

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

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

December 20, 2021

Regular Session – 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
Dean of Students Jeff Crase
Director of Student Services Denise Brania

Virtual Attendees: 16

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

No Comments

B. Public Input Specific to Agenda Item 5D: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

No comments

IV. REPORTS

A. Other Organizations

No comments

B. School Board

No comments

C. School Board Committees

No comments

D. Student Services

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report. She stated that few of our students will be participating in an Aquatic Program at UW-Platteville. Ms. Arroyo and Mrs. Meyers took some of our students to a free dental clinic in Dodgeville. The students received much needed dental work. ACCESS testing is going well. We are planning to have an ice cream party for the students that were tested. The school is fortunate to receive funds from WI DPI to support any families and students who are currently homeless. Due to DPI guidelines and the amount of money we need to spend, our school is working in a consortium with Mineral Point Schools. Kim asked how that school knows when a student is homeless? Mrs. Brania stated that we have a few forms that families fill out.

E. Principal

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report. Mrs. Bendorf stated that she has completed all of the formal evaluations. All staff members have completed their SLOs and PPGs. Curriculum has been handed out for the ELA Pilot programs. Training set for Wednesday afternoon for Savvas. She also updated the board with the upcoming sports schedule. Jeff Hodgson is working on rschool for a total school schedule. She encourages everyone to sign up to receive notifications for rschool schedules. The Holiday music programs were a huge success. She would like to thank Mrs. Edge, Mr. Lehnerr, and Dee McConnell for their time. Belmont Lions Club was in the building to complete eye screenings on students in pre-k-4th grade. Student council has been doing some wonderful activities the last two weeks.

F. Superintendent

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. Building and Grounds update on the bus barn. Cement work should be finished tomorrow. McNett Electric and Carey's Overhead Doors will be out to complete their parts after the concrete is done. Jeff Hodgson has worked to get a free website for rschool, the school could possibly use the website for advertising. Bus #7 and #5 had issues this past week.

Thank you to Rodger and Kurt repairing bus #5. ESSAR 3 update on remaining balance. Kim, Vaughn, Jamie, and Mr. Buchs will be presenting along with Wayne Anderson at the State Convention next month. English and Head JH Track position are open and need to be filled.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

B. Personnel Transactions

Resignations:

1. Ashley Wingert – MS/HS English

Taylor Halverson, a current student-teacher, is willing to take on the long-term substitute position under the guidance of Dee McConnell for the remainder of the year. Jamie asked if we needed to look into why we are not finding anyone to fill the position. Mr. Buchs stated that there could be many reasons as to why. It is the middle of the school year; there is a current teacher shortage; he feels that having it posted to start next school will help with applications and give us the best chance to find a quality candidate.

BJ/Vaughn motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the December 20, 2021, Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

C. Discussion & Possible Approval of changes to the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

Mr. Buchs stated that we are required to review our plan every six months. As of the end of the school day today, the school is at zero positive cases and zero quarantined due to close contact. Laura asked if that when a person in the household is positive do others in the household need to quarantine if they are vaccinated. Mr. Buchs stated that if you are vaccinated, you do not have to quarantine. Vaughn asked what the teacher input was for the possible change. Kim would like to wait on making a decision to lessen our plan. Jamie agrees that we should wait. Laura would also like to stay on our current course and not change the plan at this time. BJ would like to see everyone in school but does not think now is the time to change. The board will revisit the plan next month.

D. Approval of 2022-23 School Calendar

Lauren/BJ motion and second to approve the 2022-2023 School District Calendar. Carried 7-0

E. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Tool

Next month is when the evaluation of the superintendent needs to be completed. Mr. Buchs present the board with an evaluation process that could possibly be used. Jamie asked if the board needed more of a process of the evaluation? Laura asked if the board should fill out the evaluation together as a group or individually. Mr. Buchs stated that talking with other schools, many of the boards fill it out individually and then come together collectively to finalize.

Laura/Vaughn motion and second to approve the evaluation tool as presented to be used for the Superintendent Evaluation. Carried 7-0

F. Approval of 2022-23 Bell Schedule

BJ/Kim motion and second to approve the 2022-2023 Bell Schedule

G. Approval of 2022-23 High School Coursebook

Mr. Wiese present the board with an overview of the 2022-23 Course Book with the board. He stated that there are seven new courses that the staff would like to add. The Personal Finance class will be reduced to one semester allowing students to have an opportunity to add another elective to their schedule. Jamie feels that personal finance is an important life skill and is worried that we are cutting that in half. Mr. Wiese and Mrs. Bendorf stated some of the course work will be covered in other courses, the main focus will be on finance.

Lauren/Jamie motion and second to approve the 2022-2023 HS Coursebook as presented. Carried 7-0

H. Approval of Senior Class Trip

Three members of the Senior Class presented the board with an itinerary, COVID precautions, and cost breakdown for the trip. Lauren and Vaughn asked what happens if the Girls or Boys Basketball teams advance in tournament play. Mr. Wiese stated that they are willing to adjust the day they leave to allow students to support the basketball teams if there is a conflict. Kim commends the class for raising the amount of money they have. The class is planning to have a fundraiser in late January or early February.

Kim/Lauren motion and second to approve the Senior Class Trip to be taken March 9th-14th, 2022.
Carried 7-0

I. Discussion & Possible Approval of Baseball Facility Project

There was a Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee meeting before this monthly meeting. BJ gave an update on the bids, stating that the committee would like to proceed with the baseball facility project. The committee is asking that the full board approves the overall project tonight and allow the committee to approve the individual bids. BJ showed the board the blueprints of the project. It was stated that a sound system and bleachers are still a possible discussion. Laura asked if we overall feel that this is the best use of our money. BJ and Vaughn stated that the Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee feels it would be one of the top projects. The project is very similar to the field in Darlington. BJ asked the board to agree to no more than \$170,000.

Pete/Vaughn motion and second to approve the Baseball Facility Project at a total cost not to exceed \$170,000 allowing the Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Committee to further vet the bids.

Carried 7-0

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Safety Drill/Administrative Lockdown Drill

The school wants to continue to perform at the highest level regarding School Safety. Brandon Wiese present the board with an ALICE update and the safety drill that happened December 17, 2021. He stated that staff will have a few upcoming meetings with Law Enforcement and local agencies/organizations. Parent information will be sent home.

B. State Report Card

Mrs. Brania presented the State Report Card to the board. Jamie asked if the board could do anything more to help with raising the report card? Our district scored an Exceeds Expectations score.

C. LED Lighting Audit & Assessment on January 11th

Mr. Buchs stated that the district was contacted to do a free LED audit on January 11th. The district will then see how this may benefit our district both from a light quality aspect as well as financially.

D. Strategic Plan

Mr. Buchs presented a Strategic Plan outline to the board. Vaughn asked if it would be beneficial to have a Strategic Committee within the board. Kim stated that the goals could be covered under the existing committees.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

VII. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Carried 7-0

Minutes taken by Samantha Gempler