

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the February 23, 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 23, 2023. President Rebecca Eastman 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, 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.

Director Pyevich arrived at 6:07 pm.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, 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

3. Communication.

3.01 **BHS Future Business Leaders of America.** Congratulations to the following FBLA members for their success at districts at the end of January:

Charlie Silver: 1st Place Impromptu Speaking

Delainey Sullivan: 1st Place Intro to Business Concepts

Brooklyn McNeil & Delainey Sullivan: 1st Place Public Service Announcement, 2nd Place Marketing

3.02 **BHS Boys Swim Team.** Congratulations to the Bettendorf High School Boys Swim Team for their standings at State!

- 200 Medley Relay (Jacob Mitvalsky, Kiefer Roemer, Keaton Weaver, Drew Gasper) 8th Place
- 200 Free Ricky Zillmer, 6th Place and Hudson Weaver 10th Place
- 200 IM Kiefer Roemer, 6th Place
- 50 Free Jacob Mitvalsky, 9th Place
- 100 Fly Ricky Zillmer, 11th Place

- 100 Free Drew Gasper, 11th Place
- 500 Free Hudson Weaver, 12th Place
- 200 Free Relay (Jacob Mitvalsky, Ricky Zillmer, Drew Gasper, Kiefer Roemer) 4th Place
- 100 Back Jacob Mitvalsky, 14th Place
- 100 Breast Kiefer Roemer 7th Place
- 400 Free Relay (Ricky Zillmer, Mateo Surma, Hudson Weaver, Keaton Weaver) 6th Place

Coach Ahrens Received the Iowa High School Swim Coaches Association 30 Year Service Award. (Bettendorf's state records for the 50 Free and the 400 Free Relay from 2020 were NOT defeated and are still standing)

3.03 **BHS Speech & Debate District Tournament.** The Bettendorf High School Speech and Debate Team attended the East Iowa District Speech and Debate tournament at Waterloo West HS in Waterloo, IA. This tournament is the main way students qualify to attend the NSDA Nationals tournament held in June each year. Bettendorf has officially qualified a total of 10 students to attend the National tournament. They are:

- Kimbree Callahan and Heath Leone - Duo Interpretation
- Chris Edwards - Informative Speaking
- Cata Fernandez - Original Oratory
- Ava Holmes - Senate
- Hailey Koch - Humorous Interpretation
- Jason Lin - Informative Speaking
- Max Rantilla - United States Extemporaneous Speaking
- Charlie Silver - United States Extemporaneous Speaking
- MaKaylee Wilson - Program Oral Interpretation

In addition to these 10 qualifying students, Bettendorf also had the following students listed as 1st or 2nd alternates in events. They include:

- Zach Adams - 2nd Alt in International Extemporaneous Speaking
- Lauren Ballard - 2nd Alt in Dramatic Interpretation
- Cata Fernandez - 2nd Alt in the House
- Ava Holmes - 2nd Alt in United States Extemporaneous Speaking

BHS finished with a couple of school-level acknowledgments:

- District Speech Sweepstakes - 1st Place
- District Overall Sweepstakes - 2nd Place
- District Congress Sweepstakes - 3rd Place

3.04 **BHS Boys State Wrestling.** Congratulations to the Bettendorf High School Boys Wrestling Team for their standings at the State Tournament in Des Moines February 15th - 19th. Freshman Jake Knight achieved the title of 3A State Champion at 113 pounds!

Other top placements were:

- TJ Koester - 3rd place, 120 pounds
- Cody Trevino - 4th place, 126 pounds
- Jayce Luna - 3rd place, 132 pounds
- Lincoln Jipp - 5th place, 138 pounds
- Tycho Carmichael - 5th place, 145 pounds
- Elijah Mendoza - 3rd place, 152 pounds
- Jordan Roberts - 7thplace, 160 pounds

The Bulldogs finished the season 19-4 in dual meets, placed 1st in Conference, 1st in Districts, 3rd in State Duals, and qualified the entire team for the Individual State Tournament where they placed third this past week.

- 3.05 **BHS Girls Bowling.** Congratulations to Ammiyah Wynn for qualifying in the 3A State Girls State Bowling Tournament which was held in Waterloo February 21-23, 2023. Ammiyah placed tenth at state.
- 3.06 **Edison Lyon's Club Award.** The Bettendorf Lions Club recently awarded a \$1000 grant to Lucas Kroeger, a visually impaired high school Senior from Thomas Edison Education Center.
- 3.07 **UBett Robotics.** The UBett Robotics Team hosted a super qualifier event in robotics on Saturday for a chance to qualify for state. Students representing 24 schools and communities from all over Eastern Iowa including Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, and Eldridge took part in the competition. BHS was the first team selected for the Alliance that won first place for the entire tournament. UBett Robotics will compete at the State Tournament in Coralville along with 47 other teams on March 3rd and 4th, with a chance to advance to the world championships in Houston Texas in April.
Team members: Michael Farmer, Rowan Schalk, Lukas Wienclaw, Nevaeh Haney, Odin Moore, Rylan Roehlk, Josey Wells, Mia Lescano, Robert Day, Jerry Callahan, Binx Hilton, Connor Brooks, Dominic Halbur, Parker Pruitt, Evan Theone, Jordan DeSimone, Noah Leavitt. Coaches: Eric McCoy & Andrew Taylor
- 3.08 **BMS Honor Band Participants.** On Saturday, February 18th the following students participated in the Clear Creek Amana Honor Band: Sixth Grade: Jacob Bice-bassoon, Olivia Howard-clarinet, Charlie Martin-clarinet, Kate Thomas-trombone, Parker Keibler-percussion
Seventh Grade: Bree Carpenter-clarinet, Kylie Lemek-clarinet, Kolbie Anderson-tenor sax, Joziah Hill-trombone, Luke Leavitt-euphonium
Eighth Grade: Mya Contreras-flute, Jaden Davis-clarinet, Tori Stellmach-bass clarinet, Connor Hetner-trumpet, Anna Fiedler-percussion
- 3.09 **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.
- *Stephanie Buasell* addressed the board regarding cyber bullying and harassment.
 - *Ashton Hamby* recognized BCSD in demonstrating Bettendorf PRIDE before, during, and after the BHS winter pep assembly on February 10, 2023.
 - *Silvya Smithson* addressed the board regarding harassment.
 - *Joshua Hayes* addressed the board regarding the February 10th BHS assembly.
 - *Debra Zupke* addressed the board regarding student safety.
 - *Torrie Clasen* addressed the board regarding treating people kindly.
 - *Binx Hilton* addressed the board regarding the BHS pep assembly.
 - *Ashlynn Smithson* addressed the board regarding the BHS pep assembly

- 3.10 **Board Communication.** Vice President Champion gave an update on Bettendorf Middle School Parent Link upcoming events. He thanked everyone who spoke tonight and thanked parents, staff and students who came. Between local and state level news media, Director Champion said it has reaffirmed his belief that control of schools belongs at the local level. When the state undermines local control, they undermine the educational process which parents have a right to control within their communities.

Director Smithson thanked everyone who came out and spoke, especially the students. She thanked the middle and high school staff who work every day to make sure that all of our students feel welcome and safe.

Director Castro attended the middle school presentation for the GO Bond.

Director Doerder attended IASB's annual Day on the Hill in Des Moines last week. She had the opportunity to learn about the bills going through our legislature right now and network with other school board members. She noted that a number of the bills will have the potential to significantly affect our students and schools. She asked everyone to pay attention and be an advocate.

President Eastman thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy lives for joining us this evening. She said she hears them, sees them, supports them and the board supports them. She said we will not let the despicable behavior of a very few people in this community deter the work and the momentum taking place in this district.

- 3.11 **BEA Report.** Emily Culinson thanked everyone for coming to support the staff and students. Since the last meeting, buildings are holding building specific meetings. The next BEA meeting is March 1. She reminded everyone to vote on March 7 for the GO Bond. The negotiations team is set and they hope in the end that an agreement is made in the best interest of the teachers, who so lovingly do so much for the students.

She noted that hate speech against our teachers and staff is happening and must stop. There are and will be devastating consequences to these actions taken by community members and by us not stopping them.

Kait Burke said it is the right, regardless of gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, to access a free public K-12 education. The BEA welcomes and supports all students. The BEA recognizes that there are employers and employees of the highest caliber who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. The BEA recognizes that families from our community come in many forms and the BEA values all families and students regardless of gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. BEA prohibits discrimination. Please know BEA supports you, stands with you and will continue to vocally advocate for you.

- 3.12 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg said they have begun filling paraeducator positions and feels like things are moving in a positive direction. The negotiations team is looking forward to a positive and productive negotiations process with an outcome that is mutually beneficial. She said if you are on the fence on whether or not to support the GO Bond, she invites you to contact the district office and setup a tour of the facilities that are part of the bond proposal.

BESA voiced support for certified staff members and students who have had things posted about them in various formats online. She thanked everyone who spoke tonight. She noted posting information without first verifying facts does not serve any purpose other than to inflame public opinion. She cited recent instances of this happening. She said having an open dialogue when there is a concern is far more productive than assuming everything you read online is true.

- 3.13 **Student Board Representatives Report.** Dillon Tholin, Finn Boyle and Charlie Silver spoke about the BHS pep assembly on February 10th.
- 3.14 **Superintendent Report.** Dr. Morse said our students have the answers, we just need to listen. She said each and every day they humble her and reaffirm her why to serve in public education for twenty-eight years. They inspire her and she could not be more proud to serve alongside the extraordinary students and staff.

As you can see from our student recognitions tonight, it has been a busy couple of months. We have students excelling, not only in the classroom each and every day, but excelling outside the classroom. Those commitments do not come without a lot of sacrifice, time and dedication. Dr. Morse congratulated all of the students, advisors and coaches on their accomplishments this winter.

The GO Bond is open for voting now. In person voting is on March 7. Dr. Morse thanked Celeste Miller, Director of Communication and Curt Pratt, Director of Operations for their leadership, time and work to promote our upcoming GO Bond. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to our district office.

Dr. Morse had the privilege of learning alongside superintendents and district leaders at the National Conference on Education. She said there were many tremendous sessions around social media, parent engagement, and student and staff mental health and well-being.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year has begun. Please register by March 3rd. Early registration allows us to make staffing decisions and hire staff before other districts do.

She thanked everyone for coming out this evening and their courage to speak and share their stories. She said our number one priority is and will always be to keep our students safe and create environments that are welcoming and inclusive.

Dr. Morse reiterated 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 public education systems are under such scrutiny. *“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all” ~ Aristotle*

4. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 4.01 Approval of February 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 4.02 Approval of February 23, 2023 Bills Recommended for Payment
- 4.03 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel
Schedule D Resignation
Christina Burroughs/BHS/Black Voices Matter Club Sponsor/Effective 6/30/23
- 4.04 MBAEA Memorandum of Agreement
- 4.05 Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only) The following students have been approved for open enrollment.
Into Bettendorf 22/23
1 - Davenport
Out of Bettendorf 22/23
1 - Calamus Wheatland
- 4.06 BHS Fine Arts donation to the BHS Show Choir Rhythm on the Riverbend for \$1000.00 from: Fresh Blends, 1877 Cedar Muscatine Rd, Wilton IA 52778

5. Informational/Action.

- 5.01 **2023 Winter Benchmark Assessment Update.** Director of Curriculum Jayme Olson gave an update on earlyReading and earlyMath percent proficient from fall 2022 to winter 2023. She said the kindergarten literacy numbers are something to celebrate. She attributes that to 75% of our K-1 teachers having participated in LETRS training. The district has offered additional intervention groups for students who are struggling academically.
- 5.02 **First and Final Read of Policies.** The following policies have been revised to align with IASB language unless otherwise noted.
 - *104 Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy*
 - *104.R1 Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy - Investigation Procedures*
 - *104 E1 Anti-Bullying/Harassment Complaint Form*
 - *606.1 Class Size - Class Grouping - no change*
 - *606.1R Class Size Regulation - no change*
 - *606.3 Animals in the Classroom*
 - *606.4 Student Production of Materials and Services*

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.03 **Revised December Financials.** The numbers in column Fiscal Year 2023 YTD have not changed. There was an error in rolling the other months forward and the numbers reflected YTD for November, not December. All the numbers that needed to be updated have updated.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Doerder, to approve the revised December financials as presented.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

- 5.04 **January Financials.** Dr. Morse thanked District Account Layne Porembski for all her work on this, on top of her other responsibilities, Board Treasurer David Farmer and Vista Software team for their help on this.

Dr. Morse presented the monthly financial reports for January 2023. Through January, General fund revenue totaled \$25,156,742 and expenses totaled \$25,256,009. The fund balance in the General Fund at January 31, 2023 was \$12,002,008. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports.

The following variances were noted: Activity Fund expenses continue to outpace revenues. Dr. Morse is working with the high school team on this. Based on a three year trend our revenues and expenditures continue to trend below our budgetary expectations.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Doerder, to approve the January financials as presented.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

6. Future Events and Informational Items.

- 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)
- May 11, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting
- May 25, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting
- May 28, 1:00 pm - BHS Class of 2023 Graduation
- June 8, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting
- June 22, 6:00 pm - Board Meeting

7. Disciplinary Hearing.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Doerder, 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 8:50 pm. Directors returned to an open session at 9:19 pm.

8. Approval of Disciplinary Recommendation.

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

- The day after the student returned from a school suspension for attempted physical aggression, she was involved in another incident.
- Student instigated a physical assault of another student on the school bus.
- Following the assault, the student made threatening comments and taunted the student victim.
- The student has engaged in a pattern of inappropriate, disruptive conduct, including repeated physical altercations.
- The student's conduct materially and substantially disrupted several students' ability to participate in, or obtain their education, while causing a distressful and unsafe situation for other students.
- The student's conduct was in violation of district policy 503.1 Student Behavior and Discipline and school rules.

Based on the findings of fact, the student is expelled through the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. Prior to returning to school, the student and parent will meet with administration to determine a reentry plan. The reentry plan will explicitly outline what is expected of the student and what supports will be provided.

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

9. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary