

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**BETTENDORF, IOWA**

Unofficial Minutes of the March 22, 2021, Regular Meeting  
of the Board of Education  
(pending Board approval)

1. Public Hearing.

A public hearing on Bettendorf Middle School Roof Restoration opened at 6:00 pm. There were no comments and the public hearing closed at 6:01 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 22, 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; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; David Farmer, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa, BEA Representative; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; Ethan Geifman, Student Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

Director Pyevich arrived at 6:04 pm.

3. Approve the Agenda.

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

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

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 Shared Communication.** Director Castro attended the meeting at the high school for the community with Dr. Morse and said it was very informative.

Director Lynch had the opportunity to observe a few classes at the high school today and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Vice-President Holland congratulated the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter early graduates.

Director Pyevich congratulated Noah Rantilla on becoming a National Merit finalist.

- 4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse welcomed staff back from spring break. She shared that we are now in receipt of the abstract of votes from Proposition A (Revenue Purpose Statement Proposition) that was on the ballot on March 2. Proposition A was passed on March 2. 569 votes were cast. Of those votes, 477 votes were in favor and 92 no votes.
- 4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier opened a 9-month CD at Quad City Bank and Trust today. She thanked all those who voted on March 2.
- 4.05 **BEA Report.** Mary Heeringa said they have hit the ground running since returning from spring break. She said it is a bit overwhelming to think of everything that will be happening over 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. She reported they met this afternoon for initial proposals for contract negotiations and said they look forward to continuing that conversation later on this week. She reminded everyone that the BEA Scholarship is open for applications. Applications can be found on the district website under the Foundations Scholarships. Applications are due on April 9.
- 4.06 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg said the BESA negotiations team will have their first meeting this week and their opening proposal meeting with the district is scheduled for next Monday. She encouraged anyone who might be interested to serve as guest staff to look at the requirements on the district website.
- 4.07 **Student Board Representative's Report.** Ethan Geifman said the students are happy to be back full-time. Student Council attended Student Council State yesterday. He thanked the operations team for getting them to the event. He also thanked Dr. Morse for coming to their student council meeting. Next year's Student Council State Project is supporting foster care system in the State of Iowa. He noted that the prom venue at the Putnam is no longer an option. He said if anyone has connections, feel free to email Student Council. They are looking for an indoor venue.
- 4.08 **Noah Rantilla Recognized as National Merit Finalist.** To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay.  
Three Bettendorf High School seniors, Rayanne Brackey, Noah Rantilla, and Sophia Utsinger, were recognized earlier in the school year by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Brackey and Utsinger received letters of Commendation for their academic achievements, while Rantilla received recognition as a National Merit Semifinalist. Bettendorf High School senior Noah Rantilla was recently selected as a National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist.
- 4.09 **BMS 7th & 8th Grade Students Selected for SEIBA Jr. High Honor Band.** These 7th and 8th grade BMS Band students were accepted by audition for membership in the 2021 Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Junior High Honor Band. Emma Pearson - clarinet, Katelyn Farmer - flute, Mia Hinds - euphonium, Liam Rehnberg - clarinet, Noah Leavitt - trumpet, Luceena Susairaj - bassoon, Ryan Heden - percussion, Bella

Howard - oboe, Jenna Farwell – flute. Emma Pearson and Mia Hinds also qualified for the Iowa Bandmasters All-Iowa 8th Grade Honor Band. Ryan Heden was named as an alternate.

- 4.10 **All-State Ensembles.** Congratulations to the nine Bettendorf High School students accepted to the Iowa All-State Ensembles this year:

**Band:**

Kaelee Wolf

Eric Newton

**Orchestra:**

Emma Cleveland - 2nd year

Ethan Shepherd - 2nd year

**Choir:**

Hayvn Fish - 2nd year

Katelyn Skillett

Tyler Koch

Ava Rowland - 2nd year

Jack Cockayne

This was the 75th anniversary of the Iowa All-State Music Festival sponsored by the Iowa High School Music Association and the Iowa Music Educators Association. District auditions for the 279-piece All-State Band, 198-piece All-State Orchestra and 601-member All-State Chorus were held in October. Approximately 17% of the students who audition are selected for membership through a rigorous audition process for the All-State ensembles.

Participants rehearse in Ames during the All-State Festival in November and performed at the Festival Concert in Hilton Coliseum, Iowa State University, Ames.

- 4.11 **Speech and Debate Students Place at State Tournament.** They just finished competing at the Iowa Forensic League State tournament, which combines all the schools from across the state for their final regular-season tournament of the year.

Talia Cary and Max Rantilla - Semifinalist in Public Forum Debate

Talia Cary - 5th Place in International Extemporaneous Speaking

Max Rantilla - 4th Place in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking

Noah Rantilla - State Champion in International Extemporaneous Speaking

Noah Rantilla - Runner-Up and 2nd Place Speaker in Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Noah Rantilla - Runner-Up for Senior of the Year for the Iowa Forensic League

Zach Adams and Ayana Kidangayil both made it to Semifinals in their perspective events as well

5. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

5.01 Approval of March 1, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5.02 Approval of March 16, 2021 Bills Recommended for Payment

- 5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel  
Certified Resignation  
**Tina Matheson**/BMS/Physical Education/Effective 6/30/21  
**Jennifer Watkins**/NA/Instructional Coach/Effective 6/30/21  
**Joseph Phillips**/BHS/Industrial Technology/Effective 6/30/21  
Schedule D Resignation  
**Rebecca Carton-Hon**/BHS/Robotics Co-Sponsor/Effective 6/30/21  
**Chris Like**/BHS/Varsity Boys Golf Coach/Effective 6/30/21  
**Joseph Phillips**/BHS/Team Leader Industrial Technology/Effective 6/30/21  
**Carrie Wempen**/BHS/Goldusters DanceTeam Coach/Effective April 2021  
Certified FYI  
**Jennifer Watkins**/NA/Rock-It Academy Co-Director Resignation/ Effective6/30/21  
**Amanda Nichols**/BHS/Language Arts/Contract Release/Effective 3/26/21
- 5.04 Approval of 3rd Quarter Early Graduates - Grace Alber, Oliver Bakeris, Tamia Best, Riley Bicknese, Allyssa Bryant, Clara Carnes, Holland Clayburne, Grayce Dailing, Dominick Ellis, London Hockaday, Darquez Hollingshed, Austin Hoots, Kurtis Holmes, Mareya Jackson, Emma Kelly, Madelynn Kennis, Griffin Liddle, Paige Magistrelli, Mitchell Meggers, Mahogany Peak, Emma Pease, Sebastian Peters, Samuel Ramirez, Simon Razdan, Royce Roberson, Kane Schmidt, Presten Schwerdtfeger, Gavin Seng, Annika Skogman, Jeffrey Speer, Ty Stevenson, Benjamin Tappa, Daemon Thomas, Owen Tumey, Kendra Versluys, Yatziri Williams, Madeline Witt, Maurice Wynn
- 5.05 Approve of Tuition Application for a third grade student coming from Moline, Il for the 2021-2022 school year
- 5.06 Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only)  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY. The following students have been approved for open enrollment.  
Into Bettendorf for 21/22  
1 - from Pleasant Valley  
10 - from Davenport  
Out of Bettendorf for 21/22  
11 - Pleasant Valley  
1 - Iowa Connections Academy

6.0 Informational/Action Items.

- 6.01 **February Financials.** Brie Collier presented the monthly financial reports for February 2021. Through February, General fund revenue totaled \$28,643,845 and expenses totaled \$28,544,079. The fund balance in the General Fund at February 28, 2021 was \$12,004,102. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports.

The following variances were noted: General Fund Revenues are up over the same period last year. The increase comes from local revenues. This is a timing variance where tuition from other districts was received earlier this year than in the prior year. The decrease in SAVE revenues comes from a timing of payment from the state. We will have two payments in March as opposed to only one.

Expected Budget percentages are based on a three-year trend. Revenues are above expected budget. Expenditures are above expected budget.

Tuition/Transportation is slightly higher than expected due to the timing of Open Enrollment and Special Education first semester tuition payments.

Our trends remain the same in terms of decreased revenue in Activities, Management, SAVE and Food Service Funds.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the February 2021 financials as presented.

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

- 6.02 **Review and Approve Publication of the 2021-2022 Certified Budget.** Director of Finance Brie Collier reviewed the 2020/21 current financial indicators, 2020/21 budget amendment, 2021/22 published levy rate, 2021/22 tax impact on our community and components of the Aid and Levy.

The 2021/22 levy is \$12.86. Prior to 2020, the district had a Cash Reserve levy and higher Management Fund levy, increasing the overall levy in those years. The 2021/22 overall levy includes \$317,698 of Budget Guarantee property tax dollars. We were able to decrease the Management Fund component of our tax levy to balance our overall levy. Residential Valuations rose 3.8%, up from a 1.5% last year.

The Aid and Levy is the legal maximum that the district can spend. Publication shows all resources and all requirements the district expects for the year as well as the overall tax rate. There are individual Fund worksheets used to create the publication file.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the publication for the 2021-2022 Certified Budget.

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

- 6.03 **Approval of Bettendorf Middle School C Wing Roof Restoration.** Director of Operations Curt Pratt noted the district is requesting to receive sealed bids for removal and replacement of the roof system for the Middle School C Wing Roof. He said it is a better long-term investment to go this route. He said they know they have some issues on other parts of the middle school roof and they are working to address those. This specific project does not address those issues.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the scope of work and proposed budget of \$276,072 for Bettendorf Middle School C wing Roof Restoration.

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

- 6.04 **Herbert Hoover Design Development.** Curt Pratt reported that not a lot has changed

since the last time the board saw it. He noted the project is slightly over budget. Once we get the bid process moving, architects estimate an 8-12 month renovation period. The work will begin this summer and continue into the school year. Administrators are starting conversations on what that means for the campus next year.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Doerder, to approve the Herbert Hoover Design Development as presented.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 6.05 **Legal Counsel RFP for 2021-2022 School Year.** Dr. Morse said prior to winter break there was discussion about going out for RFP for legal counsel. Seven legal firms submitted a proposal. Dr. Morse, Brie Collier and Jill Matherly reviewed the seven proposals. They looked at costs, location and the services they had to offer. They identified three, Lane and Waterman, Lynch Dallas and Pappas Wright, that they brought in for face-to-face interviews. Dr. Morse also talked to superintendents in other districts about their counsels. At this time, they are recommending to continue with Lane and Waterman for General Counsel and Ahlers and Cooney for Special Projects. Dr. Morse said she wanted to keep with someone local and someone who understand the nuances of the environment we work in here in the Quad Cities. She will continue to stay involved as we go through this next year.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the appointment of Legal Counsel to the district for School year 2021-2022 Lane & Waterman- General Counsel: Ahlers and Cooney, et al.- Special Projects.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- April 5, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- April 19, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- May 3, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- May 17, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Exempt Session – Negotiations.

- 8.01 Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, 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 Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Holland, Lynch, Pyevich

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

Directors entered into exempt session at 7:03 pm and returned to open session at 7:58 pm.

9. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm

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Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

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Colleen Skolrood, Secretary