

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the February 9, 2023, 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 February 9, 2023. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson
Members absent: None

Other officials present: Dr. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Karen Allison, Director of Student Services; Jayme Olson, Director of Curriculum; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Celeste Miller, Director Communications; Erin Pestka, Director of Technology; Kristy Cleppe, BHS Principal; Alan Hartley, BMS Principal; Emily Cullison and Kait Burke, BEA Representatives; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; David Farmer, Treasurer; Dillon Tholin, Student Representative; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the agenda as modified. 5.05, Approval of Revised Director of Finance and Business Services Job Description, has been removed. Consent Agenda 4.05, Approval of Center of Respect Contract with BHS and BMS has been moved to Informational/Action Items.

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

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. Citizens wishing to address the board during public comment must complete the *Public Input at Board Meetings* form (BP 213.1) in its entirety prior to the start of the meeting, or at a minimum, prior to speaking. Please state your name and please limit your comments to three minutes. Iowa law prohibits discussing specific employees or their job performance. We caution those making public comments that what they say could violate the rights of others under the law of defamation or invasion of privacy, and if they're unsure of the legal effect of their remarks they should seek independent advice prior to their comments.

There were no comments.

- 3.02 **Board Communication.** Director Castro recognized the male and female wrestlers in the audience that were recognized later in the meeting.

Director Doerder congratulated the high school on a successful Blood Drive.

President Eastman said she had the honor to present at the Wayne Cheramy Awards.

- 3.03 **Superintendent's Report.** It is School Counseling week. Dr. Morse thanked our school counselors for all the amazing work they do to support our students and families.

The community will have an opportunity to learn more about the GO Bond on February 21 and February 22.

Dr. Morse took time to reiterate the admiration, tremendous respect and appreciation that she and the board have for the work that our teachers and support staff do each and every day for our students. Their selfless dedication to their profession and our students is an inspiration, even in current times when our education systems are under such scrutiny.

- 3.04 **BEA Report.** Emily Cullison reiterated what she said at the last meeting. The BEA is disappointed with the voucher bill. With this bill being passed, nearly \$1B in public taxpayer money will be given to private schools over the next four years. Not only that, but private schools will not have the same accountability as public schools.

Kait Burke reported they held their monthly meeting last week and round table discussion with central administration earlier this week. They plan to meet with the negotiation team in the next couple of weeks in order to put together their initial proposal. Ms. Burke recognized all BCSD counselors and thanked them for the work that they do. Ms. Cullison and Ms. Burke will attend the NEA Leadership Summit in San Francisco in March.

Ms. Burke encouraged BEA members to attend legislative forums as well as contact legislators to continue to have their voices heard.

- 3.05 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg reported they had their monthly meeting earlier this week. She emphasized all the good things the staff are doing and said that they are continually doing more with less. She said we must continue to educate the whole child, both academically and emotionally. She gave a shout out to the district counselors.
- 3.06 **Student Board Representatives Report.** Dillon Tholin gave an update on the latest happenings at the high school.
- 3.07 **BHS Speech and Debate Advisor Service Award.** BHS Language Art teacher and Speech & Debate Advisor **Joseph Rankin** recently received the Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Award from the National Speech and Debate Association.

The Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Award is granted to coaches who perform service for the Association, such as hosting tournaments, writing or presenting about the Association, recruiting a new chapter school, or writing an article for Rostrum, earn service citations. Those who earn 20 citations are given a special gold key. Those who receive 50 citations are presented with a bronze plaque. In 2018, the awards were named in honor of Don Crabtree, former NSDA Board of Directors president, nine-diamond coach, Hall of Fame member, and service citation record holder.

3.08 **BHS Boys State Swimming Meet.** The BHS Boys Swim Team finished in second place in the District Swim Meet on Saturday, February 4th. The following team members will represent BHS swimming at the Iowa State Swim Meet February 10 through 11th at the University of Iowa:

- Keaton Weaver
- Ricky Zillmer
- Jacob Mitvalsky
- Drew Gasper
- Trey Gross
- Hudson Weaver
- Kiefer Roemer
- Mateo Surma
- Nick Schmidt

3.09 **BHS Girls State Wrestling.** The Iowa Girls State Wrestling Tournament took place on February 2nd and 3rd. Congratulations to Taylor Strief and Alexys Petersen for their third place finishes, both with pins.

3.10 **BHS Boys State Duals Wrestling.** The BHS Boys Wrestling team finished in third place at the Dual State Wrestling Championship on January 23rd.

4. Consent Agenda.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the consent agenda as modified. Consent Agenda 4.05, Approval of Center of Respect Contract with BHS and BMS has been moved to Informational/Action Items.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

4.01 Approval of January 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and February 1, 2023 Disciplinary Hearing

4.02 Approval of February 9, 2023 Bills Recommended for Payment

4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel

Certified Resignation

Bartley Meinke/BHS/French/Effective 6/30/23

Schedule D Resignation

Bartley Meinke/BHS/Club Sponsor- Scholastic Bowl/Effective 6/30/23

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Erin Flynn/BMS/Assistant 7th and 8th Grade Girls Track Coach/\$2,012/ Replacing Curtis Shepherd/Effective 2/10/23

Kristen Koch/BMS/Drama Director/\$1,509/Replacing Elizabeth Woolley/ Effective 2/10/23

Ronald Stout/BHS/Head Girls Tennis Coach/\$5,699/Replacing Karl Stubben/Effective 2/10/23

4.04 Approve the low bid from Economy Roofing of \$738,870 for the BHS CTE Wing Roof Replacement

4.05 *Moved to Informational/Action #5.01*

4.06 Arizona State - Bettendorf Student Placement Agreement

4.07 Open Enrollment Requests. FOR INFORMATION ONLY. The following students have

been approved for open enrollment:

Out of Bettendorf 22/23

1 - CAM

5. Informational/Action.

- 5.01 **Approval of the Center of Respect Contract with BHS and BMS** (formerly Consent Agenda Item #4.05). The recommendation to bring in this speaker came from a recent BHS graduate. The Iowa Department of Education has identified five competencies and habits that are needed for students to be successful in the future. These are requirements that we have to teach to our students as they go through our school district. Dr. Morse noted that students are struggling in relationship skills and boundaries as evident in the Conditions for Learning Survey results. This has been a focus for both the middle and high school this year. Principals Kristy Cleppe and Alan Hartley believe the presenter will be able to help middle and high school students.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the Center of Respect Contract with BHS and BMS.

Ayes: 5 Directors Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson, Champion

Nays: 2 Directors Pyevich, Castro

Motion carried 5-2

- 5.02 **GO Bond Presentation and Update.** Dr. Morse and Curt Pratt gave an update on the GO Bond. The Bettendorf Community School District is asking district residents to consider a general obligation (GO) bond on a property tax rate increase of up to \$2.70 per \$1,000 of taxable value to help fund \$69.2M of needed improvements at Bettendorf Middle & High Schools.

Through the facility master planning process, the 10-year plan identified roughly \$98.5M in needs. The primary need, at Middle School, must have a GO Bond to complete. Director of Operations Curt Pratt reviewed the proposed GO Bond funded projects. It was noted that this is a base plan and should the bond pass, the district will take the next step to hire an architect. The language in the petition is what will have to be implemented if the bond passes. If it is not outlined in the scope of work that was approved in December, it cannot be added.

- 5.03 **Bettendorf Middle School Honors Pathway Update.** Jayme Olson gave an update on the Bettendorf Middle School Honors Pathway. They put together a website that walks families through all the things they need to know before making this decision. The big thing they want families to understand about honors classes is that students need to have a strong work ethic, especially on the math side, because it is accelerated at middle school.
- 5.04 **Approval of 2022 Scott County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.** The plan document will be adopted in the final format approved by FEMA with its official date of approval being the date of the FEMA letter of approval.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Doerder, to approve and adopt the Scott County Multi-Jurisdiction Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

Nays: 0
Motion carried 7-0

5.05 **First and Final Read of Policies.** The following policies have been updated as follows:

- *603.7R1 School To Work* - deleted
- *603.7R2 School To Work Activities* - deleted
- *603.9 Academic Freedom* - revised
- *603.9R1 Teaching Controversial Issues* - revised to align with IASB language.
- *604.5 Religion Based Exclusion from School Program* - revised to align with IASB language.
- *604.5E Religion Based Exclusion From School Program* - deleted. The uniqueness of each situation is better suited to a narrative submission rather than through a form.
- *604.7 Dual Enrollment* - revised to align with IASB policy language.
- *604.8 Foreign Students* - revised to align with IASB language.
- *604.11 Appropriate Use of Online Learning Platforms* - revised to align with IASB policy language and sequencing.
- *604.12 Community Education* - deleted
- *604.13 Adult Education* - deleted
- *607.1 Student Guidance and Counseling Program* - revised to align with IASB language.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the policies listed above as presented.

Ayes: 6 Directors Eastman, Lynch, Pyevich, Smithson, Champion, Doerder
Nays: 1 Director Castro
Motion carried 6-1

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- February 23, 6:30 pm - Board Meeting (time change)
- March 1, 6:00 pm - MBAEA/EICC Board and Administrator Banquet @ MBAEA office
- March 2, 6:00 pm - Board Development Workshop
- March 9, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting
- March 23, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting
- April 6, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting (date change)
- April 20, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting (date change)

7. Disciplinary Hearing.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to enter into closed session to conduct a hearing to suspend or expel a student, pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(e), and to review and discuss records that are required by state or federal law to be kept confidential, as allowed by Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(a).

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

Directors entered into a closed session at 8:21pm. Directors returned to open session at 9:08 pm.

8. Approval of Disciplinary Recommendation.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, that the board made the following findings of fact:

- The student made a substantial threat against the school.
- The student's conduct was in violation of Board Policy 503.1, Student Behavior and Discipline.
- The student's conduct materially and substantially disrupted other students' ability to participate in, or obtain, their education. The communication of a threat compromised the safety and emotional well-being of BHS students.

Based on the findings of fact, the student is placed on long-term suspension for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and will participate in all online learning and follow an academic plan according to administration's recommendation. Prior to returning to school, the student and parent will meet with administration to determine a reentry plan.

During the period of suspension the student is not allowed on any Bettendorf Community School District property unless explicitly authorized or at any school event where a Bettendorf team is participating. The student is directed not to have contact or take action with regard to any student or staff member who provided adverse testimony or information in this case.

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

9. Disciplinary Hearing.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to enter into closed session to conduct a hearing to suspend or expel a student, pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(e), and to review and discuss records that are required by state or federal law to be kept confidential, as allowed by Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(a).

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

Directors entered into a closed session at 9:11pm. Directors returned to open session at 9:53 pm.

10. Approval of Disciplinary Recommendation.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Pyevich, that the board made the following findings of fact:

- The student engaged in a physical altercation with another student.
- The student has engaged in a pattern of inappropriate, disruptive conduct, including repeated physical altercations.
- The student's conduct was in violation of Board Policy 503.1, Student Behavior and Discipline and school rules
- The presence of the student is detrimental to the best interests of the school .
- The student's conduct has materially and substantially disrupted the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, and presents a threat to health and safety of students and personnel.

Based on the findings of fact, the student is expelled for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. Prior to returning to school, the student and parent must participate in a reentry meeting and comply with a plan explicitly outlining what is expected of the student as well as supports needed.

During the period of expulsion the student is not allowed on any Bettendorf Community School District property or at any school event where a Bettendorf team is participating. The student is directed not to have contact or take action with regard to any student or staff member who provided adverse testimony or information in this case.

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

11. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary