

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

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

April 18, 2022

Closed Session 6:30 PM

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

Visitors Present: Kim Kuehn, Brian Lehnherr, Rochelle Edge, Tom Keene - TRICOR, & Brent Straka – TRICOR.

Virtual Attendees: 7

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Vaughn Mester made a motion, seconded by BJ Galle to move into closed session per sec. 19.85(1)(c). to discuss Health Insurance Options for the District. Health Insurance options were presented and discussed. Vaughn Mester made a motion, seconded by Jamie Heinrichs to move back into open session at 7:13 pm. Motion passed 7-0.

**II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A. Public Comments**

Brian Lehnherr and Rochelle Edge presented the Band and Choir Trip to New Orleans.

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. School Board**

**B. Student Services**

Mrs. Brania prepared a written report.

**C. Principal**

Mrs. Bendorf prepared a written report.

**D. Superintendent**

Mr. Buchs prepared a written report. Mr. Buchs stated that Mrs. Solberg will be going on maternity leave starting April 29<sup>th</sup>. She has all her lesson plans sent to all elementary teachers. Thank you to Mr. Hodgson and crew that saved the plants in the greenhouse and replace the cover.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval of Consent Agenda**

BJ asked about the negatives on Fund 21. Mr. Buchs stated that as Skyward gets more up and running, the fund should start to level out. Laura asked if the coaches were sent a statement of their accounts, so they know what balance they have? Mr. Buchs stated that with Skyward they will be able to see their balance at any time.

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

**B. Discussion and Possible Approval of Health Insurance Changes**

Different options were presented to the board earlier. BJ asked if staff had any input? Mr. Buchs stated that he asked staff in March and through another email. He spoke to a few staff members. BJ asked if our staff reside more in the Dubuque or Madison area? It appears that the majority of the staff are close to Belmont and North.

Jamie/Vaughn motion and second to approve the Health Insurance Plan brokered by TRICOR through Dean HMO Point of Service HRA V2 as presented. Carried 7-0

**C. Acceptance of a Donation from Adam Crist/Peoples Company for \$1250**

Adam Crist had a contest on social media and an anonymous winner donated their winnings to the school. Adam Crist with Peoples Company increased the donation to \$1250.

Pete/BJ motion and second to accept a donation of \$1250 from Adam Crist/Peoples Company. Carried 7-0

**D. Acceptance of a Donation from Family Connections on two Life Vac's.**

Family Connections donated two Life Vacs through Ann and Leo Stoll Jr Charitable Trust by way of Mound City Bank. Mr. Buchs is going to check with the insurance company to verify that the district is able to have and use Life Vac.

Vaughn/Laura motion and second to accept the donation of two Life Vac's from Family Connections. Carried 7-0

- E. Discussion & Possible Approval of English Language Arts Curriculum  
All staff members have been working hard on reviewing curriculum. 6-11<sup>th</sup> grade are ready to adopt a curriculum for next year. BJ asked if we should be using the total package K-12 so there are no potential gaps as students transition from elementary to junior high. Mrs. Bendorf does not feel that there is any concern if a different curriculum is used for elementary students.  
Lauren/Kim motion and second to approve the curriculum adoption and purchase of 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade My Perspectives ELA Curriculum at a cost of \$42,297. Carried 7-0
- F. Discussion & Possible Approval of Accounting/Computer Science Curriculum  
Our business teacher is asking for this curriculum for her classes. This will be written into the ESSER Grant  
Vaughn/Laura motion and second to approve the curriculum adoption and purchase of curriculum as presented from Ramsey, Cengage, and Google at a total cost of \$13,140. Carried 7-0
- G. Discussion & Possible Approval of K-5 Science Curriculum  
Mr. Buchs stated that there are some teachers using this program as trial currently. Mrs. Bendorf stated that this curriculum offers a lot of variety and not the standard boxed lessons.  
Kim/Lauren motion and second to approve the curriculum adoption and purchase of Mystery Science at a cost of \$2,398. Carried 7-0
- H. Approval of Lawncare Spraying Bid  
Laura asked if we need to spray the lawns. Mr. Buchs stated that the playing fields need to be kept up to keep weeds down and to keep our lawn & turf grasses healthy.  
Lauren/Vaughn motion and second to approve the spraying bid to be done by FS at a cost of \$750 for one broadleaf application. Carried 6-1  
Roll Call: Kim-Y, Lauren-Y, Jamie-Y, Vaughn-Y, BJ-Y, Pete-N, Laura-Y
- I. Approval of Exterior Light Upgrade Bid  
Mr. Buchs would like to upgrade the parking lot lights at this time. Laura asked about getting some lights for the elementary playground area. Mr. Buchs stated that the committee has not talked about a new light for that area but has talked about moving a fixture to that area, but it has not been approved. There would only be approximately 6 nights out of the year that children are on the playground at night during football games. Laura asked if there was a way that the light could be on a switch, so it is only turned on during the football games. Mr. Buchs stated that it could be possibly done but had not been at the top of the priority list during previous conversations.  
BJ/Pete motion and second to approve the light upgrade on the parking lot poles at a cost of \$1950 for McNett Electric. Carried 7-0
- J. Approval of ESSER III Plan  
Mr. Buchs stated that we are required to have a plan updated on our website. Items include Chromebook, Wi-Fi, door openers, ELL Teacher Salary, curriculums, school bus, Clear Touch panels, Skyward, HUDL, and other Teacher Salaries. BJ stated that he would like to see the funds used for one-time costs and not salaries. Mr. Buchs shared that this is the goal unless we are forced to use funds for other salaries should the State not increase per pupil dollars.  
Vaughn/Jamie motion and second to approve the Esser III Plan as presented. Carried 7-0
- K. Approval of Athletic Trainer Contract from Southwest Health  
This is a renewal of our contract. The amount increased by \$260 from last year.  
BJ/Lauren motion and second to approve the contract for Athletic Trainer Services from Southwest Health at a cost of \$10,660. Carried 7-0
- L. Approval of SWEEP 1 66:03 Cooperative Agreement with Iowa- Grant School District for use of Aeration Equipment  
Vaughn/Kim motion and second to approve the SWEEP 1 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for use of Aeration Equipment. Carried 7-0
- M. Approval of SWEEP 2 66:03 Cooperative Agreement with Iowa-Grant School District for use of Top Dresser  
Vaughn/BJ motion and second to approve the SWEEP 2 66.03 Coop Agreement with Iowa Grant School District for use of the Top Dresser. Carried 7-0
- N. Approval of 66:03 Cooperative Agreement with School District of Benton for Shared Business Education Teacher  
Benton has approved the agreement. Jamie was wondering when we would go with a full-time teacher. Mrs. Bendorf stated that she feels we will continue to grow the classes and add electives.  
Lauren/Laura motion and second to approve the 66.03 Agreement with Benton School District for a shared Business Education Teacher. Carried 7-0

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Potential Spanish Trip

Ms. Kuehn presented a potential trip to the Dominican Republic. Ms. Kuehn will bring more specific information back for the May meeting to ask for Board Approval.

B. Energy Audit from Alpha Controls

Mr. Buchs stated that we received an energy star rating of 80 out of 100. Our building uses less energy than most buildings like ours. Our gas and electric usage are below average for buildings of our size. Mr. Buchs feels that all of our improvements on the building have proven to be effective.

C. Review First Draft of the 2022-2023 School Budget

Mr. Buchs stated that the revenues are a big guess. Everything in the budget is very conservative. Our 3-year average in enrollment is what is being watched. Next year's enrollment projection looks good but is only an estimate. Our original draft budget had shown health insurance increases of 7.2% but now this will change as we found a better option which will show a savings of 1.9% for the upcoming year.

D. Discuss Strategic Planning Process

Last Summer a committee was formed to create a Strategic Plan for the district. Mr. Buchs' goal is to have all staff be on one of 4 committees to solicit input and buy in while also being part of the improvement process by helping set and monitor goals for progress in the areas of the school improvement process.

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## VII. ADJOURN

BJ/Pete motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Carried 7-0