

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

Regular Monthly Board Meeting
April 15, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Vaughn Mester, Lauren Runde, Jamie Heinrichs, BJ Galle, Laura Bahr,
Peter Bonin, and Kim Schmelz

Administration Present: District Administrator Beau Buchs
Principal Dana Bendorf
Director of Student Services Denise Brania
Assistant Principal/Activities Director Brandon Wiese

In-person Attendees: 0

Virtual Attendees: 4

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Lauren motioned, Laura seconded to enter closed session. Motion carried 7-0. Staff compensation and benefits were discussed. The Board of Education completed the Superintendent's evaluation. Jamie motioned, Pete seconded to leave closed session at 7:00 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

None

IV. REPORTS

A. School Board

No report

B. Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Mr. Wiese prepared a written report. Mr. Wiese stated that Spring season is full swing. He stated that FBLA had a great trip to State and that State Solo and Ensemble is coming up.

C. Student Services

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report. She would like to thank the staff for forward thinking. They have IEPs scheduled and ready to go. She also stated that she had the opportunity to go on an educator's flight.

D. Principal

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report. Mrs. Bendorf would like to give a staff shout out to Mr. McKinley and Mr. Kattre. Our physical education department is so willing to share their teaching space with the plethora of activities we offer. They modify their plans ahead of time as well and roll with any last-minute changes that occur. We are fortunate to have such selfless humans in these positions.

E. Superintendent

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. He updated the board about the damage to the roof and the broken van window. The Ag department will be helping with landscaping around the baseball field. There is a Policy Committee meeting coming up. NEOLA is working on the updated policies. He is hoping to have all of the information by that meeting. He would like to possibly add the Teck Track at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College to the Summer School Options.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

B. Approval of Personnel Transactions

Mr. Buchs stated that we have two resignation transactions. He would like to thank both staff members for their time at Belmont. He stated that CESA might be able to help us fill these positions if needed.

Resignations:

1. Kelsea Myers – ELL Teacher
2. Susanna Ortega - Paraprofessional

Laura/Vaughn motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the April 15, 2024 Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

C. Acceptance of Donation from Hubie and Joyce Mester Memorial Fund

The Hubie and Joyce Mester Memorial Fund would like to donate \$3,085 to be used to help fund the handicap accessible pavilion at the football/baseball field.

Pete/Vaughn motion and second to accept the \$3,085 donation from the Hubie and Joyce Mester Memorial Fund to be used to help fund the handicap accessible pavilion at the football/baseball field. Carried 6-0

D. Approval of 2024-2025 Salary Schedule and Staff Increases

Mr. Buchs presented his recommendation for the salary schedule. It would give a 2-3%+ increase to teachers when they move a step. He would also give a 3% increase to all hourly employees. Within the budget he also drafted a 2.25% raise for the Principal, Student Services Director, and Activities Director and a 1.75% raise for the Superintendent.

Vaughn/Lauren motion and second to approve the 2024-2025 Teacher's Salary Schedule and Staff pay increases as presented. Carried 7-0

E. Approval of 2024-2025 Health Insurance Plan

Mr. Buchs has quotes from Dean and Medical Associates. His recommendation would be to stay with the Dean Health Plan.

Jamie/Kim motion and second to approve Dean Health Plan for 2024-2025 as proposed. Carried 7-0

F. Approval of Full Day 4K Program for 2024-2025

Full Day 4K has been a discussion item in the past. The district feels that this will help with the daycare need and may attract families to Belmont. Mr. Buchs stated that the district may be able to levy part of the cost of a full day program through fund 80 (community) which would help the fund 10 budget. Pete asked the difference between the number of students this year compared to projected next year. Denise stated that there 16 students interested in going next year and we have 26 students this year. Lauren asked if a parent could choose to only send their child half of the day. Mrs. Bendorf stated that a parent could choose to only send their student half of the day. Laura asked if we would be responsible for transportation if a family chose to go for half a day. Mrs. Bendorf said that we would not provide transportation in the middle of the school day. Lauren asked if the district received any family input during 4K screening. Mr. Buchs stated that at that time, discussions were only beginning. BJ asked if 16 students in one section is doable. Mrs. Bendorf stated that it really depends on the needs of the students. It is hard to put a number on when another teacher/classroom is needed. Jamie asked if there was a date that students need to be enrolled by. Mrs. Bendorf stated that families do not have a cut-off date for enrolling. Laura asked what the absolute cut-off number to need another classroom? Mrs. Bendorf stated that the AGR ratio is based on an 18-1 ratio. Pete asked if we knew how many other districts in our area offer all day 4K? BJ asked about needing enough time to make a decision, because it could be hard to find additional staff close to the school year starting. Mrs. Bendorf agreed and stated that we would need to find a space for a classroom if needed also. Mr. Wiese suggested an August 1st deadline for registration for 4K, with the knowledge that we might have a few register after that date. He feels that would give us a good indication of numbers. Mrs. Bendorf stated that online registration is not open to families until August, so the district might need to look into early paper registration for 4K families. There are a lot of what ifs right now. Mr. Buchs stated that we could do a social media push to get a better idea of numbers. Mr. Buchs stated that the district will continue to plan and adjust behind the scenes. Mrs. Bendorf stated that she has met with our current 4K teacher and is getting a plan in place for multiple scenarios. The teacher has also visited a school district to look at their 4K full day program.

Vaughn/Lauren motion and second to approve Full Day 4K Programming for the 2024-2025 School Year. Carried 7-0

G. Approval of Information Technology Management from TC Networks

This is a three-year contract with TC Networks. They are the current providers for the school. Mr. Buchs stated that the administration team met with TC Networks today to go over improvements that they could implement. Kim asked about the ending year stated on the contract. It is a three year contract, but the ending date is written as 2025. Mr. Buchs stated that he would look into that.

Jamie/Vaughn motion and second to approve the three-year contract (2024-2027) for TC Networks for Information Technology Management as presented. Carried 7-0

H. Approval of CESA 3 Annual Contract for 2024-2025

Mr. Buchs stated that the cost has been reduced for the contract.

Lauren/Kim motion and second to approve the CESA 3 Contract for the 2024-2025 School Year. Carried 7-0

I. Approval of 2024-2025 Student Insurance

Mr. Buchs stated that the cost to the district is \$500 in order to offer this benefit for our students and parents. It is a good benefit to offer parents and it is a low cost for our District.

Kim/Laura motion and second to offer parents and students the opportunity to purchase student accident insurance through Student Assurance for the 2024-2025 school year. Carried 7-0

J. Approval of Contract with Memorial Hospital for OT/PT Therapy Services

Mr. Buchs stated that Memorial Hospital OT and PT work with our students with IEP needs. The hourly rate did decrease for the upcoming year.

Vaughn/Kim motion and second to approve the contract with Memorial Hospital Lafayette County for OT/PT Therapy Services for the 2024-2025 School Year. Carried 7-0

K. Approval of SWEEP 1 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for use of Aeration Equipment.

Laura/Kim motion and second to approve the SWEEP 1 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for the use of Aeration Equipment. Carried 7-0

L. Approval of SWEEP 2 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for use of the Top Dresser.

Vaughn/Laura motion and second to approve the SWEEP 2 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for the use of Top Dresser. Carried 7-0

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Survey on Referendum

Mr. Buchs thanked the board for their feedback on the survey. The survey went out to all staff this morning. A survey will be mailed to all of the registered voter list within the school district. We will also receive 100 codes and 100 paper surveys for community members if needed. Mr. Buchs presented a presentation on 'Why do we need an Operational Referendum'.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kaylee Buttris asked about having a paraprofessional in the 4K room if the district decides to approve full day 4K no matter what the total number of students is.

VI. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Carried 7-0