

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**BETTENDORF, IOWA**

Unofficial Minutes of the October 21, 2019, 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 October 21, 2019. 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, Geifman, Holland, Lynch, Pyevich, Staley

Members absent: None

Other officials present: Mike Raso, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Chris Pratt, Director of Operations; Dave Hlas, Director of Student Services; Jillian Dotson, Director of Curriculum; Joy Kelly, BHS Principal; Kevin Skillet, BHS Associate Principal; Kristy Cleppe, BHS Associate Principal; Mary Heeringa, BEA Representative; Tyler Gross, Student Representative; David Farmer, Treasurer; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Geifman, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6 Directors Castro, Champion, Geifman, Holland, Lynch, Pyevich

Nays: 1 Director Staley

Motion carried 6-1

3. Commendations & Special Invited Guests.

- 3.01 Beyond the Bells Presentation. The Eau Claire Community Foundation is working with Bettendorf Community School District to offer Beyond the Bell – Extended School Day Program to help support at-risk students at Grant Wood Elementary School beginning as soon as January. This program was made possible through the generosity and commitment to education of the Stoffers family through the Beyond the Bells, Bettendorf, IA Extended School Day Fund of the ECCF.
- 3.02 Student Presentation to the Board – BHS. Two students from the newly formed Black Voices Matter Leadership Council shared information about their group. Their mission is to bring together students at Bettendorf High School to empower and educate them about topics that matter to Black students and to get the voices of Black students heard in a respectful manner.
- 3.03 Update on NASSP Feedback (National Association of Secondary School Principals). Joy Kelly, Kristy Cleppe, and Kevin Skillet gave feedback on the National Association of Secondary School Principals Conference they attended
- 3.04 Curriculum Update: Social Studies. Nikki Armstrong, Literacy/Social Studies 6-12 and Hannah Dillon, Literacy/Social Studies PK-5 gave an update on Social Studies PK-12.
- 3.05 Noah Raso Recognized at Belin-Blank Ceremony. Noah Raso, 10th-grade student at BHS,

was recognized at the Belin-Blank Recognition Ceremony at the University of Iowa Memorial Union. Noah was given an award for achieving a notably high score on his ACT test he took this past summer. The Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development empowers and serves the gifted community through programs, research, and advocacy

- 3.06 Iowa Junior Orchestra Festival. Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra Festival is a state-wide honors string orchestra experience. It is a one-day affair, held at the same time as the Iowa All-State Music Festival and the Iowa Music Educators Association state convention. It is held on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, in the same complex as the convention and All-State. There are two orchestras of equal ability in the festival, each with about 90 participants. The groups are composed mainly of 8th and 9th graders, with a few advanced 7th graders.

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra 2019.

Iowa Junior Honors for Middle School (Rachel Palmer)

Violin: Martin DeKeyzer, Grace Li, Sylvia Tank

Viola: Calista Rasmer

Bass: Abigail Kennis

Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra for High School (Megan Cooney)

Violin: Jack Cockayne, Andrea Koehler, Xavier Potts, Audrey Scarlet

Viola: Jalyn Thorsen

- 3.07 Four BHS Students Selected for Opus Honor Choir. Congratulations to Jack Cockayne, Josh Gunn, Jordyn Mitchell, and Grace Moore for being selected for participation in the 32nd annual Opus Honor Choir Festival. Over 2600 students were nominated by their directors for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. Selections were made by means of a recorded audition. The 2019 Opus Honor Choirs will perform at 4 pm November 21st in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium in the Iowa State Center in Ames

4. Comments & Suggestions from Audience.

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

Pepper Trahan, 6328 Patrick Pointe Rd., Davenport, said her statement is in regards to comments made at the last board meeting. A friend shared the basic pyramid of needs with her and one of the basic needs for all humans is safety and security. She said our Superintendent has failed students and staff by not providing this very basic need.

5. Consent Agenda.

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

Ayes: 7 Directors Champion, Geifman, Holland, Lynch, Pyevich, Staley, Castro

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.01 Approval of October 7, 2019 Committee of the Whole Board Minutes and October 9, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 5.02 Approval of October 21, 2019 Bills Recommended for Payment
- 5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel  
Classified Letter of Assignment Modification  
**Mubarak Abdelkarim**/BHS to GW/Paraeducator/Same rate of pay/5.75 hours per day/New Position-Overage/Effective 10/22/19  
**Terri Palmer**/BHS to HH/Paraeducator/Same rate of pay/5.0 to 5.75 hours per day/New Position-Student Need/Effective 10/22/19  
Classified Recommendation to Hire  
**Ryan Anderson**/BMS/Paraeducator/\$16.74 per hour/5.5 hours per day/New Position-Student Need/Effective 10/22/19  
**Paige Bender**/MT/Paraeducator/\$16.74 per hour/5.0 hours per day/Replacing Dawn Edwards/Effective 10/22/19  
**Shaina Pulford**/Operations/Transportation Aide/\$17.45 per hour/4.0 hours per day/New Position-Student Need/Effective 10/22/19  
**Noemi Rosales**/MT/Youth Mentor/\$15.71 per hour/3.0 hours per day/Replacing Emily Pecinovsky/Effective 10/22/19  
Certified Personnel  
Schedule D Approval to Hire  
**Michael Budka**/BHS/Head Sophomore Baseball Coach/ \$3,863/Replacing Blake Hanna/Effective 1/1/20
- 5.04 Approval of Beyond the Bells Agreement
- 5.05 Approval of BHS 1st Quarter Early Graduates
- 5.06 Approval of a donation to the Fine Arts Patron Program in the amount of \$500 from Carlas Schultz and Natalie Sprosty, 4128 Northwest Blvd, Apt 111, Davenport, IA. 52806-4233
- 5.07 Approval of Second Reading of Policies
- 5.08 Approval of Requests for Open Enrollment  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY. The following students have been approved for open enrollment.  
Into Bettendorf 2019/20  
Zavair Nguyen, grade 4, continuation (Dav)  
Out of Bettendorf 2019/20  
Liam Nelson, grade 4, continuation (PV)

6. Shared Communication & Committee Reports.

- 6.01 Board Shared Communication & Committee Reports (audio begins 49 40s).

Director Castro reported the Policy Review Committee met for the last time. He noted all board candidates were invited to go to Grant Wood to answer questions and talk about their candidacy. He said it was very nice of John Cain to invite them.

Director Champion visited Herbert Hoover, Paul Norton and Neil Armstrong. He also visited BMS and followed Lisa Reid around. He said it was hard to keep up with her at times. He attended Rehearsal for Murder at the high school on opening night. He said it was a flawless performance. He also he received an invitation for the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Orchestra Hauncert. He said it was fun to watch the progression of the kids. Several directors noted they were touched to receive an invitation to the Hauncert.

Director Geifman attended the Superintendent's Cabinet Tour at Paul Norton. He also visited the Middle School on two different occasions.

Director Lynch visited the Middle School this morning to observe. He said it was quite educational. Director Pyevich also visited the Middle School today. He said it is eye opening the amount of fires they put out every day.

President Holland was out of town last week for professional development. He said it struck him as something that we need to be cognizant of and be supportive of making sure that our staff is receiving professional development opportunities so they can be better at what they do.

6.02 Student Representatives' Report.

Tyler Gross gave an update on the latest happenings at the high school.

6.03 BEA Report.

Mary Heeringa thanked staff for continuing to show their support by attending tonight. The BEA had their monthly meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Elementary and middle school conferences are this week. They had roundtable last Monday where they talked about safety concerns. They want clearer guidelines on what staff should do if there is an altercation with a student or between students. They would also like to know the best way to get ahold of administrators or security in each building and what to do if no one answers in the front office.

7. Discussion Items.

7.01 Update on initiatives regarding safety/behavioral topics (audio begins at 58m 43s).

Superintendent Raso gave an update on where things are at. He said he wants staff and students to feel supported and safe. The district currently provides training based on best practice and job assignment. They have received ideas for additional training. Superintendent Raso said that everyone would be trained in de-escalation, but after that it would be job specific.

District leadership is working to identify ways to help staff feel safe at work while also helping them feel secure in the decisions they make. The goal is that relationship building and de-escalation strategies would be used first and going hands-on with a student would be the last resort in situations where the student is hurting themselves or another individual. District leadership is holding a focus group with some teachers that are new to our district to better understand what other districts are offering that may be helpful to our district.

Directors expressed concern and frustration stating this issue did not happen overnight. They would like to see more immediate action taken. They talked about training for all staff and possibly increasing staffing at the middle school.

7.02 Discussion of Financials (audio begins at 1h 36m 43s).

The district's overall cash position is up 33.8% from the same period last year. The Revenue Bonds are inflating this increase. General Fund cash continues to be higher than the same time last year, with an increase of 10.5%. The Activity Fund has decreased its deficit from 14.1% to 6.7%. PPEL cash is up as funds from the SAVE Revenue bonds have been utilized for our major construction project. Kayla Leu, Curt Pratt and Brietta Collier have been working on a plan to pull Food Service cash reserves down with one-time spending as the current balance is higher than the State recommended amount.

Director Champion thanked Brie for her accuracy of the financials.

8. Action Items.

8.01 Proclamation - School Bus Safety Week.

Motion by Director Geifman, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the School Bus Safety Proclamation.

Ayes: 7 Directors Holland, Lynch, Pyevich, Staley, Castro, Champion, Geifman

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

8.02 Approval of Financials.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Pyevich, to approve the Financials.

Ayes: 7 Directors Lynch, Pyevich, Staley, Castro, Champion, Geifman, Holland

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

8.03 Approval to Receive and File a Recommendation of Termination of a District Teacher.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Geifman, to approve to receive and file the recommendation to terminate a teacher.

President Holland said approving this does not commit the board to acknowledging wrongful action, nor does it commit them to acknowledging there was not. This is simply to move the process forward. Nothing more, nothing less.

Ayes: 7 Directors Pyevich, Staley, Castro, Champion, Geifman, Holland, Lynch

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

9. Management Report.

9.01 Superintendent Report. Legat is working on redoing the design for Paul Norton and Herbert Hoover. The Committee will get back together to look at the updates. Food pantry numbers have gone down and there was a question on how the district notifies families. Celeste Miller outlined all the ways this is communicated to families in the district.

9.02 Director of Finance Report. Brie worked with Dave Hlas and Tammy Chelf on the At-Risk budget and plan. She is getting negotiation costing ready to share. Lastly, Brie is finalizing the budget that will be shared with the board at a future board meeting.

9.03 Next Agenda Planning - Tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2019.

10. Future Events and Informational Items.

- Tuesday, October 22, POG meeting, 3:30 pm
- October 25-28, No School, Fall Break
- Tuesday, October 29, BMS Superintendent Cabinet Tour, 3:00 pm
- Monday, November 4, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

11. Closed Session - Superintendent Evaluation.

11.01 Motion to Enter into Closed Session.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Pyevich, to enter into closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(i), for the purpose of evaluating the professional competency of individuals whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge are being considered, when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to those individuals' reputations and those individuals request a closed session.

Ayes: 7 Directors Staley, Castro, Champion, Geifman, Holland, Lynch, Pyevich,

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

Directors entered into Closed Session at 8:15p.m. They took a brief recess and started the meeting at 8:24 p.m. They returned to open session at 10:04 p.m.

12. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

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Adam Holland, President

ATTEST:

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Colleen Skolrood, Secretary