherly, Director of Human Resources; Jillian Dotson, Director of Curriculum Instruction; Dave Hlas, Director of Special Services ; Sean McGinn, Director of Technology; Kayla Leu, Director of Nutrition Services; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; David Farmer, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa, BEA Representative; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; Joy Kelly, HS Principal; Jayme Olson, NA Principal; Karen Allison HH Principal; Brian Walthart, PN Principal; Caroline Olson, MT Principal; John Cain, GW Principal; Shannon Muckenfuss, Acting Secretary

Director Pyevich arrived at 6:03 p.m.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the agenda as amended. 5.12, Facial Coverings, was moved to 5.02 and subsequently moving everything else down.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

3. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

3.01 Approval of May 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3.02 Approval of May17, 2021 Bills Recommended for Payment

3.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel
Administrative Resignation

Lisa Reid/BMS/Principal/Effective 6/30/21

Certified Resignation

Andrea Krause/GW/Early Childhood Special Education/Effective 6/30/21

Debra Miller/PN/Academic Interventionist/Effective 6/30/21

Chelsea Tyrrel/BHS/Special Education/Effective 6/30/21

Certified Approval to Hire

Christopher Persell/BHS/Spanish/1.0 FTE/BA, 2/\$41,441/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Keith Bonnstetter/Effective 2021- 2022 school year

Jeyson Seneli-Jean/BHS/Spanish/1.0 FTE/BA, 3/\$42,975/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Anna Roeder/Effective 2021-2022 school year

Schedule D Resignation

Michelle Bruty/District/Head Guidance Counselor/Effective 6/30/21

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Adam Like/BHS/Head Sophomore Baseball Coach/\$4,049/Replacing Michael Budka/Effective 2021-2022 school year

3.04 Approve Augustana College Student Teaching Agreement

3.05 Approve the 2021 BHS Graduates

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

Into Bettendorf for 21/22

3 - From Pleasant Valley

3 - From Davenport

Out of Bettendorf for 21/22

2 - Into Davenport

4. Communication.

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.

Emma Folland addressed the board on the mask policy.

Brent and Keely King addressed the board on continuing masks and social distancing, as well as maintaining and supporting the role of Dean of Students at BMS. They also spoke about the leaking roof at BMS and said it is a health concern.

Edward Owens spoke about masks in schools.

David Fuglseth addressed the board on the mask policy.

Pat Miletich spoke about masks and history.

Christy Ziskovsky addressed the board on masks.

Heather Hunter spoke on the mask policy.

Amy Schebler spoke on keeping masks.

Jill Frerichs spoke on face coverings.

Melissa Zumdom spoke on removing the mask mandate and giving parents the option to choose.

Erin Hamilton spoke on forced masking.

Erin Bannerman spoke on the mask mandate.

Lyne Miletich spoke on masks.

Jen Kaney spoke on mask guidelines for students.

Matt Shaw addressed the board on no mask mandate.

Mayeen Zimmerman spoke on keeping the mask policy in place for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Patrick Mooney said he knows there are differing opinions on the subject of masks. Ultimately, he knows the board members have done their research and are well informed. He asked the board members to vote their conscience for the well-being of our school district, community members, parents, teachers and students.

Anemarie Ganea spoke regarding the mask mandate.

Lilo Leist addressed the board on abolishing mask wearing.

Gina Sorpy addressed the board on forced masking.

Andrew Hovey spoke on mask choice for students in schools.

Laura Engels spoke on the mask mandate.

Anne Johnson spoke on masks at school.

Dave Murcia spoke about BCSD COVID polices and on giving parents choice of health decisions.

Don Smith said YMCA preschool does not require masks and never have. He said teachers come to the Y and workout without masks.

Casey addressed the board on masks.

Brad Tierney addressed the board regarding masks.

- 4.02 **Board Communication.** Director Castro thanked all the parents and citizens who came and expressed their concerns and opinions tonight.

Last week was National Police Week. Director Castro honored our building Resource Officers and said they do a great job of keeping our schools safe.

Director Lynch thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Director Champion said he would love to see a presence like this at all of our board meetings and this kind of engagement and involvement in important issues like facilities, behavior and solutions and bond issues. He thanked the staff for working hard on streaming events.

Director Holland thanked everyone who came and spoke tonight. He congratulated all those who were involved in the Student Council Market last weekend.

Director Doerder thanked Dr. Morse for articulating some of the issues that our district has worked very hard doing to improve safety.

Director Pyevich appreciated all those who came out tonight.

President Eastman hopes that all of those in attendance continue to stay involved and have the same passion toward things like curriculum and conditions of our buildings, not just this single topic

- 4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse met with parents and community members last Monday at Mark Twain. She thanked Officer Poirier and parents for attending virtually and in-person. She thanked staff for their efforts to ensure that all students had an appropriate environment to test in and follow all the guidance from the Department of Education. We have almost successfully completed ISASP testing.

She said it was an honor to attend last week's Seniors Award Ceremony. She looks forward to celebrating our seniors on May 30 at graduation.

We will be welcoming our incoming kindergarten students this week at our schools. She thanked Student Council for the wonderful event they held a week ago.

Dr. Morse addressed a couple things that came up this evening. In regards to the Dean of Students position at the middle school, we have not made any formal announcement that that position will be eliminated. In regards to the middle school roof, our Director of Operations is busy working with leadership at the middle school as well as vendors to patch the roof. They feel confident they have identified and fixed approximately 80% of those leaks and they are continuing to work with our roof contractor to mitigate the remaining leaks.

4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier reported we did transition to our new Bank, Quad City Bank and Trust. She gave a shout out to the finance team for all their work on the transition.

4.05 **BEA Report.** Mary Heeringa reported that over the last two weeks they have had their Round Table and monthly BEA meeting over the last two weeks, along with their Executive elections. For next year, the Executive Board will be: Mary Heeringa, President; Kaitlin Burke, VP; Mark Kuntz, Treasurer; and Emily Cullison, Secretary. She thanked Perry Bentsen for his time and work as VP this year and wished him well on his retirement.

In a year filled with more challenges than we ever could have imagined, our students and staff have been incredible. She said she cannot thank them enough for their dedication, passion and effort to make this year successful. She also cannot thank our district families and community enough for their support. This past week has thrown us another curveball with the new guidance from the IDPH. This year the district has followed CDC guidelines as closely as we could. On Saturday, after the new guidance from the IDPH, the CDC issued a statement saying the CDC recommends the schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 school year. 86% of BEA members want to keep the policy we currently have for the remainder of the school year. We need to give the students time to get vaccinated, if they choose. There are many students who are only attending school because of the mask policy. Changing the policy will once again change the learning environment. We have 13 days left. We want to do everything we can to continue to keep them safe and healthy. Once the school year ends, we have time for additional staff and students to be vaccinated, review data and continue the conversation before the start of next school year. The BEA strongly recommends that the board does not make any changes to the current mask policy for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Heeringa said it is okay to disagree and be passionate, but some on both sides of the issues, have taken it too far. She challenged our community to do better, be better.

4.06 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg said the 4th quarter has flown by and it is hard to believe we only have only one more Monday with students this school year. Ms. Laufenberg talked about the change in IDPH guidance and said they do not see the need to change what we are currently doing for the remaining 13 days of the school year. She said we must do everything possible to keep our students and staff safe. The Class of 2021 deserves our very best effort to help ensure they graduate together in as normal of a ceremony as possible. The youngest among us, who are not eligible for the vaccine, deserve our very best effort to keep us safe while they are with us. 74% of our BESA members agree we should stick with our current COVID protocols we have in place. Ms. Laufenberg hopes we can all work together to finish the school year strong.

- 4.07 **Student Board Representative Report.** Ethan Geifman thanked everyone for coming out to talk this evening. They raised \$1,200 at the Market that will go toward next year's prom. He thanked his two principals, one who is retiring and one who is leaving for Iowa City. He thanked the school board and said he will see them all next year.
- 4.08 **National History Day National Qualifiers and Special State Awards.** Congratulations to the following students for being selected as national qualifiers and special state award winners in the National History Day project.
- National Qualifiers**
- Kelsi Smith, Makenna Miller and Charlotte Nigey - 7th Grade
Group Website - John Brown: Utilizing Violence to Express Racial Injustice
Ben Gillette - 7th Grade
Individual Documentary - Comics in the Crosshairs: The Comics Code Authority
Ishika Motwani - 6th Grade
Individual Website War Drums: Echoes from the American Civil War
* Also received the William D. Bartine Award
Eric Newton - 11th Grade
Individual Documentary - Alan Turing: Nazi Code Breaker and Father of Modern Computing National Qualifier
Kaelee Wolf & Alivia Isaacson - 9th Grade
Group Documentary - Rachel Carson: Communicating Environmental Concern in the Face of Sexism, Greed, and an Uninformed
- Alternate National Qualifier**
- Willa Halfhill - 6th Grade
Individual Exhibit - Cher Ami: The Pigeon Who Saved the Lost Battalion with a Single Message
- African American History Award**
- Amelia Hinds - 8th Grade
Historical Paper - Slave Songs: Generations of Sorrow, Joy, Inspiration and Hope
Sponsored by the African American Museum of Iowa
- 4.09 **Nadzije Selmani Awarded US Citizenship.** Congratulations to Nadzije (Nadia) Selmani, BHS Custodian, for recently passing her United States Citizenship Test and being presented with US Citizenship!

5. Informational/Actions.

- 5.01 **SELL Crew Presentation - A student Lead Leader Initiative.** Haleigh Hoyt and Teresa Freking along with a few SELL Crew students gave an update on their projects. The Social Emotional Learning Leader (SELL) Crew from Bettendorf and Edison high schools has had a busy school year. SELL Crew Leaders helped welcome incoming and new students both in-person and virtually, mentored K-5 BCSD students, helped keep students safe with return to learn safety protocols, and more.
- 5.02 **Facial Coverings.** Dr. Morse thanked everyone who came out tonight to advocate for what they feel is in the best interest of their family. She also thanked everyone who reached out via email, while she was not able to respond to everyone personally yet, please know that she appreciates the time taken to share your thoughts and concerns. This school year has presented educators locally and nationally with challenges that have never been encountered before. Our district has been committed since August and remains committed to providing all of our students high quality learning opportunities in a safe learning environment. Since the start of the school year, we have grounded our decisions

around three goals: high levels of learning, student and staff safety, and the goal of being open and remaining open. Dr. Morse is proud of the work and adherence to the evidence based mitigation strategies that our students and staff have followed. Our fidelity to these strategies are what she attributes to our success this year. Our students have shown a resilience that is to be commended and our staff has demonstrated a commitment and tenacity to keep going even in the most challenging times. She recognized there are varied opinions related to COVID, facial coverings and vaccinations. Throughout this school year, we have consistently followed the recommendations of the CDC, Scott County Health Department, and Iowa Department of Public Health. On Friday, Iowa Department of Public Health released updated guidance that changed quarantining as well as asking districts to consider providing parents a choice with regards to face coverings. This is in contrast to the recommendations of the CDC and our local health department. Both of these entities continue to recommend facial coverings as one of the most important mitigation strategies for schools. The majority of our students remain unvaccinated. The CDC updated recommendation last week was for individuals who have been vaccinated.

It is important to note that when parents are making the decision with respect to the 4th quarter and the learning environment they wanted for their students, their decision was made knowing the district would continue to require facial coverings. We have tried to be transparent as we can while at the same time ensuring staff and students are in a safe learning environment.

Last week, we sent out communication that we were modifying the masks recommendation for when students were outdoors, allowing students to pull their masks down when outside.

Staff has been taking advantage of the nice weather last week and have tried to educate students outside to the greatest extent possible. We also ensured that our students can have mask breaks when requested.

While our 14-day moving average has decreased, it remains high for the Iowa Department of Public Health's own data at 8.2%. Over the last month, the percentage of 0-18 year olds testing positive has almost doubled.

Dr. Morse recognizes the decision before us tonight will not come without controversy. She cannot reiterate enough how appreciative she is of everyone that has come out tonight from parents to community members to staff to students for sharing your thoughts and information.

Dr. Morse recommends the board consider remaining with facial coverings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year with the changes made last week for outdoor activities.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve administrative recommendation regarding facial coverings.

Ayes: 4 Directors Doerder, Champion, Lynch, Eastman
Nays: 3 Directors Castro, Holland, Pyevich
Motion carried 4-3

- 5.03 **Math Adoption Presentation.** Jillian Dotson, Colleen Matos, Kathy Wehr and Marty Beck presented on the Math Adoption. A committee composed of teachers, administrators, and curriculum leaders met to review five different elementary math curriculums. Two curriculums were chosen to pilot this school year, IntoMath and Illustrative Math. The pilots were implemented in August 2020 and continued throughout the school year. The Elementary Math Pilot Committee met monthly to share updates with each curriculum.

Illustrative Math was chosen because it is rigorous, student-centered and incorporates the eight effective teaching practices. It also creates space for student creativity and problem solving. Algebra II is currently using materials from IM. In addition to meeting our needs, it is less expensive.

- 5.04 **Approval of April Financials.** Director of Finance Brie Collier presented the monthly financial reports for April 2021. Through April, General fund revenue totaled \$42,554,537 and expenses totaled \$36,771,599. The fund balance in the General Fund at April 30, 2021 was \$17,687,275. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports.

The following variances were noted: Property tax collection rates have increased compared to the same period last year. This is more in line with expected collection rates pre-pandemic. Additional variances align with previous monthly reviews.

The Nutrition Fund saw an increase in revenue again this month. The deficit spending decreased from \$(240,490) last month to \$(177,246) this month. Overall, the fund maintains a positive balance.

General Fund, Management Fund and PPEL Fund received an influx of tax dollars as the second payment came due in March.

Tax collections are higher this year as there was no delay in payment related to the pandemic.

A majority of the improved cash position comes from the PPEL and Debt Service Funds. Our trends remain the same in terms of decreased cash position in Activities, Management, SAVE and Food Service Funds.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve the April Financials as presented.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.05 **Discussion of the Workers/Non-Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal for 2021-2022 School Year.** The district participates in the IASB Safety Group program for our non-work comp insurance. Our expected increases this year would be between 15-20% for the group as a whole. BCSD increase was 19.5%.

For workers comp, we made the switch last year to RAS. We are actually seeing a decrease to our workers comp over last year. Our mod rate is at 1% so we are exactly average. For the past couple of years that has been high which prompted us to switch work comp carriers.

Another thing to note is our renewal amounts are within our budgeted items that the board approved in April.

Some risk management strategies they are using is they are working through the Return to Work Program. Trying to provide PPE (personal protective equipment) for our staff members and doing those investigations within 24-hours after an incident happened.

- 5.06 **Approval of Transfer from General Fund Resolution.** This is just an annual transfer that the district does.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve the transfer from General Fund to Activities Fund to support safety equipment up to \$20,000 (annual approval and allocation).

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

- 5.07 **Approval of Food Service Bids.** Kayla Leu gave an update on the bread, milk and beverage bids.

Bread Bid: The terms and conditions for the request for proposal for bread products for school year 2019-2020 allowed the contract to be renewed for up to two additional one-year terms by mutual agreement of the SFA and selected distributor. A contract for renewal was sent to Pan-OGold Baking Co., our bread vendor for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year. Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. has agreed to the renewal with no price increase for the 2021-2022 school year.

Milk Bid: The terms and conditions for the request for proposal for dairy products will expire on June 30, 2021. Due to this, the Nutrition Services Department was required to send requests for proposals to dairy vendors for the 2021-2022 school year. A request for proposal was sent to Prairie Farms and our current dairy vendor, Anderson Erickson. Prairie Farms came in as the lowest bidder. I contacted local school districts that currently have a contract with Prairie Farms. Those districts had no complaints or concerns regarding their products or performance.

Beverage Bid: The terms and conditions for the request for proposal for beverage products for the school year 2018-2019 allowed the contract to be renewed for up to four additional one-year terms by mutual agreement of the SFA and selected distributor. Atlantic Bottling Company (Coca Cola) has agreed to the renewal with no price increase for the 2021-2022

school year.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve Pan-O-Gold Baking Co., Prairie Farms and Atlantic Bottling Company as vendors for the Nutrition Services Department for the 2021-2022 School year.

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

- 5.08 **2021 Van Bid Recommendation.** Two sealed bids for (2) new 8 passenger vans were received. Kunes Ford of East Moline was the low bidder with the total purchase price after trade-in allowances of \$62,769.60.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Champion, to approve Kunes Ford of East Moline for the low bid of \$62,769.60 for two, 8 passenger vans.

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

- 5.09 **Shared Orchestra Position between Pleasant Valley & Bettendorf.** The actual weekly schedule for Orchestra Teacher is to be jointly determined by the Superintendents of the Districts, but is anticipated that on a daily basis that the Orchestra Teacher will have 4 periods of instruction for Bettendorf CSD and 3 periods of instruction for Pleasant Valley CSD.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve the shared orchestra position between Pleasant Valley and Bettendorf for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

- 5.10 **Approval of Other Employee Group Contracts.** The average settlement package for all three groups: Administrative. Assistant/Tech, Supervisor/Other and Administration is 2.32%. For all employee groups: BEA, BSSA, BESA, Administrative. Assistant/Tech, Supervisor/Other and Administration this year's contract increases totaled \$1,390,657.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded as Director Champion, to approve the employee contract settlement with Other Employee Groups for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

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

5.11 **First and Final Read of Policies.**

Policy 701.2: Transfer of Funds

Update language regarding transfer of residual funds. Add language indicating the District may seek SBRC approval to transfer funds to make an obsolete program whole. Update legal reference. Updates reflect suggested IASB changes.

Policy 701.3: Financial Records

Added language indicating the board may establish additional funds and certify other taxes as allowed by law and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Added language to indicate superintendent and school business official bring changes to the Board. Updates reflect suggested IASB changes.

Policy 701.4: Governmental Accounting Practices & Regulations

Update language to match IASB sample policy.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.12 **Approval of Associate Superintendent Job Description.** The Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning will serve as the executive head of, and be responsible for, the educational operations of the District including the supervision of educational services (curriculum, instruction, and assessment) and other offices as assigned by the Superintendent. The Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning is charged with providing clear and effective leadership to ensure district goals, beliefs and policies are clearly communicated and implemented.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded as Director Champion, to approve the job description for the Associate Superintendent.

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

Nays: 2 Directors Holland, Pyevich

Motion carried 5-2

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- May 30, BHS Graduation, 1:00 pm
- June 4, End of the Year Staff Recognition, 2:00 pm
- June 7, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- June 21, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

Motion by Director Holland that we recall discussion item 6.04, 2021-2022 BOE Dates, from the April 19th board agenda for future discussion, seconded by Director Castro. It will be added to a future board meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Shannon Muckenfuss, Acting Secretary