

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

Regular Monthly Board Meeting
December 18, 2023 - 7:00 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Vaughn Mester

Administration Present: District Administrator Beau Buchs
Principal Dana Bendorf
Director of Student Services Denise Brania
Assistant Principal/Activities Director Brandon Wiese

In-person Attendees:

Virtual Attendees:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Lauren Runde called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

No comments

IV. REPORTS

A. School Board

No report

B. Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Mr. Wiese prepared a written report.

C. Student Services

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report.

D. Principal

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report. Mrs. Bendorf would like to give a staff shout out to Matt Bockhop for setting up 6th grade student meetings with teachers. Also, Mr. Lehnherr and Mrs. Edge on the amazing programs. Kim asked what was considered pre-truant? Mrs. Bendorf said students with 3-5 absences are considered pre-truant. BJ thanked Mrs. Bendorf for looking into truancy. Jamie stated that attendance for elementary students should possibly be looked at differently than high school students. Younger students seem to be sick more than older students. It is hard to have the same rules for all students. BJ asked if the district sees higher rates in high school or elementary. Mrs. Bendorf stated that most of our absences are in high school students.

E. Superintendent

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. The heating problem in the commons was a valve that was bad. It is fixed now and running. The village tax bills were sent out. He also talked about the school tax credit. He also gave a Financial Literacy and an Act 20 update.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Buchs stated that the curriculum budget line that is over will be moved to ESSER Funds. The Cyber Security amount will also be paid back with just a small deductible. Jamie/Kim motion and second to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried 6-0

B. Personnel Transactions

Appointments:

McKayna Lemanski – Paraprofessional

Lauren/Kim motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the December 18, 2023, Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 6-0

C. Approval of School Safety Plan

The district is required to review the plan and turn it into the DOJ. Belmont Police and County Police came and toured the school to inspect and help with the plan. We will need to number each interior door and all exterior doors and windows.

BJ/Laura motion and second to approve the 2023 School Safety Plan as presented. Carried 6-0

D. Approval of District Policies 0164, 5350, 5505, 6236, 6610, 7250.01, 7440.02, 7540.08, 8121, 8700, and 8913.

The Policy Committee reviewed the updates to the policies.

Jamie/Lauren motion and second to approve the policies as presented. 6-0

E. Approval of 2024-25 School Calendar

Spring Break has been moved back a week. Thanksgiving has been corrected. The staff has had a chance to view the calendar and have not presented any concerns. We will be doing some jump start days again next year. Lauren asked how many snow days are factored in? Mr. Buchs stated that 5 days have been added to the calendar.

Pete/BJ motion and second to approve the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar. Carried 6-0

F. Approval of 2024-25 High School Coursebook

Mr. Wolch presented the Course Offering List. He stated that the new courses that were started this year have been going great. He would also like to start a Senior Project. Seniors would have to complete a 20-hour service project. He would like to meet with this year's junior students and families to explain. Mr. Buchs would like to thank the staff for taking a serious look at the coursebook and Mr. Wolch for organizing and working with Administration on making sure there are good opportunities for our students.

Kim/Lauren motion and second to approve the 2024-25 High School Coursebook as presented. Carried 6-0

G. Approval of the Overnight Trip to Costa Rica

The window of the trip would be between July 11th and 24th. Mrs. Brandenburg presented information on the trip at the last meeting.

BJ/Laura motion and second to approve the Overnight Trip to Costa Rica for 7

VI. Discussion Items

A. Scoreboards in Gyms

The elementary gym scoreboard is not consistently working at the moment. Mound City bank has agreed to sponsor a scoreboard and will donate \$5,500. There is a possible community member that is willing to donate also. Mr. Buchs is also reaching out to Kwik Trip to see if they would like to sponsor it also. BJ would like to have a further discussion on labeling sponsorships on individual items or listing the sponsorships in one location. Laura asked about the new tv type scoreboards. Mr. Buchs stated that the recommended board would meet all of our needs at this time.

B. Need for Future Operating Referendum

Mr. Buchs has been projecting numbers for future budgets and believes we will need to look at an operating referendum in November 2024. Every school district in CESA 3 has reported that they either have passed an operational referendum, or they will be running on within the next year to year and a half. This is due to the State not giving us funding increases the previous two years. Inflation happened at the same time, which has doubled

our problem keeping up with funding. He would like to work with Baird to ensure we look at what we really need to ask for and not to ask for unnecessary funds from our taxpayers. He stated that last year we were \$229,149 over budget. We have the fund balance to sustain this for a few years but cannot continue in the long term without more revenue. The state pulled increased in 2020-2021 which would have resulted in us having around \$900/pupil over the two years. This stopped over \$320,000 that would be in our budget that would help meet our needs but now we are behind on funding. BJ stated that maybe the district could come up with a list of items that might be cut to show community members what might happen if we do not get more funding.

VII. Public Comments

No comments

VIII. Adjourn

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:47. Carried 6-0