

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Unofficial Minutes of the August 3, 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 BHS Performing Arts Center, 3311 18th Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, on August 3, 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. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Jill Matherly, Director of Human Resources; Dave Hlas, Director of Special Services; Celeste Miller, Director of Communications; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Sean McGinn, Director of Technology; Jillian Dotson, Director of Curriculum; Kayla Leu, Director of Nutrition Services; Jennifer Like, Director of Instructional Technology & Data Management; Joy Kelly, BHS Principal; Kevin Skillet, BHS Associate Principal; Lisa Reid, BMS Principal; Lorelei Andedo, BMS Associate Principal; Chad Uhde, BMS Associate Principal; John Cain, GW Principal; Karen Allison, HH Principal; Jayme Olson, NA Principal; Caroline Olson, MT Principal; Brian Walthart, PN Principal; David Farmer, Treasurer; Mary Heeringa, BEA Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

2. Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Director Castro, seconded by Director Pyevich, 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'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.

Andrea Cooper addressed the board on the Return to Learn plan.

Linda Smithson, 1515 Tanglewood Lane, Bettendorf, addressed the board on the Return to Learn plan.

Michelle Bruty, 335 4th Street, Bettendorf, addressed the board on the Return to Learn schedule.

Scott Schalk, 1427 Antler Ct., Bettendorf, addressed the board on social emotional health.

Kait Burke, 1750 14th St., Bettendorf, addressed the board on reopening the schools.

David Fuglseth, 3060 Willow Dr., Bettendorf, addressed the board on the Return to Learn plan.

Jessica Blaum, 2139 Gretchen Ct., Bettendorf, addressed the board on the Return to Learn plan.

Jennifer Aanestad, 6156 Lakeshore Circle, Davenport, addressed the board on the Return to Learn plan.

The following people e-mailed a statement on the Return to Learn plan. President Holland read the statements aloud.

- Heather Todd, 3911 Tanglefoot Terrace, Bettendorf
- Anna Isley
- Sara Clasen 3944 18th St., Bettendorf
- Lisa Miotto, 1123 Brown St., Bettendorf

- 3.02 **Board Shared Communication.** President Holland noted the board accepted a donation of face shields from LyondellBasell. He recognized Yari Hernandez, Site Manager with LyondellBasell, who attended on behalf of the company and her son Matthew who is earning points toward his next merit scout badge.

President Holland thanked everyone for all their work on the Return to Learn plans over the past few weeks. He said it is safe to say there is not going to be a plan approved that will make everyone happy.

Vice-President Champion gave a shout out to Joy Kelly, BHS Principal. He said she was a big advocate in making something happen with graduation.

Director Castro thanked all the teachers who spoke tonight and everyone who sent emails.

- 3.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse congratulated the girls' softball team for making it to the state playoffs. She thanked Ms. Kelly and her outstanding team for all they did to provide a wonderful conferring of diploma event for their seniors this year. The feedback she has received to-date has been nothing but overwhelmingly positive.

She briefly touched on the entry plan. She said it has been a different transition due to COVID than she ever imagined, but she cannot thank everyone enough for the warm welcome. Her goal with the entry plan was to come in and listen and learn, meet with different stakeholders, and to look forward on what we want to improve upon. As we move forward, she will continue to meet with individuals both inside and outside the organization to implement that plan and will present the plan at a future board meeting.

3.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier gave an update ESSER Funds spent to date. The district has spent roughly \$116,000. She received and submitted the application for PPE.

3.05 **BEA Report.** Mary Heeringa thanked all the staff that has worked over the spring and summer on the Return to Learn plans. Late last week, the ISEA Executive Board approved a checklist for safely and equitably reopening schools and campus buildings. The checklist is based off current information from the American Association of Pediatrics, the National Academy of Sciences, the Center of Disease Control, and the American Society of Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers. She read some of the highlights, but said the entire safety checklist can be found at isea.org.

No one wants to be back in schools and on campuses with our students more than educators. All educators –teachers, faculty, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodians, school nurses, school psychologists, and more -love our students, our schools, and our communities, and that is why we need to do this right. As educators we are responsible for safeguarding the health and safety of our students and school communities and ensuring that re-openings address longstanding inequities rather than compound them.

Appropriate resources must be devoted to the above outlined measures in order to insure the health and safety of students, staff and school communities.

Requirements for the Safe Return to In-Person Learning:

1. The Covid-19 pandemic is under control in your community. Leading public health experts agree that reopening school and campus buildings for any in-person learning must wait until transmission rates in the community are both low AND declining over at least the past two weeks as measured by key indicators such as infection rates, hospitalization rates and hospital capacity. Testing must be accessible to all who need it and contact tracing practices must be in place. Otherwise, reopening school and campus buildings may spur a resurgence of the virus in the community.
2. Specific protections have been put in place to keep the virus under control and protect students and staff. These include:
 - Accommodations for high-risk students, staff and families
 - Social distancing of at least six feet
 - Strong deterrence measures, including:
 - appropriate face covers for anyone in the school buildings or on buses
 - hand washing multiple times throughout the day
 - Plexiglas where necessary
 - HVAC systems that increase airflow and air filtration along with ways to bring in as much fresh air as possible into classrooms and buildings
 - Deep cleaning protocols
 - Proper detection procedures along with quarantine, isolation and notification procedures and monitoring and enforcement of health and safety procedures, including whistleblower protections
3. Plans in place to ensure continuous learning for all students in the event we have to

go to all online learning.

In working with district administrators and staff, she is confident we have plans in place to protect staff and students as much as possible in a hybrid model and a plan in place if we have to move to an all online model.

- 3.06 **National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum.** The 1982 Bettendorf High School wrestling team will be inducted into the Glen Brand Wrestling Hall of Fame of Iowa on August 22, 2020, at the Dan Gable Museum.

Coached by Franc Freeman, who was inducted into the GBHOF in 2009, the 1982 Bettendorf High School wrestling team was 12-0 in dual meets, won every tournament, set the all-time points record and were ranked fourth in the nation. All ten members that qualified for state placed in the Top Five, led by Brian McCracken's state championship at 185-pounds. The closest dual for the Bulldogs was a 34-13 win against Clinton High School, which finished third in the state.

Head Coach: Franc Freeman, Assistant Coaches: Paul Castro, Terry Paustian, Dana Deines, Merv Habenicht, Tom McCutcheon, and Bob Glenn.

Wrestling team:

Steve Waddell, 98-pounds, 3rd place.
Brian Waddell, 105-pounds, 3rd place.
Craig Cervantes, 112-pounds, 4th place.
Mike Seymour, 126-pounds, 2nd place.
John Bellig, 132-pounds, 2nd place.
Randy Washam, 138-pounds, 4th place.
Bob Picchiotti, 167-pounds, 4th place.
Brian McCracken, 185-pounds, 1st place.
Jeff Bakeris, HWT, 5th place.
Jim Kisner, Super HWT, 2nd place.

4. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Castro, 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 July 13, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

4.02 Approval of August 3, 2020 Bills Recommended for Payment

4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations – Personnel

Classified Resignation

Kristin Nixon/PN/Paraeducator/Effective 07/27/20

Gretchen Owen/MT/Paraeducator/Effective 07/17/20

Classified Recommendation to Hire

Sarah Grothus/BHS/Secretary B/\$16.86 per hour/8.0 hours per day/Replacing Vera Betts/Effective 08/12/20

Classified Letter of Assignment Modification

Betsy Swarengen/BMS/Nutrition Services Supervisor/From \$37,225.00 to \$38,809.00/8.0 hours per day/Additional days added to contract for summer feeding program/Effective 07/01/20

Certified Approval to Hire

Lorena Shehan/BHS/ELP/1.0 FTE/MA,5/ \$51,496/ Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Cheyenne McCann/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Certified Transfer

Kaitlin Burke/BMS/From Language Arts to ELP/1.0 FTE/Replacing Jessica Cline/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Shannon Clayton/BMS/From Social Studies to Instructional Coach/1.0 FTE/Replacing Kyle Mink/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Schedule D Resignation

Shannan Campbell/BHS/.5 Team Leader SpecEd/Effective 7/29/20

Taylor Johnson/BMS/7th Grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach/Effective 7/20/20

Chad Schmertmann/BMS/Assistant 7th Grade Football Coach/Effective 7/20/20

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Ellen Craig/BMS/Team Leader-Allied Arts/\$2,739/Replacing Craig Lennon/Effective 2020-2021 school year

Taylor Johnson/BMS/Head 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach/\$2,867/Replacing Alec Clark /Effective 2020-2021 school year

Chad Schmertmann/Head 7th Grade Football Coach/\$2,867/Replacing Alec Clark/Effective 2020-2021 school year

4.04 Approval of Career Exploration & Training Agreement/Bettendorf Commercial Foodservice

4.05 Approval of Donation of 800 Face Shields, in the amount of \$1352.00 from LyondellBasell, 3400 Anamosa Rd, Clinton

4.06 Approval of the tuition application for Kindergarten from Davenport, IA

4.07 Open Enrollment Request Denial – Into Bettendorf from Davenport -_1 student - Insufficient space

4.08 Open Enrollment Requests
Number of students approved for open enrollment

Into Bettendorf

2 - from PV

Out of Bettendorf

3- to PV

5. Informational/Action Items.

5.01 **Return to Learn Plan 2020-2021.** Dr. Morse thanked parents and community members with whom she has had a pleasure to speak with and apologized to those who she has not been able to connect with. School districts across our state and country are facing extremely difficult decisions with regards to opening the 2020-2021 school year. Finding the balance between what is necessary to maintain the safety and health of our students and staff with what is needed for students to learn is an almost impossible task. As a result of the unpredictability and instability of the virus, all we can do is offer a plan that affords flexibility and choice. Flexibility and choice are paramount especially because every BCSD family is facing their own unique needs and challenges during these unprecedented times. For each family who wants their students in school fulltime whether it be for childcare needs or minimal fear of the virus, there is a family that is fearful or has experienced the devastating impacts of the virus in their own family and

wants to keep their student safe and protected at home. Dr. Morse acknowledges these disparities and recommended a plan that incorporates both sides. It is important to note that no plan is perfect and no district is the same. There are challenges with all of the options.

The plan she recommended is grounded in what the majority of the stakeholders in our district indicated they wanted within guidelines issued by our Governor, our state department of health, our county department of public health, and the CDC, which includes in-person learning at least 50% of the time, use of face coverings, implementation of social distancing and the practice of good hygiene habits. She publically thanked the parents and community members who expressed their preferences, questions, concerns and thoughts in one platform or another. She also thanked the BCSD staff members who have worked tirelessly around the clock and have been instrumental in the development of our Return to Learn plan.

Dr. Morse recommended the hybrid learning model where students will attend two days per week with an additional day on Wednesdays every other week. The goal is to return students to 100% in-person learning as soon as it is feasible to do so. Face coverings will be required when social distancing is not feasible. She has begun conversations with our city and community partners to explore additional space in effort to focus on our preschool through fifth grade students returning to 100% in-person learning first.

This plan is for the first quarter that will begin on August 24 and end on October 22. As the first quarter comes to a close, they will reflect and look at the data and determine if we can make changes. The plan is fluid and subject to change based on any new guidance. This plan is based on safety, equity and choice.

The staff and parent surveys showed that the majority were comfortable with either the hybrid or online models over the in-person model. Parents have a choice in all grades to send their students to school in the hybrid model or to keep them home full-time in continuous online learning. Parents will have the opportunity to complete an intent to return form selecting the preferred model of learning for their student. If an intent to return is not submitted, the student will be placed in the hybrid model. For either model, attendance is required and assessments will be administered. Grading will be required at all levels. When students are not on-site, they will access their instruction online.

Dr. Morse addressed childcare concerns. She said her team is looking at partnerships with the Family Museum, KinderCare and YMCA for both staff and students in the district.

President Holland thanked everyone who worked on the plan and those who gave input.

ACTION: Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the 2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan as presented.

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

- 5.02 **Staff Rates for 2020-2021.** Staff rates are reviewed every year. The recommendations is to change the paraeducator rate from \$11.72/hr. to \$11.92/hr. in order to be competitive with surrounding districts. There are also incremental increases to food service and food service van driver rates. Those are the only recommended changes to Staff Rates for 2020-2021.

Director Lynch noted the guest teacher rate has not changed since he has been on the board. Dr. Morse reviewed some of the things are they are looking at in regards to guest teachers. One consideration is hiring a dedicated sub for each building, possibly two at the secondary levels. She is also working with the Director of HR on certification with paraeducators to become subs.

ACTION: Motion by Director Eastman, seconded by Director Castro, to approve the 2020-2021 Guest Staff Rates as presented.

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

- 5.03 **Policy 605.6E4.** This small change applies the same district web filter rules at school and home.

ACTION: Motion by Director Pyevich, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve policy 605.6E4 as presented for a final read.

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

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- August 17, 2020, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

7. Closed Session.

- 7.01 **Motion to Enter into Closed Session.** Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Eastman, to enter into a closed session under Iowa Code 21.5 (1.a.) of the Open Meetings Law to review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential.

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

Directors entered into closed session at 7:53 p.m. and took a recess. The closed session began at 8:09 p.m. They returned to open session at 8:16 p.m.

8. Adjournment.

Director Castro motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Adam Holland, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary