

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the March 10, 2022, Regular Meeting
of the Board of Education
(pending Board approval)

1. Public Hearing.

A public hearing on Paul Norton Elementary Roof Restoration opened at 6:01 pm. There were no comments and the hearing closed at 6:02 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 March 10, 2022. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and the Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Cathy Weis, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, verified that the meeting notice had been posted and mailed to the media as required by law.

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

Other officials present: Dr. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Dr. Michael Gillotti, Associate Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Robert Boley, HS Principal; David Farmer, Treasurer; Cathy Weis, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Ethan Geifman, HS Student Representative.

3. Agenda Approval.

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. 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.

There were no comments.

4.02 **Board Communication.** Director Smithson attended the Show Choir Concert on Saturday, March 5th. She said it was a wonderful display of talent and a terrific program, and students and staff should be proud of themselves.

Director Smithson would like to thank the members of the community who have already reached out to state representatives to speak out about how the governor's omnibus bill

would negatively affect the district. She stated the state has set the SSA (State Supplemental Aid) at 2.5, which does not cover inflation. Director Smithson feels the vouchers that the governor is recommending would be detrimental to the district's budget. She urges the community and directors to continue to reach out to representatives to let them know how the loss of that money would affect the district.

Director Champion encourages people to contact legislators. He thanked Gary Mohr for taking the time to call him back.

Director Eastman echoed this and also thanked Gary Mohr for calling her back. She also urges the community to join the board in advocating for public schools.

Director Lynch attended the parade of bands. He said it was impressive to see all the students together filling up the gymnasium. His daughter attended the Show Choir concert and it was nice to see the staff was fully prepared to deal with the tornado sirens and keep everyone safe. He has had lovely conversations with many teachers during parent-teacher conferences and thanked them for being available to parents.

Director Doerder thanked Gary Mohr for replying to her and wants to make sure we are voicing our opinions to keep public funds available to public schools only.

4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse had the privilege of attending all of the band, choir, and orchestra performances. This included the Parade of Bands, choir concert, orchestra concert, choral extravaganza, and show choir showcase. She said we have such talented students and it is fun watching them take part in the things they love and are passionate about. She gave a huge shout-out to the amazing vocal and instrumental team and feels their leadership is evident in how talented our students are.

Dr. Morse reported that the Black Voice Matter student group held their 2nd annual essay contest for Black History Month. They had 3 winners: 2 from the high school and 1 from Edison. She had the privilege of presenting the award to the Edison winner who had written about Mary Jackson, the first female engineer at NASA. She thanked the Mason Family for their generosity by donating the gift cards to the winners.

Dr. Morse thanked Rachel Cuppy and the music team for how they handled the tornado warning last Saturday at the Show Choir Showcase. She said their leadership, poise and calm helped make it go smoothly and keep everyone safe.

Dr. Morse attended the State of the City Address given by Mayor Gallagher. The mayor highlighted all of the accomplishments in the city over the past year and what is in the works in the coming year. Dr. Morse said we are blessed to be in a city that partners not only with the people and the businesses but also in the schools.

Dr. Morse reported that parent-teacher conferences are finishing up at the elementary and middle school. She extends a thank you to all of the teachers for putting in so many hours to connect with the families and to the parents who have engaged in that process. She also thanked all the parent groups that have provided food and treats to the staff throughout the week.

Dr. Morse noted we will be entering into Spring Break next week. She thanks all of the staff for what they do each and every day for their students, their families and their

colleagues. She hopes everyone is able to relax, rejuvenate, and recharge. It is a well-deserved break.

Dr. Morse reported that after Spring Break the high school will be gearing up for finals at the end of the first week back after Spring Break. ISASP testing, FAST testing, MAP testing and Conditions for Learning Testing will also take place right after break, starting with ISASP testing at BHS on March 28th.

Dr. Morse took part in the Bettendorf Schools Foundation board meeting today. They are looking for individuals to join the board. Please reach out to Michelle LeMoine. She said they do a great job of providing scholarships and grants to the district and would like more people involved in this process.

Dr. Morse reported that the next SIAC meeting is March 28th at 5:00 PM in the high school commons. She encourages anyone in the community to attend this event and asks them to let Celeste Miller know if they plan to attend.

Dr. Morse reported that the United Way Read United Initiative is being utilized with volunteers at all 5 of our elementary schools. They have a goal of reaching 500 volunteers by May in the Quad City community and are currently at 350 as of today. We have been assigned 27 volunteers to read to our students once per week.

Dr. Morse reported that we have 85% of our families registered for the 2022-23 school year. This is remarkable and she thanks everyone that has made this possible. Secretaries are reaching out to the 15% who still need to register.

- 4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier had no report.
- 4.05 **BEA Report.** Mary Heeringa was not in attendance.
- 4.06 **BESA Report.** Dr. Morse reported for Melissa Laufenberg. Melissa hopes everyone has a great Spring Break week and has the opportunity to unwind and relax.
- 4.07 **Student Board Representative Report.** Ethan Geifman congratulated the boys and girls bowling team. This is the first time the boys have won state in 15 years. He thanked the board for their continued support of the CTE programs. He watched the students participate in their clinicals in the CNA lab and he said it felt like a real doctor's office. He stated Bettendorf High School is a great high school and thanked the board for directing it.
- 4.08 **BHS Robotics.** Congratulations to the BHS Robotics team for making the semi-finals in the Black Division of the State Tournament on February 19th. The team won the 2nd place Control Award!
- 4.09 **BHS Battle of the Bridges.** Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Battle of the Bridges at the Putnam Museum on March 4, 2022:
- Joseph Hutter-Miller, Gage Menke, & Jackson Gross - 3rd place- Team Life is a Bridge
 - Braden Like & Ryan McNab - 2nd place -Team Bridge 1
 - Tim Foster, Payton Noack, & Henry Ploehn - 1st place -Team Ozymandias. Their bridge held 194 lbs. and was 882% efficient.

Way to go Bulldogs.

- 4.10 **BHS Speech and Debate.** Congratulations to the Speech and Debate Team for their performance at the Iowa Forensic League State tournament on March 5. The following students return with trophies:
- Zach Adams - State Champion in Spontaneous Speaking and 4th Place in International Extemporaneous Speaking
 - Talia Cary - 2nd Place in International Extemporaneous Speaking and 3rd Place in Spontaneous Speaking
 - Talia Cary and Max Rantilla - Semifinalist in Public Forum Debate
 - Cata Fernandez - 4th Place in Original Oratory
 - Max Rantilla - 4th Place in United States Extemporaneous Speaking and 4th Place Speaker in Public Forum Debate
- 4.11 **BHS Bowlers.** Congratulations to BHS bowlers Ammiah Wynn and Rylee Crouch for their placements at the Iowa High School State Bowling Tournament. Rylee had a top 8 performance averaging 234. Ammiah placed 4th averaging 219 for the day with a high score of 278!
- Congratulations to the BHS Boy's Bowling team for placing 3rd at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State championship on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.
- Congratulations to BHS Junior Ammiah Wynn for being selected as the MAC Girls Bowling Player of the Year.
- BHS Boys Bowling Coach Mike Kelly was named MAC Boys Bowling Coach of the Year. Congratulations to both of our bowling teams for an outstanding season.
- 4.12 **BMS Band Students Selected for SEIBA Honor Band.** In January, ten BMS Band students were selected by audition to participate in the annual Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band. The event was held at Clear Creek-Amana High School. Congratulations to all!
- Hadley Appel (7)
 - Linnea Arnell-Liu (7)
 - Sydney Coussens (7)
 - Jordan De Simone (8)
 - Jenna Farwell (8)
 - Madilyn Ketelsen (7)
 - Noah Leavitt (8)
 - Sophia Lynch (7)
 - Chloe Martin (8)
 - Liam Rehnberg (8)
- 8th graders Noah Leavitt, Chloe Martin, and Liam Rehnberg also qualified for the All-Iowa 8th Grade Honor Band to be held in conjunction with the Iowa Bandmasters Annual Conference in Des Moines.

5. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

5.01 Approval of February 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5.02 Approval of March 10, 2022 Bills Recommended for Payment

- 5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel
Administrative Resignation
Andrea Cooper/BMS/Interim Dean of Students/Effective 6/30/22
Certified Resignation
Megan Daniels/GW/5th Grade/Effective 6/30/22
Jacob Hayes/MT/Physical Education/Effective 6/30/22
Zachary Neuerburg/BMS/Special Education/Effective 6/30/22
Certified Approval to Hire
Melanie Kopatich/BMS/Pathways Teacher/1.0 FTE/BA,2/\$13,813 – 65 day contract/New Position/Effective 2/28/22
Beth Thompson/BHS/Special Education/1.0 FTE/MA+15,11/\$64,067/ Replacing Annette Zelnio/Effective 2022-23 school year
Schedule D Resignation
Divya Chari-Mossman/BMS/Lunchroom Supervision/Effective 3/25/22
Karl Stubben/BHS/Assistant Varsity Tennis Coach/Effective 2/18/22
Schedule D Approval to Hire
Karl Stubben/BHS/Head Varsity Girls Tennis Coach/\$5,551/Replacing Ronald Stout/Effective 3/11/22
- 5.04 Approval of 3rd Quarter Early Graduates - Max Wetteland, Ailyn Wade, Brooklyn Rashid, Ella Harbaugh
- 5.05 Approval of the \$1,000.00 donation provided to the BHS CNA program from Jim and Roxanne Schmertmann, 23050 155th Ave., LeClaire, IA 52753
- 5.06 Approval of the 22-23 University of Northern Iowa Teaching Agreement

6. Informational/Actions.

- 6.01 **General Fund Transfer to SAVE Fund.** ESSER Funds are required to be accounted for in the General Fund and construction costs must come from either PPEL or SAVE. The district has received approval from the Iowa Department of Education for the transfer of these funds. Board approval is needed to transfer from the General Fund to SAVE to cover the costs of the specific areas of the Hoover office remodel and classroom addition. Director Champion thanked Brie for her work on this.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded as Director Champion, to approve the transfer of \$177,985 in ESSER II Funds from General Fund to SAVE Fund to cover the cost of the Hoover Secure Entrance and Window Upgrade projects as approved by the Iowa Department of Education application for waivers, exemptions and prior approval for capital expenditures.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

- 6.02 **2022/2023 Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Rates.** There were no increases to dental and vision insurance costs for 2022/2023. There will be a 3% increase in health insurance costs for 2022/2023. The district has done a great job getting the message out to employees that it does matter where one chooses to get prescriptions, going to urgent care versus the emergency room. We are becoming better users of our plan. Neighboring districts have seen as much as a 20% increase in premiums.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve the proposed health, dental and vision insurance rates for the 2022/2023 plan year as presented.

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

- 6.03 **Approval of Paul Norton Elementary Roof Renovation.** A Pre-Bid Meeting and project walkthrough will occur at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, in the cafeteria at Paul Norton. Sealed bids will be opened on April 5, 2022. This is part of the PPEL planning. Upon approval, Curt Pratt will release documents that will go out for bids.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded as Director Lynch, to approve the scope of work and proposed budget of \$818,656 for the Paul Norton Elementary School Roof Restoration.

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

- 6.04 **First and Final Read of Policies.** Brie Collier gave an update on the following board policies:

- **706.1: Payroll Periods** - no changes other than formatting
- **706.2: Payroll Deductions** - aligned language to IASB sample policy. Removed professional dues and master contract deduction language
- **706.3: Pay Deductions** - no policy language changes. Updated legal and policy references.
- **706.3R1: Pay Deduction Regulation** - updated complaint to “Superintendent or designee” instead of “Director of Financial and Business Services”.

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

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

7. Closed Session - Real Estate.

7.01 Motion to Enter into Closed Session.

Motion Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5 (1)(j), to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the school district would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the school district would receive for that property.

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

Directors entered into closed session at 6:38 pm. Directors returned to open session at 7:01 pm.

8. Upcoming Calendar Items.

- Thursday, March 31, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, April 14, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, April 28, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

9. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm.