

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the June 9, 2022, Regular Meeting
of the Board of Education
(*pending Board approval*)

1. Public Hearing.

A public hearing for the Bettendorf High School Cooling Tower Replacement opened at 6:00 pm. There were no comments and the public hearing closed at 6:01 pm.

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 June 9, 2022. President Rebecca Eastman called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Smithson

Members absent: Director Pyevich

Other officials present: Dr. Michelle Morse, Superintendent; Dr. Mike Gillotti, Associate Superintendent; Brietta Collier, Director of Finance; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Celeste Miller, Director Communications; Jill Matherly, Director of Human Resources; Jillian Dotson, Director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment; Maile Mejia, Interim Director of Nutrition Services; Jayme Olson, NA Principal; Kait Burke, BEA Representative; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; David Farmer, Treasurer; Colleen Skolrood, Board Secretary.

3. Agenda Approval.

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

Ayes: 6 Directors Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson

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 Communication.** Director Castro attended the high school graduation ceremony and said it went extremely well. He noted the Athletic Boosters Club is having their annual Golf Outing this weekend. a

Director Smithson said she had the true honor to watch the Class of 2022 graduate. As she watched the diverse students proudly step up to receive their diplomas, it occurred to her that among this group are not only students with honors and accolades, but also included in that group of students are those who have struggled academically, those who experienced homelessness, mental illness and behavior issues and those who have moved into our community at various times in their lives. Every single one of those graduates are Bettendorf students. They belong to this district and this community. We are a public school district.

She noted that we have already made changes at the middle school and there are plans in place to make more changes. She said it takes time. She said we have a moral obligation to do our very best for every single child.

Director Champion thanked all the staff who made the high school graduation possible. He thanked Curt Pratt and his staff. He had a chance to visit the middle school over the last two weeks and spent a lot of time in the lunchroom and hallways. He saw parents there visiting as well. He thanked those who have sent emails or called him over the last few weeks.

President Eastman attended the high school graduation and said it was outstanding. She strongly recommended listening to Charly Erpedling's graduation speech, if you have not already. She said we could learn a lot of lessons from this brilliant young woman.

She had the opportunity to spend a lot of time at BMS. She said Maile Mejia and her crew are unbelievable. She said the tight ship that they run and the turnover that they do to serve all the kids is astonishing. She said they have not been recognized enough and thanked them for everything they are doing.

She thanked those who have called and sent emails. She has not had the opportunity to respond to all of the emails, but she is doing her best. She said some of the correspondence has been scary and saddening. The social media posts addressed to her and her family have been terrifying. She hopes that the violence and innuendos of the violence ends. It is inappropriate and unacceptable. She hopes we can move forward as a community at some point.

Director Lynch had a lot of fun at graduation. He was happy to see a number of board members getting to acknowledge their children, nieces or nephews. He said it was his first time that all seven board members were present at graduation.

He said we have received a lot of emails and phone calls over the last few weeks. He said he cannot respond to all of the emails, but he does read and think about them carefully. He values civil discourse and appreciates that the public has the opportunity to share concerns. However, there has been a distinct shift in the tone and caliber over the last month that has troubled him a little bit. What began as legitimate concerns at the middle school has transformed into a semi-organized campaign to abuse and disparage our superintendent. Our district has a number of problems that we need to do better on, but

most of these problems predate the hiring of Dr. Morse. Most of these problems are being actively addressed. He has been amazed how much progress Dr. Morse and her administration have been able to make. He is fully persuaded that Dr. Morse's vision for our district is the right vision for our district.

Director Doerder attended graduation and she said it made her very proud. As a community what we allow is what will continue. She will not stay silent and allow the behavior that has consumed this board room, social media and new outlets lately to continue to be the prevailing narrative. As a community we rise and fall together, we win and lose together and we cannot win as a district in this current climate that has been created. We need to stand together in support of our schools and our leadership.

Director Doerder reviewed some of the work that has been done over the last two years. She used the Eight Characteristics of an Effective School Boards to guide her communication. When Dr. Morse started, the district's strategic plan had long expired. The board tasked Dr. Morse with building a new strategic plan to guide this district into the future. As a result, our top priority this past school year has been to increase student achievement and close those achievement gaps.

In two years time, Dr. Morse has both vertically and horizontally aligned our math and literacy curriculum and is implementing several new curriculum initiatives next year. Dr. Morse was also tasked by the board to improve behavior issues across the district. After a derailment by Covid, she led the district, specifically BMS, through the process of assessing our PBIS structures. We have had multiple meetings where we have discussed this over the past year.

The school board's job is to set policy and the direction of the district and to support the superintendent to accomplish the goals that we help direct, not to micromanage the day-to-day or get involved where it is highly inappropriate. Director Doerder said Dr. Morse is upfront about our challenges, but also highlights our successes. She stays focused on solutions and ways to improve.

Director Doerder said all she asks is that people educate themselves before they speak, come to the meetings and listen to the presentations. The types of misinformed statements are doing a great disservice to our community and to our schools and our deliberately damaging what we are working toward. These issues did not happen overnight and will not be resolved quickly.

Director Castro said the emails we have been getting deal with keeping students and employees safe. Our parents are deeply concerned about the safety of their children and our faculty is deeply concerned about their own personal safety in the buildings they teach.

- 4.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse said graduation was an amazing event. She thanked the entire high school leadership team and their support team for all that they did. It took months to plan so our students could have a memorable event. We were able to celebrate our amazing staff at our End of the Year Staff Appreciation and Recognition. She thanked Celeste Miller, Monica Flink, and the HR Department for all that they did for our retirees, our employees who were celebrating 25 and 30 years of service as well as our Superintendent Star Awards.

Over thirty K-2 grade teachers participated in LETRS Training yesterday. Teachers and administrators will be involved in professional learning tomorrow and Monday. The focus is on PBIS and they will start developing action plans for the 2022-2023 school year by building. They will also be reviewing and updating our current behavior protocols and procedures.

Summer school and extended school year program for students with special education needs starts next week. The summer programming is funded with the ESSR funds we received. Dr. Morse thanked all of the amazing staff who are working this summer.

The facility master plan project kicked off earlier this week. Dr. Morse looks forward to that work. The 2022-2023 New Teacher Orientation will be on August 8-12 and staff will be returning on August 16 for five days of professional development.

As was communicated at the May 26 board meeting, we had not had the opportunity to really dig in and reflect on and review all the information from the staff/faculty input session on May 25 and the public input session that evening. Dr. Morse appreciates the patience and understanding. She reviewed the top strengths and weaknesses and opportunities and solutions from the parent and staff feedback.

The school year kicked off by reviewing our current protocols and assessing what we do, building action plans and continuing to develop those systems at each building. There are some behavior matrices and policies in place and are reflecting on those and know we need to enhance those and strengthen those. The district has two behavior coaches that provide support and a school resource officer at both the high school and middle school. Updated expectations will be shared with staff and families. They are looking at how classrooms are placed and the lunch room layout at the middle school.

BCSD was one of eight districts to receive a grant for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Crew Training. The focus is on creating a culture and climate of belonging, welcoming people and developing student leaders. This will be rolled out at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. They are working to hire hall monitors to work with the security team, SRO's and administrators. SEL curriculum will be implemented in the fall.

- 4.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier said quarterly reporting has already started. She said you will notice the differentiation in our convenience fees. We have a new credit card provider next year. There will be one portal for adding money to lunch accounts and paying fees online.
- 4.05 **BEA Report.** Kait Burke noted registration has opened for ISEA Summer Leadership Conference at the beginning of August.
- 4.06 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg encouraged our community, staff and students to be mindful. Adults have a responsibility to model behavior we expect from their children. She encouraged everyone to emulate the positive change they want to see. Contrary to what was reported at the last board meeting, the incident at BHS that allegedly involved 100+ students and an ambulance being on site is simply not accurate. That incident involved seven students, was over very quickly and no ambulance was dispatched to the high school. She stays because every student who walks through our doors deserves the very best. It is our responsibility as a community to do better and be better.

4.07 **Student Board Representative Report.** There was no student representative in attendance.

5. Consent Agenda.

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

Ayes: 6 Directors Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson, Castro

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

5.01 Approval of May 26 , 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5.02 Approval of June 9, 2022 Bills Recommended for Payment

5.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel

Certified Resignation

Brylee Blanning/MT/Floater Teacher/Effective 6/30/22

Brett Runquist/BMS/Special Education/Effective 6/1/22

Brett Van Deventer/BMS/Family Consumer Science/Effective 6/30/22

Certified Contract Modification

Sarah Petrocelli/NA/ECSE/1.0 FTE/From MA,7 to MA,10/From \$57,266 to

\$62,295/Increase due to experience verification/Effective 2022-23 school year

Certified Approval to Hire

Katrina Hurt/BMS/Academic Interventionist/1.0FTE/MA+30,16/\$74,699/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Robin Bridges/Effective 2022-23 school year

Jonathan Keith/BHS/Social Studies/1.0 FTE/BA+15,6/\$50,394/Pending

licensure and verification/New position based on student need/Effective 2022-23 school year

Stephanie Ross/NA/5th Grade/1.0 FTE/BA,12/\$57,333/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Hailee Beals/Effective 2022-23 school year

Emily Storjohann/PN/2nd Grade/1.0 FTE/BA,4/\$45,566/Pending

licensure and verification/Replacing Janelle Ziegenhorn/Effective 2022-23 school year

Candyce Wondercheck/BMS/Science/1.0 FTE/MA,16/\$70,341/Pending

licensure and verification/Replacing two science teachers who moved to 0.50 FTE each/Effective 2022-23 school year

Justin Wright/MT/4th Grade/1.0 FTE/BA,2/\$42,415/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Catherine Strahl/Effective 2022-23 school year

Schedule D Resignation

Larry Hornaday/BHS/Head Varsity Girls Soccer Coach/Effective 6/30/22

Schedule D Approval to Hire

Evan Deuth/BHS/Head Girls Cross Country Coach/\$5,699/Replacing Erin Flynn/Effective 2022-23 school year

Nutrition Services Bid Recommendations for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

5.04 Approval of 2022-2023 St. Ambrose University Student Teaching Agreement

5.05 BHS Fine Arts Booster for \$500.00 from: JL & NP Cauwels, 1900 Valley Vista Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722

5.06 BHS Seal of Biliteracy

The following graduating students earned the Seal of Biliteracy in 2022. This means that they are proficient in English and one other language:

Brandon	Bishop	2022	German
Sarah	Crowley	2021	German
Jackson	Fields	2021	German
Samantha	Fitzpatrick	2021	German
Thomas	Hughes	2021	German
Carter	Mack	2021	German
Riley	Markham	2021/2022	German
Riley	Marshall	2021	German
Preston	Martens	05/14/20	German
Katherine	Pessman	2021/2022	German
Noah	Raso	2021/2022	German
Malia	Shinbori	2021	German
Andrey	Sprosty	2022	German
Elizabeth	Alves	2021	Spanish
Isabelle	Appel	2021	Spanish
Hannah	Beintema	2022	Spanish
Alex	Berkenbosch	2021	Spanish
Lydia	Campion	2021	Spanish
Charly	Erpelding	2021	Spanish
Julia	Fiedler	2022	Spanish
Rebecca	Garza-Doty	2021	Spanish
Emily	Hueser	2021	Spanish
Lampe	Katie	2022	Spanish
Jericho	Larsen	2022	Spanish
Britt	Mariman	2021	Spanish
Eric	Newton	2021	Spanish
Abigail	Nutter	2022	Spanish
Marisela	Ocampo	04/16/2019	Spanish
Emma	Porter	2022	Spanish
Katelyn	Rahe	2021	Spanish
Kathleen	Ripley	2021	Spanish

Clarisse	Roscio	2021	Spanish
Anna	Scholl	04/29/20	Spanish
Kiara	Silva Trenkle	2022	Spanish
Macy	Stevenson	04/27/20	Spanish
Caden	Temple	2021	Spanish
Nicholas	Theuerkauf	2021	Spanish
Maycen	Zimmerman	2021	Spanish

5.07 Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only)
 The following students have been approved for open enrollment.

Into Bettendorf for 22/23

3 - Pleasant Valley

5 - Davenport

Out of Bettendorf for 22/23

1 - Iowa Connections Academy

2 - Iowa Virtual Academy

3 - Pleasant Valley

2 - Davenport

5.08 Open Enrollment Request
 Denial of Open Enrollment Requests.

Into Bettendorf

Dewitt - 1

North Scott - 1

Davenport - 20

Out of Bettendorf

1 - North Scott

6. Informational/Actions.

6.01 **Approval of Bettendorf High School Cooling Tower Replacement.** Sealed bids will be received on June 12 at 10:00 am. The bidding is for manufacturers for the cooling tower. The plan is to install it in the fall after the cooling season is over.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the scope of work and proposed budget of \$100,000 for the Bettendorf High School Cooling Tower Replacement.

Ayes: 6 Directors Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson, Castro

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

6.02 **Health Curriculum Update.** Chris Like shared a presentation on the Health Curriculum 6-12 adoption plan for 2022-2023. He said there is a need to take a look at our curriculum every now and then and refine what we are doing. They formed a committee and did some research. They did a pilot last spring at the high school and it went really well. They are

looking at a six-year implementation.

- 6.03 **FY23 School Fees and Meal Prices.** There is an increase in the convenience fees for the first time since Brie has been with the district. She was waiting to increase it until there was a less expensive option available. eChecks are only \$0.35 to process. The credit card fee is being raised to \$2.50, which does not cover how much the district gets charged. The district gets charged 3.5% for each transaction.

It has been about twenty years since transportation fees have been adjusted. The district is not covering our costs so they are trying to have a stage increase so it is easier for our families.

The recommendation is to increase meal prices \$0.05 for elementary and \$0.10 for secondary. The price increases are in line with neighboring districts.

Dr. Morse thanked Maile for stepping into the role of Nutrition Services and for her leadership. She said she has brought a new vision to that department. She is right there on the line with her staff serving and preparing food and cleaning tables. Dr. Morse said she has a lot of great ideas for next year.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the 2022-2023 school fees and meal prices as presented.

Ayes: 6 Directors Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson, Castro, Champion
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

- 6.04 **First and Final Read of Policies.** Policy 708: Care, Maintenance and Disposal of School District Records has been updated to reflect IASB policy language. An additional reference for records retention came from the annual update that Ahlers law firm publishes.

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

Ayes: 6 Directors Lynch, Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

7. Future Events and Informational Items.

- June 23, 2022, BOE meeting, 6:00 pm

8. Exempt Session - Negotiations.

- 8.01 Motion to Enter into Exempt Session.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to enter into exempt session,

as provided in the Code of Iowa section 20.17(3) and 20.9 for the purpose of discussing strategies for negotiations.

Ayes: 6 Directors Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

Directors entered into exempt session at 8:07 pm. Directors returned to open session at 8:25 pm.

- 8.02 Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to accept the proposed 22/23 salary and benefit total package amounts of 2.74% for administrative assistants & technicians, 2.10% for supervisors and others and 1.81% for administrators.

Ayes: 6 Directors Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

9. Closed Session - Superintendent Evaluation.

- 9.01 Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Doerder, 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: 6 Directors Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch, Smithson
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

Directors entered into closed session at 8:26 pm. Directors returned to open session at 9:56 pm.

10. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary