

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the May 4, 2020, 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 Administration Center, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, on May 4, 2020. President Adam Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. Jim Spelhaug, Interim Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Cirivello*, Director of Human Resources; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Sean McGinn, Director of Technology; Joy Kelly, BHS Principal; David Farmer*, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa*, BEA Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

*present via Zoom

2. Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Eastman, to approve the agenda.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

3. Communication.

3.01 **PRESIDENT STATEMENT:** Two letters were e-mailed to Celeste Miller, Director of Communications. President Holland read the following letters:

Dr. Spelhaug,

I have read the report on the music department trip options with Tristate Tours. My student was signed up for this trip. He will be a senior this coming school year. Neither of the options presented is agreeable, and there is insufficient information to make a decision. Tristate should provide a detailed accounting of this trip along with their efforts to secure refunds from the vendors.

I look forward to tonight's discussion on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Kitka S. Galvin

To the School Board Members,

I understand these are extreme times and difficult to know how to proceed but as a parent we make sacrifices for our children. Our family saved to be able to send our two children on this music trip. It was a financial investment for them to gain new experiences in NYC. As time continues to pass, it has been nearly 8 weeks since this trip was cancelled. I continue to look for answers and a refund for this trip. Most people who have had travel plans have been refunded and this should be no different.

I agree with the cancellation of the trip but wonder what conversations had taken place with TriState Travel regarding the cancellation in the weeks leading up to the trip and what that would mean to the financial investment families had made.

My children told me that Mr. Dynes talked to them about the possibility of the trip being cancelled 2 weeks prior to the trip. I'm wondering what TriState's plan was and why weren't the parents sent any communication on this?

What is refundable from TriState at this time?

I was told that the drivers were still paid and that is one item the parents are still being charged for, is that true? Why should we have to pay for drivers that never moved a bus?

I understand that the hotel is refusing to send a refund. Was the hotel notified on March 11, the day the trip was cancelled?

Does anyone think that a 30-50% refund is fair? (I paid \$2065 and would only received \$619 back? TriState would just take \$1446 for what?)

Tristate has adult tours that travel to NYC, can't they refund the money while waiting for the vendors and either get cash back from the vendors or vouchers that they could use for future tours through their agency?

My family already has plan for next spring break, what happens if the plan is to reschedule the trip for next spring break?

There may not be a vaccine prior to the next spring break, do you think it's safe to plan a trip to an area of such heavy congestion, a current "hot spot"? What happens if it's not safe to travel next spring break to NYC?

Could parents that already have plans for next spring break be treated like a senior and receive a 90% refund?

When I spoke to TriState today, I was told they couldn't give me any information, that I was to contact the school. They said the contract was between TriState and BHS. Does Bettendorf schools owe us the refund if TriState can't or won't?

I look forward to your answers and discussion. I wish circumstances were different and that I could be there in person.

*Thank you,
Jen Moore*

- 3.02 **BOARD SHARED COMMUNICATION:** Director Eastman said the planning and execution of the collection of belongings process was very efficient, organized and done in a safe manner.
- 3.03 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Dr. Spelhaug noted all of his items will be covered under agenda items.
- 3.04 **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT:** Brietta Collier plans to have a discussion regarding insurance renewals at the next board meeting. She gave an initial update on taxes/collections. Scott County is 95% collected so far this year. Last year at this time, it was around 98%. Statewide property tax receipts are down 2.53%. Part of this is due to the Governor extending the filing deadline. She will have more information on sales tax revenue soon.
- 3.05 **BEA REPORT:** Online learning is continuing and teachers are continuing to go above and beyond for their students. BEA's monthly meeting will be on Wednesday via Zoom and Round Table with central administration will be next Monday via Zoom.

4. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Champion, 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

- 4.01 Approval of April 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 4.02 Approval of May 4, 2020 Bills Recommended for Payment
- 4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel
- Classified Resignation
Shanon Schmidtknecht/BHS/Paraeducator/Effective 05/15/20
- Classified Recommendation to Hire
Kelley Grevas/Administration Center/\$20.48 per hour/4.0 hours per day/Replacing Aileen Vazquez/Effective 05/05/20
- Classified Letter of Assignment Modification
Amelia Wheeler/BMS/Paraeducator to Secretary A/\$16.74 to \$18.18 per hour/28 hours per week to 8.0 hours per day/Replacing Terri Conklin/Effective 07/01/20
- Administrative Resignation
Colin Wikan/BHS/Associate Principal-Athletic/Activities Director/Effective 6/30/20
- Certified Retirement
Carol Gronlund/GW&PN/ELP/Effective 6/30/20
- Certified Resignation
Derek Ahrens//BHS/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20
- Sarah Arter-Reese**//BHS/Art/Effective 6/30/20
- Daniel Bartel**/GW/3rd Grade/Effective 6/30/20
- Scott Berg**/HH/Instructional Coach/Effective 6/30/20
- Caleb Claus**/BHS/Math/Effective 6/30/20
- Natasha Dolan**/MT/Counselor/Effective 6/30/20
- Sarah Hackbarth**/BHS/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20

Jessica Hecker/BHS/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20

Erika Mechem/HH/Special Education/Effective 6/30/20

Administrative Approval to Hire

Scott Berg/BMS/Dean of Students/1.0 FTE/\$76,000 annual salary/ 205-day contract/Replacing Jeremy Heeringa/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Certified Approval to Hire

Tessa Daily/NA/Physical Education/1.0 FTE/BA,0/\$37,800/Replacing John Miller/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Monica Flathman/BHS/Language Arts/1.0 FTE/BA,4/ \$43,852/Pending verification/Replacing Connie King/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Angela Harrell/PN/Special Education/1.0 FTE/BA+15,9/\$53,407/ Replacing Alexandra Helle/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Emily Henneman/BHS/World Language-Spanish/1.0 FTE/BA+30,4/ \$47,037/Replacing Adam Hopkins/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Mickey Hines/GW/Physical Education/1.0 FTE/BA,0/\$37,800/Pending licensure/Replacing Joseph Girsch/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Jennifer Jasper/BHS/Physical Education/1.0 FTE/BA,2/\$40,667/ Replacing Diane Lichtenberg/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Ashley LaGrow/GW/3rd Grade/1.0 FTE/MA,5/\$51,496/Pending verification & licensure/Replacing Daniel Bartel/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Madison McDonald/NA/Special Education-Early Childhood/1.0 FTE/BA,0/\$37,800/Pending licensure/Replacing Kory Esbaum/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Bartley Meinke/BHS/World Language-French/1.0 FTE/MA+45,5/\$56,273/ New position-student need/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Roxanne Saldivar/BHS/Program Nurse/1.0 FTE/Non-degree,6/\$30,258/ Replacing Susan Alagna/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Brett Van Deventer/BMS/Family Consumer Science/1.0 FTE/BA,6/ \$47,037/Pending licensure/Replacing Judith Wade/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Schedule D Resignation

Daniel Bartel/GW/5th Grade Intramurals (0.25)/Effective 6/30/20

Scott Berg/MT/5th Grade Intramurals/Effective 6/30/20

Caleb Claus/BHS/Head Freshman Football Coach/Effective 6/30/20

Michael Grannen/BHS/Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach/Effective 6/30/20

Sarah Hackbarth/BHS/Team Leader, SpEd (.50) (HS)/Effective 6/30/20

Rachel Medina/BHS/Co-Student Council Sponsor (HS)/Effective 6/30/20

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Christina Burroughs/BHS/Additional Co-Sponsor Student Council (HS)/ \$1,194/Replacing Rachel Medina/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Michael Grannen/BHS/Head Varsity Volleyball Coach/\$5,415/Replacing Diane Lichtenberg/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Jennifer Jasper/BHS/Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach/\$3,949/Pending licensure/Replacing Michael Grannen/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Kaitlin Mahoney/BHS/Additional Co-Sponsor Student Council (HS)/ \$1,194/Replacing Rachel Medina/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Cristina Zimmerman/BHS/Club Sponsor, Spanish & Costa Rica Exchange/\$1,275/Replacing Adam Hopkins/Effective 2020-2021 school year

4.04 Approval of APE Donation

4.05 PV-Bett Shared Orchestra Agreement 20-21

4.06 Approval of Iowa Wesleyan University Teaching Agreement

- 4.07 Open Enrollment Requests (info only)
FOR INFORMATION ONLY. The following students have been approved for open enrollment.

Into Bettendorf 2019/20

Dmarrion Bommon, grade 3, continuation (Dav)

Dmarrius Bommon, grade K, continuation (Dav)

Valentina Norman, grade 3, continuation (Dav)

Seth Thompson, grade 11, continuation (Dav)

Lauren Tran, grade K, continuation (Dav)

Trenton West, grade 10, continuation (PV)

Alexya Wyers, grade 10, continuation (Dav)

Braydin Wyers, grade 3, continuation (Dav)

Out of Bettendorf 2019/20

Olivia Britton, grade 1, continuation

Into Bettendorf 2020/21

Steven Clark, grade 8 (PV)

5. Discussion Items & Reports.

- 5.01 **CANCELLED MUSIC TRIP DISCUSSION:** The claim in one of the letters read tonight is that this is an agreement between the district and tour company. That is partially true. There was a general agreement between the district and the tour company, but there was also a contract between each individual parent and the tour company. Within that contract with the parents is the responsibility clause that is directed at the payers, which the district was not. The trip was under the umbrella of the district, as these trips would commonly be, but the agreement and the payment is coming from individuals.

Dr. Spelhaug canceled the trip in consultation with the Scott County Health Department out of concerns over COVID-19, which as things have turned out, was absolutely the correct move.

There are two options available moving forward. One is to cancel the trip and accept a refund and the other is to reschedule the trip.

Cancellation/Refund option: The best-case refund amount is just shy of 50% refund of what individuals and the booster club paid. The worst-case scenario is a refund just shy of a 30% refund of what individuals and the booster club paid. This cancellation refund would be paid by the travel company to all involved parties.

Rescheduled Option: If the trip would be rescheduled to NYC during spring break 2021, the best-case credit amount is 98% of funds paid. The worst-case credit scenario is 88% of funds paid. Based on current information, it is the recommendation (which is supported by the music department) to reschedule the trip to NYC for Spring Break 2021. There was a discussion on the district refunding seniors, and anyone not enrolled at BHS for the 2020-21 school year, 90% of the amount paid. These funds would be paid to the families (minus any outstanding fees) and act as a flow-through to the district as the vacated senior seats would be sold to underclassman and that money would be reimbursed to the district. The discussion reached consensus that this did not satisfy the public purpose requirements the board must meet as part of their fiduciary responsibilities.

The district has explored options with their insurance company, but that has not yet yielded anything. They have also explored trip insurance options for a rescheduled trip to provide some protection in case the trip has to be cancelled again.

Dr. Spelhaug is looking for guidance from the board, but said that ultimately the families will have to determine the path they want to take. After some discussion, the board said they would support what the parents elected to do. Directors were comfortable with Dr. Spelhaug using Lane and Waterman, on a very limited basis, to get a sense of whether they could help the district and parents achieve better options from the travel company.

- 5.02 **COVID-19:** A specific account code is being used for all COVID-19 related expenses. The district will get some reimbursement from the federal CARES Act.

The original last day of school was scheduled for June 3, 2020. When the initial 3-week school closure was announced, the last school day was moved back to no later than June 12. This was done in anticipation that students would return to school and the standard schedule. It does not make sense now to end on June 12 because we would not be able to accomplish the normal end of the school year activities. It makes sense to end on a Friday. The official last day of school will be Friday, June 5 for students and the last day for faculty will be Tuesday, June 9.

The district has not received any guidance from the State on the Return to Learn Plan.

70% of high school students are participating in online learning on a regular basis. They believe in the end they will get somewhere between 85-90% of students who will pass all the modules necessary to get the credit. This puts us in the ballpark of what a normal quarter would be. The work completion numbers are lower at the middle and elementary schools where the work is voluntary and not required.

- 5.03 **BHS GRADUATION & PROM UPDATE:** Graduation, pending social distance requirements, will be held on August 1 in the gym or football stadium. If held outside, August 2 will be the rain date.

270 seniors responded to a survey, 16 are unable to attend the August ceremony. Approximately 120 students did not respond. Caps and gowns were distributed on April 30. Seniors are invited to work on a video that will be distributed on the original graduation date.

Prom is scheduled for July 30 at the Putnam and After Prom will held at the high school. This is dependent on social distancing guidelines and health requirements at that time.

- 5.04 **DISCUSSION OF BUS & TRUCK PURCHASES FOR OPERATIONS:** Sealed bids for a 78 Passenger Wheelchair Lift Bus were received on Wednesday, April 29th, 2020. Two bids were received. Truck Center Companies of Council Bluffs, Iowa was the low bidder with a base bid of \$111,441. The 2020-21 PPEL budget allotted \$120,000 for the purchase of this bus.

Sealed bids for two new pickup trucks were received on Wednesday, April 29th, 2020. Three bids were received. Lindquist Ford of Bettendorf was the low bidder with the total purchase price after trade-in allowances of \$54,770.

5.05 **DISCUSSION OF PANDEMIC RESPONSE RESOLUTION:** This resolution, originally approved at the April 6 Board of Education meeting, has been revised to reflect extended building closure dates.

6. Action Items.

6.01 **APPROVAL OF THE BUS & TRUCK PURCHASE FOR OPERATIONS:** Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the purchase of 2 new Pickup Trucks from Lindquist Ford for the low base bid after trade-in allowance of \$54,711.

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

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the purchase of a 78 passenger wheelchair lift bus from Truck Center Companies for the low base bid of \$111,441 not including trade options to be determined later.

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

6.02 **APPROVAL OF THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE RESOLUTION:** Motion by Director Eastman, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the Pandemic Response Resolution as presented.

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

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- May 18, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Closed Session – Real Estate.

8.01 **MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION:** Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Lynch, to go 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: 7 Directors Lynch, Pyevich, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Holland
Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

Directors entered into closed session at 7:23 p.m. Directors returned to open session at

7:57 p.m.

9. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Adam Holland, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary