

**Belmont Community School**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
March 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: 4

**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**

Andy Riechers would like to start taking students on an European Trip possibly in 2024. He is wondering what the policies are for taking out of country trips. He would like to ask the community where they would like to go. He would try to not overlap the band/choir and Spanish club trips. Kim asked if Andy to clarify community input. Andy stated that he would ask what the community feels is the best opportunity for the students. It could possibly be an opportunity for community members to attend.

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. School Board**

Kim gave a CESA update. She stated that Jamie Nutter completed his dissertation. He completed this on the reading levels compared to the culture.

**B. School Board Committees**

**C. Student Services**

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report. She added that next week, Mitch Austin, Kelsea Myers, and Pilar Arroyo are hosting a Hispanic Family Night.

**D. Principal**

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report. She wanted to acknowledge our Valedictorian for the 2022 Class is Tyler Simmons and 2022 Salutatorian is Hailey Jentz.

**E. Superintendent**

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. He gave a Skyward update. He also stated that he is working with FEMA and other grants to see what is available for our district. He also gave an update on additional sport options. The Administration team along with our Athletic Director feel that our student numbers do not support adding more sports/groups. He is still open to future program evaluations, but as of now, he does not feel it is an option based on enrollment numbers and being fiscally responsible. He gave an update on spending remaining Referendum Funds. He also gave an update on the baseball project. The district does have a few job openings for next year. He would like to commend our staff on responding to student and building needs.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Pete was wondering if the credit card limit could be raised so that staff would not have to be reimbursed. Mr. Buchs stated that he would investigate another increase. He was also wondering if all Fund 21 accounts were up to date. Mr. Buchs stated that it is not completely fixed, but we are getting there. Jamie wondered if the coaches were getting monthly statements or how they know where their accounts are at Mr. Buchs stated that with Skyward, the coaches will be able to see their accounts at any time and the District will begin using Skyward Business in the next month. Pete was also wondering about the employee mileage. He was wondering if their vehicle would be covered under our insurance if something were to happen. Mr. Buchs stated that employees that use their own vehicles, give the district their driver's license and they are covered under our insurance. Mrs. Brania stated that the employees are using their vehicles to transport students and that she would like to get another school vehicle. Pete would also like to know how much Dr. Anderson has billed the

school. Mr. Buchs shared that Dr. Anderson has not turned in any hours with Belmont as he decided to take on a different Interim Superintendent Position. He has helped via email and phone when needed.

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

B. Personnel Transactions

Mr. Buchs stated to the board that Pilar Arroyo will be taking her maternity leave starting April 1, 2022 and returning November 2022.

Appointments:

1. Anthony Zilliox – MS-HS English Teacher for 2022-23 School Year
2. Dayna Fiedler – Assistant Softball Coach
3. Vaughn Mester and Matt Johnson – Volunteer Softball Coach
4. Matt Bockhop – Volunteer Baseball Coach

Lauren/BJ motion and second to approve #1, 2 and 4 of the personnel transactions listed on the March 21, 2022, Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

BJ/Lauren motion and second to approve #3 of the personnel transactions listed on the March 21, 2022, Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 6-0 Vaughn abstained

C. Approval of CESA 3 Annual Contract for 2022-2023

Mr. Buchs stated that he is going to ask CESA to add the Title One Network. Kim asked what Education for Employment was. Mr. Buchs stated that it is a resource that Mr. Wiese and Mr. Hodgson use for High School Students for Career & Academic Planning. Kim also asked if the Gifted and Talented allows us to do reading competitions and other competitions. Mr. Buchs confirmed.

Kim/Vaughn motion and second to approve the CESA 3 Contract for the 2022-23 School Year. Carried 7-0

D. Approval of Overhead Doors for Dugout Storage Room

Mr. Buchs stated that there will be a storage room on the end of the storage room. He would like the doors to match the new concession stand.

Vaughn/Lauren motion and second to approve the purchase of overhead doors for the dugout from Carey's Overhead Doors at a price of \$1661. Carried 7-0

E. Approval of Electric Work at Baseball Project

Mr. Buchs stated that electric needs to be trenched to the dugouts.

Jamie/Pete motion and second to approve the electrical work from McNett Electric at a price of \$2100. Carried 7-0

F. Approval of Lumber Package for Dugouts

Mr. Buchs stated that he had two bids for lumber. One for treated lumber and one for untreated lumber. The price listed is for treated lumber.

Pete/Vaughn motion and second to approve the dugout construction by Todd Barrett at a price of \$7557.82. Carried 7-0

G. Approval to Purchase trees/shrubs for Baseball Project

Mr. Buchs received bids from Aspen Ridge and Instant Shade. Instant Shade will plant all the plants for us. Aspen Ridge will not plant.

BJ/Pete motion and second to approve the purchase of trees/shrubs as presented at a cost of \$2850 from Instant Shade. Carried 6-0 Laura abstained from voting

H. Approval of bid for final infield rebuild

Mr. Buchs stated that we will need to rebuild the pitcher's mound and place the bases. Pete asked if the price included the plate and bases. Mr. Buchs stated that the price was just for installation.

Lauren/Kim motion and second to approve the bid for infield work to be done by Midwest Athletic Fields at the baseball field at a price of \$3875. Carried 7-0

I. Approval of Lawncare bid for 2022

Mr. Buchs stated that we received two bids, one from Tippet Lawn Care and one from Hodgson Lawn Service. Pete would like to discuss grass height at the next building and grounds meeting.

BJ/Kim motion and second to approve the lawncare bid to be done by Hodgson Lawncare at a cost of \$200 per mowing. Carried 7-0

J. Approval of Students Enrollment in College Courses

This approval needs to happen every March and October.

Vaughn/Lauren motion and second to approve student enrollment in college courses. Carried 7-0

## VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Budget Projections

It is hard to budget with current pricing going up. Health insurance is a big cost and Mr. Buchs feels he should have a better idea on that cost soon. He received a free report to compare our budget dollars on various items to other schools in Wisconsin. He feels it is important to monitor what our neighbors are doing and trying to feel what is best with salary increases. Mr. Buchs shared that he would like to give as close to 4.7% raise as

possible as this is the cost-of-living increase which has been used in the past to help guide this decision. However, we must have the revenues to support whatever increase that would be given. At this point, the State has not decided if they will increase the per pupil dollars for next year to help meet budget needs due to increased cost-of-living factors.

B. Health Insurance Projected Costs & Options

Mr. Buchs stated that he is getting bids on health insurance. He met with both Tricor and Liz Dannenberg from Worksite Insurance Services. He stated that the school is working on improving costs and options. Kim was wondering if they ever lock in a rate for more than one year. Mr. Buchs stated that for our size district, we can not do this as we don't have a large enough group that is insured. The initial quote through Medical Associates is a 7.2% increase but Mr. Buchs feels we can do better than this. More information should be received within the next 2-3 weeks. Mr. Buchs shared that he will be discussing with the staff on Friday during the inservice.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brandi Riechers shared concerns about litter boxes being placed in the restrooms at school. Mr. Buchs & the Administration stated that this is not happening. Brandi also stated that she would like to see a dance team at the school. She stated that she understood the reasoning the school is not allowing it this year.

IX. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Carried 7-0