

BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

February 12, 2024
Special Meeting – 5:45 PM

Present: Vaughn Mester, Lauren Runde, Laura Bahr, Kim Schmelz, BJ Galle, Pete Bonin, Jamie Heinrichs, Denise Brania, Brandon Wiese, Dana Bendorf, & Beau Buchs
Keyes Distance Learning Lab
646 E. Liberty Street
Belmont, WI 53510

DISTRICT MISSION

Our mission is to prepare students so they can pursue their aspirations and contribute to the world in partnership with families and community.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 5:46 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Vaughn made a motion to approve the Gymnastics Coop with Platteville & Lancaster for 2024-2025. Jamie Heinrichs seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Facilities Walkthrough and Discussion: The administration and school board did a tour of the building including the locker room areas, wrestling room, fitness center, hallways, and commons.
 - a. Review of Potential Facilities Projects: Mr. Buchs shared a list of building/facility needs. The board discussed priority of needs and these five topics came up. A priority list will be discussed in the future to see what else may also need to be done. 1. Parking Lot 2. Locker Rooms 3. Updating Paint in the MS/HS areas 4. Lighting Upgrades 5. Matching all doors to the master key.
- B. Referendum Options and Potential Needs: Mr. Buchs shared information regarding referendums and some discussion took place on the need for an operating referendum. Mr. Buchs highlighted that due to inflation, a large number of school districts are in the similar position of needing operational referendums. Rising costs and cost of living increases are driving this issue. Mr. Buchs presented recurring and non-recurring referendums as options. Vaughn suggested that we consider a four year non-recurring and then re-evaluating future needs from there. Jamie proposed that we survey our constituents to see what feedback we receive. He also mentioned that we could include questions regarding future building/capitol projects that we may need to consider.
- C. Long Term Budget Forecasting: Mr. Buchs shared some drafts of budget forecasts and suggested that we consider an operational referendum in November of 2024. Mr. Buchs proposed that we consider asking for \$625,000 in year one. Approximately \$300,000 will be needed to redo the parking lot while the remainder would be needed to operate the school. Mr. Buchs proposed that we ask for \$350,000-\$400,000 in subsequent years. Mr. Buchs did highlight projected costs including curriculum, vehicle upgrade of a van, and new school bus purchases on alternating years to keep our fleet up to date. Mr. Buchs used fairly conservative projections on enrollment and stated that the Baird enrollment projections were more aggressive than he was comfortable with. Enrollment does drive state funding and the revenue limits so Mr. Buchs didn't want to present overly aggressive numbers which would be misleading. Mr. Buchs also presented projections on future cost increases and equalized values which he stated are very difficult to project as the past few years have been historically high increases.
- D. Marketing of the School District and Enrollment Trends: Mr. Buchs shared some information that was received from the Southwest Wisconsin Planning Commission. We are the only school district in this corner of the state with enrollment growth over the past 20 years. With birth rates declining, this speaks to something positive happening in our school system. Discussion took place on how to market our district and how that could attract continued enrollment growth. More discussion will take place at future meetings on how we will move forward with this.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

V. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. BJ motioned, Pete seconded, Motion passed 7-0.