

Belmont Community School Board of Education Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2021

Regular Monthly Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Member Present: Vaughn Mester, Jamie Heinrichs, Laura Bahr, BJ Galle, Pete Bonin, Kim Schmelz, and Lauren Runde

Absent: None

Administration Present: District Administrator, Beau Buchs

Director of Student Services, Denise Brania

Principal, Dana Bendorf

Virtual Attendees: 45

In Person Attendees: 2

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

None

IV. REPORTS

A. District Administrator

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report for the board. His report covered his latest blog, updates from the WASDA Superintendent Conference, increase in admission prices for the Six River Conference, the District's financial audit, SIS and Website update, a Hudl update, discussion on Joint State Convention, and a Staffing update. Mr. Buchs thanked Bob Runde, Tony Kunz, Tim Carey, and the staff at Belmont for their help in moving the football goalposts. He also wanted to make a clarification to the Nick Cushman Memorial. The donation that was given to the school was from Marilyn Cushman. Laura Bahr asked about adding a Hudl camera system to the elementary gym. Mr. Buchs stated that the school could look into making that happen, but currently the update is for the football & baseball field. Mr. Buchs also updated the board on the transportation of our Cross Country athletes. He stated that the administration team and Jeff Hodgson are looking into the best way to transport the athletes to Shullsburg.

B. Principal

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report for the board which included upcoming school events. She let the board know that she has created a correspondence with staff to send out information on a weekly basis. She updated the board on scheduling, Math Expression training for staff, and events that have happened and are coming up. She thanked Brooke Wiese for taking on the Summer School Coordinator role and wanted to let the board and parents know that there is a Summer School Survey to give feedback to the school on their child's experience.

C. Student Services

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report for the board with updates on the new special education and ELL teachers, scheduling, MLSS, and mailing state assessment results to families.

D. School Board Committees

No Report

E. School Board

No Report

F. Other Organizations

No Report

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

Pete asked what our policy stated with handling our EMS/Fire Department staff who earned overtime due to a call. Mr. Buchs stated that he will share that policy with the board and look into the answer. Pete also had concerns about rolling the practice field now, when it could be more effective in the Spring. Laura had corrections to the curriculum minutes; administration present should state staff present and "he" should be Mr. Buchs in the first paragraph.

Laura/Kim motion and second to approve the consent agenda as presented with the corrections to the Curriculum Committee Minutes. Carried 7-0

B. Personnel Transactions

Appointments:

- 1) James Werlein - HS Science Teacher
- 2) Tamara Thorsen - K-6 Special Education Teacher
- 3) Taylor Morrissey - 7th Grade Volleyball Coach
- 4) Ashlyn Austin - Assistant Musical Director
- 5) Kolton Westemeier - JV/Asst. Football Coach
- 6) Tristen Gilbertson - JV/Asst. Football Coach

- 7) Trevor Kattre - JH Asst. Football Coach
- 8) Jeff Christensen - Volunteer MS Football Asst. Coach
- 9) Kim Kuehn and Wendi Kletecka - Forensics
- 10) Mitch Austin - Varsity Boys' Basketball
- 11) TJ Anderson - Asst. Varsity Boys' Basketball
- 12) Chip Flanagan - JV Boys' Basketball

Resignations:

- 1) Ashlee Barr - K-6 Special Education Teacher
- 2) Troy Updike - JV/Asst. Football Coach
- 3) Jake Wedig - JV/Asst. Football Coach

Pete asked for appointment number ten to be voted on separately.

BJ/Laren motion and second to approve appointments 1-9, 11, 12, and all resignations. Carried 7-0

BJ/Laura motion and second to approve appointment number 10. Carried 6-1

Roll Call: Jamie - Y, Laura - Y, Pete - N, BJ - Y, Vaughn - Y, Kim - Y, Lauren - Y

C. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Donation

Belmont Sports Boosters donating Senior Banners for 2021-22 School Year.

Jamie/Laura motion and second to accept the 2021-22 Senior Banners as a donation from the Belmont Sports Boosters. Carried 7-0

D. Approval of Bread Bid for 2021-22 School Year

Mr. Buchs stated that Nancy Edwards was a great help in securing this bid from Bimbo Bakery and wanted to thank her for her help.

Vaughn/BJ motion and second to accept the bread bid as presented from Bimbo Bakery for the 2021-22 School Year. Carried 7-0

E. Approval of Milk/Dairy Bid for 2021-22 School Year

Two bids were received for milk/dairy. Mr. Buchs recommends the bid from Dean.

Lauren/Pete motion and second to accept the milk/dairy bid as presented from Dean Dairy for the 2021-22 School Year. Carried 7-0

F. Approval of Fuel Bid for 2021-22 School Year

Mr. Buch stated that the Truck Stop would not give a bid this year due to its own circumstances. He stated that the Mini Mart gave a slight discount on their bid. There was a discussion on the concern for the quality of fuel during the colder months and what could be done to help with that. There also was discussion on having our own fuel barrel.

Vaughn/BJ motion and second to accept the fuel bid as presented from First Capitol Mini Mart for the 2021-22 School Year. Carried 7-0

G. Approval of Bus Maintenance Bid for 2021-22 School Year

Vaughn/Lauren motion and second to accept the bus maintenance bid from Truck country for the 2021-22 School Year. Carried 7-0

H. Approval of Consumer Education & Business Curriculum

Mr. Buchs stated that we currently do not have a curriculum for our business program. Kim asked about the cost of the curriculum. Mr. Buchs stated that the cost would be \$3,618.

Kim/Jamie motion and second to accept the purchase and adoption of the Ramsey Education Business Education and Consumer Education curriculum. Carried 7-0

I. FFA Convention Overnight Trip – October 27th-30th

Mr. Buchs stated that overnight trips would be dependent on how safe the virus is during the trip and assuming that none of the events get cancelled.

Pete/Lauren motion and second to approve the FFA to take an overnight trip to Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention on October 27th-30th, 2021. Carried 7-0

J. Trees for Tomorrow Overnight Trip – September 26th-29th

BJ/Laura motion and second to approve the 8th grade class to take an overnight trip to Trees for Tomorrow on September 26th-29th, 2021. Carried 7-0

K. Discussion and Possible Approval of Teacher Aide pay

Mr. Buchs stated that the starting hourly rate for teacher aides was raised to \$14.75 in the spring after the existing contracts were completed. This increase left two aides below the \$14.75/hour rate. Mr. Buchs recommends a 2% increase per year of service starting from the new hourly rate.

Vaughn/Laura motion and second to approve Maryellen Engelke's contract reflect a \$15.05/hour rate and Cathy Rice's contract reflect a \$15.35/hour rate. Carried 7-0

L. Discussion and Possible Approval of New Sound System for HS Gym

The Building and Grounds Committee had a presentation from LifeLine to update the sound system in the High School Gym. They will come in and train staff members that will run the system. Kim asked if the new system would sync up with Hudl. Mr. Buchs and Mrs. Bendorf said that it would not, but with the better quality sound, Hudl should pick up more of the sound coming from the system.

Lauren/Pete motion and second to purchase a new sound system as presented from Lifeline at a cost of \$29,500. Carried 7-0

M. Discussion of Reopening Survey Results and Possible Approval of a Reopening Plan for 2021-22 School Year

Mr. Buchs presented the survey results to the board. They were as follows: In students 11 and under, what would you like to see the policy be in Belmont Schools? 106 responses, 84% mask optional, 16% masks

required. In students 12 and over, what would you like to see the policy be in Belmont Schools? 109 responses, 86.2% mask optional, 13.8% masks required. Per CDC mandate, masks will be required on the busses, will you still utilize bus services? 109 responses, 64.2% yes, 35.8% no. Would you like a virtual option to be offered in the 2021-22 school year? If a virtual option is offered, it will be through a 3rd party program. 106 responses, 81.1 no, 18.9% yes. If you answered yes to virtual option, how many students would you want in this type of program? 21 responses, 33.3% - 2, 28.6% - 3, 23.8% - 1, 9.5% - 4. Mr. Buchs also presented the board with a return to school proposal for the upcoming school year. It is a 3 page document. pages 2-3 are in a matrix. He stated that many of the districts around Belmont are also using this chart. The matrix chart has four risk levels and colors:

- 2% or under for staff or students that test positive would be in the “blue” zone. Masks will be optional.
- 2.1-5% of the student and staff population with a positive test would be in the “yellow” zone. Masks would be recommended and physical distancing/cohorting will be used when possible
- 5.1-8% of the student and staff population with a positive test would be in the “orange” zone. Masks will be required when you can’t socially distance. Social distancing accommodations made to each classroom to accommodate better physical distancing, cohorting: classroom schedules built with cohorting as a priority.
- Over 8% of the student and staff population with a positive test would be in the “red” zone. Masks would be required at all times indoors. Classrooms and schedules re-built to accommodate optimal distancing and cohorting.

Mr. Buchs stated that we will try to distance the students as much as possible from the start. He stated that the school board can always revisit the numbers and percentages of the levels and adjust at any time. Laura asked who made up the Covid team? Mr. Buchs stated that it is made up with the admin team and county nurse. Laura asked how often the Covid Team would be looking at the current cases? Mr. Buchs stated that cases would be monitored daily. Kim asked about socially distancing and how many feet is that? Mr. Buchs stated that the recommendation is with a mask 3 feet and without a mask 6 feet. He stated that the school will do their best to distance as much as they can. Jamie asked if the matrix will be used as a guideline, but if administration would be able to use their own judgement and make new decisions? Mr. Buchs stated that the matrix is a guideline and the administration team would be regularly addressing numbers and situations. He stated that if the board approves the matrix, those are the numbers that the administration team will go by, but they can be revisited at any time and adjusted accordingly by the board. Mr. Buchs wanted to point out that if any student or staff chooses to wear a mask, they are welcome to. Laura stated that she felt some of the percentages were high, wondering if 8% was realistic or if the percentages should be lower. Mr. Buchs stated that the school will remain flexible and adjust when needed. Laura asked about adding a protocol on visitors to the building. Mr. Buchs stated that visitors will not be allowed in the building unless it is for educational purposes. Visitors will be approved by the administration team. Kim added that if you have a student and they are sick, please keep them home. She urges teachers and coaches to tell the students it is ok to miss if they are sick. Laura asked who would be teaching the students virtually that are quarantined if we are not offering a virtual option. Mr. Buchs stated that students that are placed in quarantine, do not have the choice of going virtual and the school teachers will teach them virtually for that short period of time. Laura inquired about the Covid vaccine waiver that was included in registration? Mr. Buchs stated that it was saying if you are 12 and older and vaccinated, it is ok for the school to check the registry list. He stated that students do not have to provide proof of vaccination. He stated that staff will have to provide the district with their vaccination status, but the district cannot ask why staff members are not vaccinated.

BJ/Pete motion and second to approve the Reopening Plan as presented for the 2021-22 School Year as presented. Carried 7-0

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Strategic Planning Session on August 21st

Mr. Buchs stated that Dr. Anderson will be here on Saturday to help with the session. The meeting should not take longer than three hours.

b. Update on Summer Construction Projects

Mr. Buchs stated that Rural is completed with their part of the parking. The bus barn should be here in October and the color will be grey with a black roof.. Kitchen and Cafeteria are getting closer to being done. The steel work and plumbing will be done shortly. The ceilings will hopefully be done before school starts. The floor will hopefully be done next week. A new shop window was ordered and will be replaced.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VII. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Carried 7-0

Minutes taken by Samantha Gempler