

**BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Monthly Board Meeting
January 16, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Vaughn Mester, Jamie Heinrichs, Laura Bahr, BJ Galle,
Peter Bonin, Kim Schmelz, and Lauren Runde

Absent: None

Administration Present: District Administrator Beau Buchs
Principal Dana Bendorf
Director of Student Services Denise Brania
Dean of Students Jeff Crase

In-person Attendees: 2

Virtual Attendees: 6

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Vaughn Mester called the meeting to order at 7pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

No comments

III. REPORTS

A. School Board

Lauren is going to the School Board Convention this week.

B. Student Services

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report

C. Principal

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report

D. Superintendent

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. CESA stated that there is now a Title V Grant for Math and Reading for rural school districts. We have had five new substitute teachers starting in our district.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

BJ asked to update the December 19, 2022, minutes to include the correct date.

Jamie/Lauren motion and second to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried 7-0

B. Personnel Transactions

A. Appointments:

Buffy Riechers – 7th Grade Girls' Basketball

Audra Brandenburg – Head MS Track

Vaughn Mester – Volunteer Softball Asst.

Matt Johnsen – Volunteer Softball Asst.

Matt Bockhop – Volunteer Baseball Asst.

Brady Wedig – Volunteer Baseball Asst.

Ty Palzkill – Volunteer Baseball Asst.

Tammy Aurit – Head HS Track

Dan Aurit – Asst. HS Track

Paige Aurit – Volunteer HS Track Asst.

B. Resignations:

Brenda Mendez – HS Spanish

Pete asked if there was a breach of contract for the resignation. Mr. Buchs stated that it has been taken care of.

Kim/Laura motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the January 16, 2023 Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

C. Approval of Open Enrollment Caps for the 2023-2024 School Year

Pete asked if PreK would be maxed with these numbers. Mr. Buchs stated that screening for 4K will be in March and that will give us a better understanding of numbers. The board is also looking at the possibility of going to full days for 4K.

BJ/Kim motion and second to approve the Open enrollment Caps as presented for the 2023-2024 School Year. Carried 7-0

D. Approval of Wellness Policy 8510

Vaughn/Kim motion and second to approve the Wellness Policy 8510. Carried 7-0

E. Approval of 2023-24 High School Coursebook Changes

Mr. Buchs stated that our new Ag/Tech teachers has asked for a few changes to the HS Coursebook. Laura asked if a student needed to complete all prerequisites to Animal/Vet Science or if they just needed to complete one before they can complete Animal/Vet Science. Mrs. Bendorf stated that students would need to take Intro to Ag, biology, and Chemistry before they are able to complete the Animal/Vet Science class. The courses have the same content, the labels and descriptions have been updated.

BJ/Kim motion and second to approve the 2023-2024 High School Coursebook with changes as presented. Carried 7-0

F. Discussion & Possible Approval of Belmont-Platteville Wrestling Coop for 2023-24 & 2024-25

Mr. Buchs stated that Platteville has not stated what their decision is for renewing the Coop with Belmont as the host. Platteville has had discussion on if they will renew the Coop as it stands as they may want to be the host moving forward. Mrs. Bendorf attended the Platteville committee meeting when they discussed the future of the coop. Mr. Buchs suggested that we approve the Coop as is because we would like to continue hosting the Coop. Once Platteville makes their decision, the board could revisit this subject if Platteville decides not to renew the Coop with Belmont as the host. Mrs. Bendorf stated that Platteville has created a survey that we have shared out to our High School Wrestling families.

Vaughn/BJ motion and second to approve the Belmont-Platteville Wrestling Coop for the 2023-2024 School years as is. Carried 7-0

G. Discussion & Possible Approval of Therapy Dog to begin in 2023-2024

Mr. Buchs stated that we would have to reach out to families to see if there are any concerns or allergies. Mrs. Brania stated that she has made contact with area schools that have therapy dog(s) and all feel that they are benefiting the students. She also stated that Mrs. Solberg, Mr. Wiese and herself would be the primary handlers. Pete asked what our insurance would look like with a dog. Mr. Buchs stated that we would have to contact the Insurance company to see if we would need to add any coverage. BJ stated that he is concerned that the dog would be taking away other things from staff members. BJ stated that he thinks a therapy dog would be a benefit but is concerned that we need to focus on other items as priority. BJ was concerned that this may take away time spent in school improvement planning. He would like to table the dog for now and discuss it further during another month. Administration shared that they feel smaller additions such as a therapy dog could actually help improve the report card if students have more services at school. Mrs. Brania stated that Brandon, Meghan, and herself feel very comfortable taking on the responsibility of the animal. Pete asked what costs the school would incur with the dog. Mrs. Brania stated that there are two community members that have stepped up to pay for the training. The owner is willing to donate the dog to the school. She also stated that her family is willing to care for the dog and take care of vet bills and daily care. Therefore, the district could have next to no expenses in having the therapy dog. Jamie asked what effect the dog would have on the students. Mrs. Brania stated that there are a few students within Special Ed that would benefit and motivate them along with other students and staff. Kim/Laura motion and second to approve a therapy dog services to begin in 2023-2024. Carried 6-1
Roll Call: Kim-Y, Lauren-Y, Pete-Y, BJ-N, Jamie-Y, Laura-Y, Vaughn-Y

H. Approval of HS Field Trip to Museum of Science & Industry

Mr. Crego would like to take his STEM class on an out-of-state field trip to Chicago. Roughly 15 students would be going.

Laura/Lauren motion and second to approve the STEM field trip to the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, IL.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dana Harcus came to represent the Youth Wrestling Club so they can stay informed on the decisions of the wrestling Coop. She is interested in what Belmont and Platteville have planned. She personally would like to see Belmont continue to host the Coop.

VI. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn at 7:41pm. Carried 7-0