

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BETTENDORF, IOWA

Minutes of the June 23, 2022, 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 June 23, 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; David Farmer, Board Treasurer; Curt Pratt, Director of Operations; Monica Flink, Print Manager; Alan Hartley, MS Principal; John Cain, Grant Wood Principal; Emily Cullinson, BEA Representative; Melissa Laufenberg, BESA Representative; Cathy Weis, Executive Secretary.

2. Agenda Approval.

Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to approve the agenda as modified. 5.01, Review of 2022 Iowa Legislature, was moved after 3.01, President's Statement.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

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.

Carey Topper talked about being a united team.

Melissa Zumdomme talked about Transformative SEL.

David Fuglseth said student safety needs to be met. Accolades do not matter if safety is not addressed.

Sara Wells talked about the addendum to the 2021 Superintendent's contract.

Cyndi Diercks talked about and gave a list of names of BMS parents who are willing to be volunteers at the school, and will go through training.

Analicia Gomes talked about concerns and facts about the state of our district.

Pat Miletich discussed the harm the food that people eat is doing to their bodies and is affecting student health and behavior.

- 3.02 **Board Communication.** Director Castro read a letter that he sent to the board members awhile back about what has been going on at the middle school. He also made some notes about the June 9 Board Minutes. He noted that one board member said changes at the middle school will take time, but his big question was how much time will it take to see some substantial changes in that building. He said some of the things being sent to some of our board members are inappropriate, but he noted that our parents and teachers are at a boiling point and they are reacting to the emotion and feelings they have. Director Castro would like to know how the issues at the middle school were addressed during the 2021-2022 school year. He would like a timeline for resolving these issues. He stated that our parents are educated and want their children and our employees to be safe. Lastly, he said there is a superintendent evaluation tonight with one board member gone. He thinks we should have an evaluation when all seven board members are present.

Director Champion reminded parents that there is an existing board policy regarding parents and community members entering school buildings when school is in session. He encouraged board members to let other board members or the superintendent know when they are going to be out of town.

Director Doerder agreed with Director Champion and said it is professional courtesy to inform fellow board members when they will be out of town in order to be respectful of each other's time.

Director Lynch spent the day in Des Moines earlier this week with the IASB Legislative Resolutions Committee that puts together the Delegate Assembly.

- 3.03 **Superintendent's Report.** Dr. Morse reported that summer school and extended school year are wrapping up the second week. Between the two sessions, we will be serving approximately two hundred eighty-four of our students, providing interventions at the elementary and middle school level and credit recovery at the high school.

There has been a lot of professional development happening this summer for teachers and staff. The district will be partnering with the Bettendorf Police Department on July 11 and July 15. They will be in the high school using it as a training facility to conduct active shooter and rescue task force training. Administrators will be invited to be engaged in that process.

Staff has been very busy working on the District Family Handbook. Some areas of focus that they have already dug into and started creating alignment and updating to reflect current needs are things such as our cell phone policy, dress code policy, and code of conduct, to name a few.

Dr. Morse noted over the last few months there has been this perception that parents are not allowed in our schools. She said parents are always welcome in our schools and parents have come in to assist with students who are struggling. She has been in communication with the Executive Director of United Way to help coordinate and recruit additional volunteers. They will assist with the background checks and training.

The district worked with six other school districts to develop a grant for the teacher/para apprenticeship pilot program. BCSD was one of the nineteen districts that was selected across the state and will be receiving close to \$4M in grant monies. They are to identify current high school

students and other adults to earn their paraeducator certificates and associate degree as well as encouraging paraeducators to go and get their bachelor's degree and their teaching licensure so that we can create pathways in our own district for our current students and employees to receive assistance financially. Information has already been sent out to those who have shown interest.

Jillian Dotson will be moving onto new opportunities and Dr. Morse thanked her for her leadership over the last five years. Dr. Morse thanked Dr. Gillotti for all that he did in such a short period of time. Dr. Gillotti reported he is heading back to Nebraska to be closer to family and thanked everyone for the opportunity and the time he had here. President Eastman told him to let his family know that we greatly appreciate the sacrifices they made allowing him to be with us over the last year. Dr. Morse is thankful for his leadership and wished him nothing but the best.

Dr. Morse said we all want what is best for all students in our district. Safety, health and educating our students are paramount. She wants to continue to work with everyone, even when they do not see things the same way, because that is how we become a strong and great organization. She appreciates the parents who are here tonight and those who could not make it, for their input and feedback. She said we will continue to work together to make sure our students have what they need to be successful.

3.04 **Director of Finance Report.** Brie Collier had nothing to report.

3.05 **BEA Report.** Emily Cullinson wished the administrators who are leaving nothing but the best. The BEA Executive Board has been working really hard this summer developing plans and working with administrators to make sure we are all on the same page.

3.06 **BESA Report.** Melissa Laufenberg noted the first session of summer school is almost finished. She will be meeting with district admin next week to discuss the open secretary and para positions and is looking forward to bringing on new members for next year. They finished the first webinar of the Peer Mentoring Program. The hope is that this program will supplement our onboarding process for new staff, reinforce training for returning staff and strengthen the support system for all of our staff.

3.07 **Student Board Representative Report.** There was no one in attendance.

3.08 **BCSD Students Compete in National History Day.** The Bettendorf Community School District was well-represented at National History Days Nationals in Washington, D.C. this year with **five** junior division projects competing:

- **Ben Gillette**, 8th grade, individual documentary - *"Hollywood's Red Scare: How Diplomacy and Debate Over Communism Impacted Film"*
- **Kelsi Smith, Makenna Miller, & Charlotte Nigey**, 8th grade, group website - *"The Abortion Debate: How Roe v. Wade Empowered Women While Polarizing a Nation"*
- **JJ McDermott & Will Barquist**, 8th grade, group exhibit - *"Strike 3! Baseball's Out! The 1994 MLB Baseball Strike"*
- **Ella Ripslinger**, 7th grade, individual performance - *"The Lowell Mill Girls: A Revolutionary Step for Women's Activists"*
- **Lilah Rasche & Lucy Wolf**, 7th grade, group documentary - *"Failed Diplomacy in the Black Hills: The Ongoing Debate for the Sioux Nation's Sacred Land"*

Out of 100 junior division group documentaries, Lucy Wolfe and Lilah Rasche's project placed 6th overall in the nation AND received the junior division Iowa Affiliate Award.

4. Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

4.01 Approval of June 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

4.02 Approval of June 16, 2022 Closed Board Meeting Minutes

4.03 Approval of June 23, 2022 Bills Recommended for Payment

4.04 Open Enrollment Requests (Info Only)

The following students have been approved for open enrollment.

Into Bettendorf for 22/23

7 - from Pleasant Valley

12 - from Davenport

Out of Bettendorf 22/23

15 - Pleasant Valley

1 - Davenport

1 - CAM

4.05 Approval of Administrative Recommendations - Personnel

Administrative Resignation

Jillian Dotson/District/Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment/Effective 6/24/2022

Michael Gillotti/District/Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning/Effective date 6/30/2022

Administrative Contract

Michael Gillotti/District/Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning/1.0 FTE/\$8,808-15 day contract/Benefits prorated to length of contract/Effective July 1 – July 21, 2022

Certified Resignation

Scott Berg/GW-PN/Instructional Coach/Effective 6/30/2022

Stephanie Ross/NA/5th Grade/Effective 6/8/2022

Certified Transfer

Taylor Johnson/GW/From 4th to 5th Grade/1.0 FTE/Voluntary transfer replacing Samantha Rottinghaus/Effective 2022-23 school year

Samantha Rottinghaus/GW/From 5th Grade to TAG/1.0 FTE/Voluntary transfer replacing Cheyanne McCann/Effective 2022-23 school year

Certified Approval to Hire

Taylor Anderson/MT/1st Grade/1.0 FTE/BA,3/\$43,990/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Karissa Arnold/Effective 2022-23 school year

Carly DeDecker/NA/2nd Grade/1.0 FTE/MA+15,15/\$71,347/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Adrianna Stegmaier/Effective 2022-23 school year

Anna Fank/BHS/Spanish/1.0 FTE/MA,2/\$48,885/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Christopher Persell/Effective 2022-23 school year

Kathleen Hanssen/NA/Kindergarten/1.0 FTE/MA,14/\$69,000/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Kory Esbaum/Effective 2022-23 school year

Kari Pencil/MT/School Counselor/1.0 FTE/MA,8/\$58,943/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Brenna Clifton/Effective 2022-23 school year

Jessica VandeStadt/HH/School Counselor/1.0 FTE/MA+15,9/\$62,295/Pending licensure and verification/Replacing Scott Schalk/Effective 2022-23 school year

- Megan Wright**/MT/5th Grade/1.0 FTE/BA,2/\$42,415/Pending licensure and verification/New position based on student need/Effective 2022-23school year
Schedule D Resignation
John Nikolopoulos/BHS/Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach/Effective6/8/2022
Va Pheng Vang/BHS/Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach/Effective 6/8/2022
Schedule D Approval to Hire
Leah Kurth/BHS/Assistant Varsity Cross Country Coach/\$4,157/Replacing Christopher Adams/Effective 2022-23 school year
- 4.06 Approval of 2022-2025 Buena Vista University Student Teaching Agreement
4.07 Approval of Preschool Contracts for 2021-2022
4.08 Approval of a \$500.00 donation to BHS Speech and Debate from Debra Rantilla, 6285 Eagle Ridge Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722

5. Informational/Actions.

- 5.01 **Review of 2022 Iowa Legislature.** Representative Gary Mohr provided the Board of Directors a detailed review of what the Iowa Legislature accomplished in the 2022 legislative session.
- 5.02 **Legislative Priorities.** Every year the board has discussion around what we would like to recommend for legislative priorities. Dr. Morse shared what the IASB legislative priorities in 2022 were and what the district legislative priorities were for the last two years. IASB asks districts across the State of Iowa to identify those priorities that they would like to recommend that they will focus on in the upcoming 2023 legislative session. The goal is to have discussion tonight and to bring back some potential recommended priorities at our July Board meeting. IASB would like the priorities submitted by August 12.

Director Lynch said IASB has focused on addressing certain inequities that have been built into Iowa law. He said he knows that the board has been concerned by being bound by an August 23 start date, but he does not think that is going to change.

President Eastman said the three she would like to be considered by our board would be teacher recruitment and licensure, mental health and school funding.

Director Champion is a little hesitant to make mental health a priority because there has been a lot of mental health restructuring in the last two years and they are probably going to want to wait a year or two to see how the funding balances out. The point of the change was to make corrections and better fund it. Dr. Morse does not disagree, but said in the education system it tends to be heavily grant funded and becomes a competitive process. We need to encourage our legislature to provide those dollars across all districts, instead of a competitive grant process. It makes it challenging if you are not one of the districts selected.

Director Smithson would like to make sure that in our school funding that we are keeping public money for public schools. She thinks that is really important for our district.

Director Castro said mental health and school funding are critical for us.

Director Doerder agreed with everything that has been said and emphasized increasing supplemental state aid, especially with inflation.

- 5.03 **Beyond the Bells Presentation.** John Cain gave an overview on what they accomplished this year. The program is going into its fourth year. Last year was the first year of full attendance due to Covid interrupting the first two years. Some nice growth has been made along the way this year. Mr. Cain recognized Program Coordinators Pallavi Dadhwal and Glenda Allison Glaser.

At-risk learners are identified through our district guidelines to be part of the program. The program has been designed around the concept of clubs. Whether it is a reading club or basketball club, they are part of different clubs. There are a variety of clubs. Reading is the main emphasis. Of the two hours (three hours on Wednesdays) that the kids are with us, fifty minutes is dedicated to reading. The other clubs run thirty to forty-five minutes depending on the evening and six-week cycle. The Fitness for Life Club teamed up with the Quad City Storm for a hockey unit and they were able to take a field trip to one of their hockey games. They also engaged several other local teams from the community. They also have Language Clubs. They focused on sign language, Spanish, German and French. The high school teaching staff identified high school students to run the program. Once a week, they provide a social emotional lesson.

Next steps will be to look at our needs assessment. Staffing has been a concern and will continue to be a concern.

- 5.04 **Approval of May Financials.** Director of Finance Brie Collier presented the monthly financial reports for May 2022. Through May, General fund revenue totaled \$47,820,388 and expenses totaled \$43,258,797. The fund balance in the General Fund at May 31, 2022 was \$16,657,665. Also presented were Management, PPEL, Debt Service, SAVE, Food Service, Insurance, Fiduciary, and Activity Funds reports. Any variances have been discussed in prior months.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the May 2022 Financials.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 6-0-1

- 5.05 **Review Natural Gas Pricing Options.** Brie Collier reviewed different natural gas pricing options offered by Woodriver Energy. This included a Price Protection Program, Guaranteed Fixed Price and the Iowa Local Government Risk Pool. Last year the open market rate for gas was around \$3.00. Today the market rate for gas is \$8.00. Some of the local school districts that participate in the Government Risk Pool are Central Dewitt, Camanche and Muscatine.

Ms. Collier said she has been looking at the Government Risk Pool for a while now. It has been around long enough and with enough school districts participating, she feels it is a viable option. With where the gas prices are at right now, she wanted to make sure the Directors had all the necessary information.

- 5.06 **Shared Counselor at Edison with Bettendorf, North Scott, and Pleasant Valley Schools.** Up to this school year, we have had a shared agreement for a licensed clinical social worker at Edison with the AEA and the districts and a half-time school counselor. The licensed clinical social worker has moved out of the AEA. The recommendation is to not fill the school social worker position, but to increase the school counselor position from a half-time to a full-time position. The State approved the request to have this position shared. Salary and benefits of this position will be

split between the three districts.

Motion by Director Champion, seconded by Director Lynch, to approve the shared counselor position at Edison between Bettendorf, North Scott, and Pleasant Valley Schools for the 2022/23 school year.

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

6. Closed Session - Real Estate.

6.01 **Motion to Enter into Closed Session - Real Estate.** Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Champion, to enter closed session in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5 (1)(j), to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the school district would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the school district would receive for that property.

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

Directors entered into closed session at 8:39 pm. Directors return to open session at 9:11 pm.

7. Closed/Exempt Session for Superintendent Evaluation.

7.01 **Motion to Enter into Closed Session.** Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, 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 Smithson, Castro, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich
Motion carried 6-0-1

Directors entered into closed session at 8:39 pm. Directors return to open session at 10:32 pm.

8. Action Item.

8.01 **Superintendent Contract.** Motion by Director Lynch, seconded by Director Smithson, to approve the Superintendent Contract.

Ayes: 5 Directors Smithson, Champion, Doerder, Eastman, Lynch
Nays: 1 Castro
Absent: 1 Director Pyevich

Motion carried 5-1-1

9. Future Events and Informational Items.

- July 28, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting
- August 11, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting
- August 25th, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting
- September 8th, 6:00 PM - Regular Board Meeting

10. Adjournment.

Director Castro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 pm.

Rebecca Eastman, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Skolrood, Secretary