

**Belmont Community School
Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

January 17, 2022

Closed Session – 6:30 PM

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Vaughn Mester, Jamie Heinrichs (virtual), 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: 5

In Person Attendees: 0

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. President Vaughn Mester called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Lauren Runde made a motion, seconded by Pete Bonin to move into closed session per sec. 19.85(1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes for consideration of evaluation of the District Administrator. Motion carried 7-0.

Lauren Runde made a motion, seconded by Vaughn Mester to move back into open session at 6:58p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

No Comments

IV. REPORTS

A. District Administrator:

The bus barn is now in use. Currently looking into exhaust fan needs. The gutters are on and the drivers are happy and thankful for the new building. The LED light audit was done on January 16th to determine potential savings to the school. Energy Solutions out of Alpha Controls will be doing a free energy audit. This includes possibilities to make the building more efficient. The Holiday Party was a nice addition to the holiday season. State Convention will be this week and Kim, Vaughn, Jamie and Mr. Buchs will be presenting along with Dr. Anderson regarding the transition of the Superintendent position. A parent asked about adding a Dance or Cheer team. More info will be gathered and there will be discussion this next month or in March. Mr. Buchs is hoping to schedule Troy Maggied to come talk about housing in the community. Positions in the school that are still open are 7-12 English Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year and Head JH Track for Spring 2022. Mr. Buchs also highlighted upcoming events. See the District Website for the entire schedule.

B. Principal:

More info to come next month on scheduling, evaluations and curriculum. Mrs. Bendorf stated that the staff is doing a great job working together. We are very fortunate to have the staff that we do.

C. Student Services

Mrs. Brania will begin reviewing staff and student caseloads for the 2022-2023 school year to look at what services we may need to offer in special education. Continuing to hold IEP meetings with students and families. Mrs. Myers is setting up college visits for our ELL students at UWP and SWTC. Mrs. Brania also gave an update on BRAVE TIME and district testing. She met with the Director of Special Education and the

School Social Worker from Mineral Point Schools to discuss how to use funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless consortium grant. Mrs. Brania also expressed thankfulness for all of the coverage the staff has been doing.

Mr. Crase added that the staff is doing great helping each other.

D. School Board Committees

No Comments

E. School Board

No Comments

F. Other Organizations

No Comments

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Vaughn Mester, seconded by BJ Galle to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried 7-0

B. Approval of Bids for Baseball Project

Lauren Runde asked about the estimated start and end dates of the project. BJ Galle stated that the project will start after July 4th and go about 8 weeks. He stated that Mr. Kattre is working on scheduling events around the project.

a. Excavation

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Vaughn Mester to accept a bid from RURAL EXCAVATING at a cost of \$27,415. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Cement work

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Pete Bonin to accept a bid from J&T CONCRETE at a cost of \$28,580. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Backstop/Fence

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Pete Bonin to accept a bid from FINK FENCING at a cost of \$35,280. Motion carried 7-0.

d. Masonry

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Vaughn Mester to accept a bid from KIRK & DICK DROESSLER at a cost of \$14,250. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Audio System

Mr. Buchs explained the quote is good for 30 days and prices are continuing to go up. This system will replace what is in the press box and can serve the baseball field as well. BJ Galle asked if the latest system that was installed has had any issues. Mrs. Bendorf and Mr. Buchs stated that there have not been any issues that they know of.

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Lauren Runde to accept a bid from LIFELINE AUDIO VIDEO TECHNOLOGIES at a cost of \$28,839. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approval of Girls Gymnastics Cooperative with Platteville/Lancaster for 2022-23 & 2023-24

Motion by Vaughn Mester, seconded by Kim Schmelz to approve the girls gymnastics cooperative with Platteville/Lancaster for the 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 school years. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Approval of Open Enrollment Caps for the 2022-2023 School Year

Mr. Buchs stated that the enrollment cap recommendations are the same as the approved amount last year. We are full for Special Education. Open enrollment will continue to be a variable from year to year. March 24-25th

will be preK screening in which there will be a better idea of potential students coming in. Jamie Heinrichs asked if the caps will restrict us. Mr. Buchs explained the caps should not restrict us and reminded that there are not caps for Middle/High school grade levels.

Motion by Lauren Runde, seconded by Kim Schmelz to approve the open enrollment caps as presented for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Discussion and Approval of In-Person & Continuity of Services Plan

Mr. Buchs state that CESA sends out a summary of quarantine protocols amongst schools. The trend has started with some schools letting close contacts remain in school with mask wearing. We currently follow the health department guidelines. We also want to keep the most students in school as possible. It continues to be very difficult to contact trace. There have been times when people choose not to get tested or they may test at home and not share the results. Kids would need to comply with masking if close contacts were to remain in school. Data is changing every day and it is also taking longer to get tests results back. 19 kids will be out tomorrow due to covid-19. We are currently enforcing the 5 day isolation as per the CDC.

BJ Galle had the concern of teachers having to enforce mask wearing for students who are determined to be close contacts. Mr. Crase said that some parents request their children wear masks and that has been going well. BJ Galle questioned whether we should change right now in the middle of rising numbers. Kim Schmelz stated that SWTC has changed their protocols, but each school is in a unique situation. Jamie Heinrichs asked about data from other schools that have switched. Mr. Buchs stated that it is hard to tell from what he has seen from other schools due to many variables. Mr. Buchs reinforced that when kids are sick, they should stay home. Vaughn Mester felt that this did not seem like the right time to make a change. He asked if there was any staff feedback. Mr. Buchs stated that there was very little staff feedback on this topic. Kim Schmelz asked how mask wearing has been going this last week and Laura Bahr asked what percentage of the school has been wearing masks during the last week when masks have been recommended. The Administration estimated that a very large portion of the students in Elementary grades had been wearing them and a smaller portion had been wearing them in the Middle/High school grades. Laura Bahr asked if it was considered to just have everyone wear masks for a week or two. Mrs. Bendorf said that this may cause much hardship, especially at the Middle/High school level. After much discussion, it was determined to continue with the current guidelines that are in place. This topic will be revisited in a couple weeks. No action was taken.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. First Reading of Board Policies in Sections 0000, 1000, 2000, 3000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000

Mr. Buchs stated that these revisions include lots of common sense changes. He stated to take a look at them before next month when they will be approved.

B. 2022-2023 School Budget Update

Mr. Buchs directed the board to the list of referendum funds and Esser III funds. There are a few more items to sort out in Building and Grounds projects. Everything needs to be approved and earmarked by March. Mr. Buchs is hopeful the per pupil revenues will go up. CPI projections are unheard of in recent years. Need to balance with fair raises and insurance costs. Looking into coop options for insurance and working on preliminary budget and ideas on how to retain staff. Mr. Buchs said the State Superintendent recommended to spend all of the Esser III funds. Our enrollment is projecting fairly similarly but Mr. Buchs will continue to monitor this. In the long term, there is no guarantee for new money.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pete Bonin said a person was looking for the most recent agendas and minutes on the school's website and could not find them. Mr. Buchs said that he would look into this. It was reminded that minutes are not approved until the next month's meeting after which they will be posted.

VII. ADJOURN

Motion by BJ Galle, seconded by Peter Bonin to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes taken by Laura Bahr