

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the February 1, 2021, Regular Meeting
of the Board of Education
(pending Board approval)

1. Public Hearing - 2021-2022 Calendar.

A public hearing on the 2021-2022 calendar opened at 6:00 p.m. There were no comments and the hearing closed at 6:02 p.m.

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 February 1, 2021. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, 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; Jillian Dotson, Director of Curriculum Instruction; Perry Bentsen, BEA Representative; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; David Farmer, Treasurer; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

Director Pyevich arrived at 6:15 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 Champion thanked Curt Pratt and his staff for making sure the parking lots and sidewalks are clear. He noted they have put in some long hours with all the snow and ice we have had.

Director Holland is looking forward to the kids getting back 100% in-person.

Director Doerder encouraged everyone to attend tomorrow night's Community Forum at 6:00 p.m. at the middle school. She also encouraged everyone to reach out to their state legislators regarding the bills currently being discussed.

She thanked everyone for all the preparations they are making as we head into in-person learning. She is encouraged by what she is seeing our community and said we are in a very different place in regards to COVID-19 than we were the last time we were at this board table making decisions.

- 4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse echoed sentiments to Curt Pratt and his team for everything they have done to ensure that our parking lots, sidewalks and schools are ready for kids to come on campus and be safe. She thanked them for all their work, especially on the weekends.

This week is National School Counseling Week. She thanked all of our counselors and said we truly appreciate all their support that they provide our students, their families, our staff and our site administrators.

As Director Holland mentioned, we are finalizing our return on February 16th for those families that have selected 100% in-person learning. As we have discussed in previous meetings, we are doing all that we can to implement the recommended mitigation strategies. Masks will continue to be required at all times except during lunch. Each site is working through the logistics for lunch since each building is different. We are also working through things such as seating charts so we know where students are should we have to move to quarantine some. We will continue with our efforts around frequent handwashing and sanitizing as we have. Social distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible when we can.

In terms of registration, we are making some changes to that process for incoming kindergartners as well as our returning students. Returning families will be moved from July to mid-March. Jennifer Like is completing a screencast that will walk incoming kindergarten families step by step through the registration process. Paying of fees will still happen in July.

Kindergarten will move to an online registration process. Starting February 5th, any family with an incoming kindergarten student can complete a kindergarten inquiry form which can be found on our webpage. By the beginning of April, they will work through the placement process if a school does not have the capacity to serve all the students in that neighborhood. They are working on a Meet and Greet event in May for students to come on campus to meet their kindergarten teachers. Director Dotson and Principal Allison have been leading a group of kindergarten teachers to develop a video for our families on what it looks like to be a kindergartener in our district.

There will be a Revenue Purpose Statement Community Forum tomorrow at Bettendorf Middle School at 6:00 p.m. They will share what that process is and why we need to put that out for a vote. Some past projects we have done using state one-cent sales tax are building a brand new school with Mark Twain and Grant Wood, the secure entrance and updates that were done at Paul Norton last summer.

- 4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier said the March 2nd vote is important and is a way for our community to tell the board and the district how it wants us to spend the statewide tax that is already in place. Absentee ballots can be found online.
- 4.05 **BEA Report.** Perry Bentsen is the VP of the BEA and is filling in for Mary Heeringa. The BEA will meet this Wednesday for their monthly meeting and will meet next Tuesday for their Round Table meeting. The Bettendorf teachers thanked the school board for approving the extension of staff COVID leave for the remainder of the school year. They thanked the Scott County Health Department and Central Administration for getting vaccination clinics setup for school staff beginning this Friday.

As we know, for students choosing to, they will be returning to school 100% in-person beginning on February 16th. In order for the mitigation efforts in the buildings to be successful, we need yours and the communities help to lower the positivity numbers in our area.

Last week the Iowa State Senate passed a bill proposing Student First Scholarships (vouchers). The Bettendorf Education Association and the Iowa State Education Association stand opposed to this bill. Strong public schools are essential to the health and well-being of our country and the development of informed and engaged citizens. We unequivocally support Iowa's public schools as we work to promote a world class education for all students.

- 4.06 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg reported they had their monthly meeting earlier this evening. Paras and secretaries are working around the district on processes to help welcome our students back to the buildings on February 16th. They are very thankful for the asynchronous learning day on February 12th in order to help get our buildings ready. COVID vaccinations begin for staff later this week and they are grateful to have the first round of vaccinations before transitioning back to 100% in-person learning.

She continued to encourage members of the community to consider applying to become guest staff so we can continue to offer support to our students and staff at all levels.

- 4.07 **Student Board Representative's Report.** Emma Teach emailed a statement that was read by President Eastman.

On behalf of Student Council, we wanted to say thank you to our teachers and staff for all the hard work they have been putting in these last few weeks. Within the council, we are working on options for outside or inside and socially distant spring dance on April 10th. We are also still raising money for the hunger drive. Lastly, we are a socially distant partner with the University of Iowa Dance Marathon. The Dance Marathon Committee is creating and selling coloring books to raise money for the kids.

- 4.08 **BHS Female Wrestlers Take Honors in State Tournament.** Congratulations to BHS junior Ella Schmit, at 106 pounds, for pinning her way to repeat as the state champion at the Girls' State Wrestling Tournament. BHS freshman Lexy Petersen took 5th place at 120 pounds. Great job, Ella and Lexy!

5. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Lynch, 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 January 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5.02 Approval of February 1, 2021 Bills Recommended for Payment

5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel

Administrative Resignation

Joy Kelly/BHS/Principal/Effective 6/30/21

Certified Resignation

Amanda Nichols/BHS/Language Arts/Effective 6/30/21

6. Informational/Action Items.

6.01 **Standard Reunification Method (SRM) Training.** The Standard Reunification Method training provides school and district safety teams with proven methods for planning, practicing and achieving a successful reunification during what are often chaotic, anxiety-filled scenes. Celeste Miller gave an update on the training session on January 15th. An administrative team, building teams, several community partners and local school districts all participated in the training. They talked about locations and TBK Sports Complex is a location for Pleasant Valley and they suggested that Bettendorf have a similar protocol process. A team of Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley school personnel will meet to start working through our procedures.

Dr. Morse gave a shout out to Celeste. She said Ms. Miller has had this vision and worked with Curt Pratt and Greg Chapman to see that this comes through and that we comprehensively look at our emergency operating procedures overall. i love you guys Foundation is a non-profit and all the materials were at no cost. There was a small fee for training. There are two additional follow-up trainings that will happen this spring for staff.

6.02 **2021-2022 Calendar.** The 2021-2022 school year will begin on Monday, August 23rd. The last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, pending the need for any snow make-up days.

Additional highlights include:

- Continuation of Wednesday Early Releases for staff professional development
 - HS & MS 12:30pm | Preschool 1pm | Elem 1:30pm
- Quarter end early release for teacher workdays are the same as Wednesday Early Release for consistency
- A 4-day weekend for fall break (Oct. 22-25)
- No school Wednesday - Friday for Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 24-26)
- Two-week winter break (Dec. 20 - 31)
- Spring break (March 14-18)

Motion by Director Holland, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the 1080 hours

based 2021-2022 school calendar.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

6.03 **First & Final Read of Policies.**

Board policy changes:

500: Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students - duplicated in policy 600.1 and can be deleted.

600.1: Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students - remove “Multicultural Gender Fair Compliance Officer” and replace it with “Equity Coordinator”.

501: Student Attendance – there are multiple attendance policies and regulations that have duplicate information regarding attendance procedures, requirements, absences (excused/unexcused), and tardies.

The following policies have now been combined and added to 501:

501.8: Student Attendance Records

501.9: Student Absences- Excused

501.10: Truancy- Unexcused Absences

501.3R1 Compulsory Attendance Regulation – the regulation can be deleted. This information will be included in the student/parent handbook.

501.8 Student Attendance Records, 501.9 Student Absences- Excused and 501.10 Truancy – Unexcused Absence - can all be deleted. Responsibilities for student attendance records have moved to policy 501: Student Attendance.

501.10R1 Truancy - Unexcused Absence Regulation, 501.10R2 Excessive Absence Regulation and 501.10R3 Excessive Absence Regulation – can all be deleted. Truancy and unexcused student absence procedures will be included in the school student/parent handbook.

501.3: Compulsory Attendance - no change. Director Pyevich had a question on the language used in the policy. Dr. Morse said they will make the adjustments.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- February 2, 2021, Revenue Purpose Statement Community Forum, 6:00 pm, BMS
- February 16, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

- February 22, 2021 Board Workshop, 6:00 pm
- March 1, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- March 22, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm
- April 5, 2021, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary