

BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
September 18, 2024 – 7:00 PM

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

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

In-person Attendees: 1

Virtual Attendees: 2

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Vaughn Mester called the meeting to order at 7pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comments

- a. Tom Leitzinger wondered when the shelter by the baseball/football field will be completed. Mr. Buchs stated that it should be done by this winter. Mr. Buchs also wanted to thank the people who have volunteered their time. Jamie stated that the metal should be coming next week for the roof. Tom stated that he would be willing to help if needed to complete the shelter.

IV. REPORTS

A. School Board

No reports

B. Activities Director

Brandon Wiese prepared a report. He has had a few AD meetings to finalize things for this year and start items for next year.

C. Student Services

Denise Brania prepared a report. She added that students are currently completing the i-ready assessments in Math and Reading.

D. Principal

Dana Bendorf prepared a report. She stated that the SIP meetings with staff went well. During these meetings, staff dig into data and revisit goals.

E. Superintendent

Beau Buchs prepared a report. He would like to thank Mr. Heisner and the students for their time and effort during the fair week as they spent a lot of time with fair prep work. He would also like to thank Todd Palzkill, Sarah and Curt Yaun, Brandon Gill, and all other Fair Board members for their time and dedication to the Fair. He also stated that if any board members are interested in the annual conference, let him know. He also stated that Mrs. Brania and Shelly have worked hard to complete paperwork for Transfers of Service. Mr. Buchs stated that he had

an anonymous individual interested in making a donation and one idea was to look at a sprinkler system for the fields since our current one broke. The district is researching different options and looking at costs.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

### F. Personnel Transactions

#### a. Appointments:

1. Anne Buchs – After School Program Coordinator
2. Travis Droessler – Head Girls' Wrestling Coach

BJ/Lauren motion and second to approve the personnel transactions listed on the September 18, 2024 Personnel Transaction Sheet. Carried 7-0

### G. Approval of Renewing Girl's Gymnastics Coop with Platteville for the 2025-26 School Year.

Laura/Kim motion and second to approve the renewal of the Girls' Gymnastics Coop with Platteville for the 2025-26 School Year. Carried 7-0

### H. Approval of Renewing Boys' and Girls' Wrestling Coop with Platteville for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Years.

Vaughn/Pete motion and second to approve the renewal of the Boys' and Girls' Wrestling Coop with Platteville for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Years. Carried 7-0

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Update on the Start of the 2023-24 School Year and Enrollment

There are currently 364 resident students in school and 381 students enrolled overall. We had 386 total students at our peak last year. There are 53 students who are open enrolled into the district, which down slightly from 56 at the beginning of last year. We have 41 resident students who are open enrolled out of Belmont. Our enrollment has kept fairly steady over the last 5 years.

### B. Update on Finance and Levy Projections

Mr. Buchs is working on a draft version of the revenue limit worksheet. The assessment values of properties in Belmont District last year were roughly \$247 million. This year, the estimate received in August assessment value is roughly \$272 million. The final amount will come out in October. These assessments help calculate the mill rate. The July 1 estimated aid is projected for just over \$3 million, however some projections are stating less than that. This suggests that we will be up in funding from the state. If the referendum fails in November our Mill rate would be just above 6. If the referendum passes the mill rate would just be over 8. The projected increase in EAV is up substantially but this number is finalized in October. We will not know our state aid until October. Mr. Buchs also shared that we are funded at about 66% by the state. It is common to see anywhere between 63-70% for schools in our state.

### C. Operating Referendum Information for November 5, 2024 Election

Mr. Buchs stated that he went to a CESA meeting recently to discuss referendums. The majority of the Superintendents that attended are asking for an operating referendum or building referendum. Jamie Nutter created a chart that shows the CPI Index over the past years to now. It also shows how the gap in funding has grown. Part of the gap is because of inflation. This is not just a Belmont issue; it is an issue in most CESA schools. Mr. Buchs shared the chart with the board. Mr. Buchs invites people who have questions or would like to talk about the possible referendum to reach out to him.

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Leitzinger stated that the number one question that he hears from others in the public about the referendum is 'What is the money going to be spent on?'

## VII. ADJOURN

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