

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

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

February 21, 2022

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: 9

**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

III. Visitor Presentation by Troy Maggied - Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission: Troy presented data on birth rates, population trends, and projections for the future. Information was shared about the six county area as well as Lafayette County.

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Other Organizations  
No comments
- B. School Board  
a. State Education Convention Information  
Our district administrator, Beau Buchs and three board members, Vaughn, Jamie, and Kim attended and presented at the convention. They each summarized the sessions they attended.
- C. School Board Committees  
No comments
- D. Student Services  
Mrs. Brania prepared a written report. She presented Diagnostic Results for I-Ready Reading and Math.
- E. Principal  
Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report. She added that our students have had a lot of success this past month.
- F. Superintendent  
Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. He added that he has spoken to our insurance company and to our staff members about what may be most cost effective while allowing for minimal changes to health services that are currently provided. He would like to compare insurance plans that are available and bring them to the board for a decision at a later meeting. Information should be received before the March meeting. Mr. Buchs also shared that the district has applied for several grants for the kitchen, breakfast programs, and that an effort is being put in to earn potential FEMA dollars.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Approval of Consent Agenda  
Pete noted that his name appears on the Building and Grounds Minutes twice and BJ is not listed. Mr. Buchs stated that he will make that change.  
Lauren/Kim motion and second to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried 7-0
- B. Personnel Transactions

Appointments:

1. Brooke Wiese – Summer School Coordinator
2. Ryne Wiegel – MS Girls Basketball
3. Allison Weegans – MS Track Head Coach
4. James Freeman – Assistant Softball Coach

Resignations:

1. Becca Hoyer – MS Girls Basketball and HS Track Assistant

Laura/Pete motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the February 21, 2022, Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

- C. Approval of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Administrative Contracts being extended for Jeff Crase, Denise Brania, Dana Bendorf, and Beau Buchs.

BJ inquired about the extending of the contracts and not letting the contract expire and issuing new contracts. Mr. Buchs and Mrs. Bendorf stated that this is common practice and that if the board has any concerns now would be the time of year to not extend. This is not a rolling contract, but a year extension.

Jamie/Lauren motion and second to approve extending the Administrative Contracts for Jeff Crase, Denise Brania, Dana Bendorf, and Beau Buchs for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Years. Carried 7-0

- D. Approval of Board Policy Updates in Sections 0000, 1000, 2000, 3000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000 Vaughn/BJ motion and second to approve policy updates in the sections as presented. Carried 7-0

- E. Approval of TC Networks Contract for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

TC Networks is proposing no more than a 4% increase in price for the next two years. Jamie inquired as to why this contract needs to be a two-year contract. Mr. Buchs stated that it doesn't have to be but with inflation, we do not know how much their cost will change over the next two years. BJ asked if we would be able to approve a one-year contract. Kim would like us to approve a two-year contract. Kim asked what was available in our area for service. It was agreed that TC Networks is the company that had enough employees to cover everything we need.

BJ motion to have a one-year contract. The motion was not carried.

Kim/Pete motion and second to approve the contract with TC Networks for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Years as presented. Carried 7-0

- F. Approval of purchasing Halo Safety Systems

Halo Safety System is a sensor that most commonly goes into areas, mainly in restrooms and locker rooms, to detect chemical spills, Vape, THC, etc. Mr. Buchs would like to use some of our ESSER III or referendum funds to pay for the system. Laura asked how sensitive the systems are. Mr. Buchs stated that you can adjust the sensitivity of the system. The system can also pick up threatening sound/voice levels and will send a notification to administration. Lauren asked if the system is always on? Mr. Buchs stated that the system will always be on. There are quite a few districts surrounding ours that have implemented this system and seem happy with the results.

Vaughn/Laura motion and second to approve the purchase and installation of Halo Safety Systems as presented. Carried 7-0

- G. Discussion and Possible Approval to purchase a Van

Mr. Buchs stated that there are currently not many options available for bigger vans. Kim stated that CESA 3 just started a contract with Enterprise and that might be something to look into. Laura asked about a smaller bus. Mr. Buchs stated that you would need a bus license to drive and the cost is more than a van. Mr. Buchs would like to table this and revisit at another time.

- H. Approval of changes to the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Mr. Buchs stated that for the last two weeks, we have had zero positive cases in our school community. The county has changed their policy on contact tracing and states that it is no longer required except for high-risk situations. Mr. Buchs stated that he feels we still need to contact trace and let people know to keep an eye on things. Laura asked what the specific changes were. Mr. Buchs provided a document of the updated plan. Mr. Buchs stated that he has heard that on March 12, some of the Federal mandates could change.

Jamie/Kim motion and second to approve the changes to the In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan as presented. Carried 7-0

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AGR Report

Mrs. Brania and Mrs. Bendorf presented the report to the board. This is the mid-year review. AGR (Achievement Gap Reduction) shows grades K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade growth. They showed the board how each grade has grown within each area assessment.

B. LED Light Audit / UWP Energy Audit Program

Mr. Buchs stated that he and board will revisit this at the committee level first before bringing back as discussion for the whole Board of Ed. Upper 90 Energy stated that UWP is looking for a district to work with one of their programs. Mr. Buchs will be meeting with them to get more information.

C. 2022-2023 School Budget Update

Mr. Buchs stated that there is a lot of discussion across CESA and the state about using the projected surplus of money to put into education. To meet the current inflationary rates to the cost of living, Belmont would need approximately \$146,000 which is close to \$400/pupil of additional revenue to make this happen. There are some numbers being pushed by using district's data from across the state with lawmakers and lobbyists are asking for about \$343 increase per pupil from state funding along with an increase in Special Education reimbursement from the State. He is hoping that the state will give the school some of that surplus so staff could receive a cost-of-living raise and continue offering competitive pay for our staff. Mr. Buchs shared that some districts are talking about operating referendums should the state not increase funding. Mr. Buchs stated that he is hopeful the State will increase funding due to the cost of living increases.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

VII. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Carried 7-0

Minutes taken by Samantha Gempler