



**BELLEVUE COMETS**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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**Comet Highlights from the Work Session and Regular Board of Education Meeting on August 12, 2019**

**Work Session on Future Use of Land - 6:00 PM**

Discussion at the Work Session focused on the items from the June 2019 Meeting where ideas were formulated for further discussion by the Board and other community members and school district groups.

An emphasis was placed on what will benefit the students in Bellevue, along with how connections can also be made to benefit the community as a whole, as we are a "community school district" serving the entire community in multiple ways.

Grants were also discussed, along with other partnerships in the community and area as a whole.

Focus of Discussion

Notes from a prior meeting with staff members was a beginning point for the discussion with board members. In the future, discussion will also shift toward the district Facilities Committee, School Improvement Advisory Council, and other groups.

Those in attendance at the meeting included: Tracey Till & Cris Kellogg from the BEA, and Dave Heiar from the Jackson County Economic Alliance.

***Facility/Land Planning  
June 2019 Meeting***

*Attendees: Brett Ernst, Curt Ernst, Matt Jaeger, Chet Knake, Jeff Recker, Emily Reeg, Tim Roth, Tracey Till, Dave Wright*

*Discussion on Land Purchased during the FY19 School Year*

East Section

- *Bellevue Elementary, Green Space, Parking*
- *Until the building is built in this area, develop the following:*

- Green Space (could be used for practice area)
- Parking
  - Add access to area through main parking lot
  - Potentially move bus barn to another location
- Remove the current fence behind visitors bleachers
- Install a new fence on the other boundary line

North Section

- "Community Focus" with Housing Lots

West Section

- Athletic Fields (Soccer, practice fields, etc.)
- Recreation Area/Walking Course/Exercise Area

Overall (possible additions in multiple areas)

- STEM/Agriculture Innovation Center (accessible by both buildings)
- Pond for Ag and Science classes (outdoor learning)
- Community/School Auditorium/Fitness Room\*
- Recreation Area/Walking Course/Exercise Area/Dog Park\*
- Relocation of discus and shot put area; Long Jump relocation

Current Facilities Expansion (connected to new land)

- Expand the MS/HS Entrance area and Commons for a secure entrance (entering through the office area)
- Add on to the current Bellevue MS/HS building with an extensive and connected full elementary addition

Community and School Utilization Focus

- Community/School Auditorium/Fitness Room\*
- Recreation Area/Walking Course/Exercise Area/Dog Park\*

\* Indicates an item repeated in more than one section.

Russell Construction Update

Steve Baumann from Russell Construction is assembling additional information to clarify and expanding the current conditions of the existing elementary school and a new elementary school concept. This information will then be shared in depth to further educate the school community to illustrate the collective planning efforts. Some specifics include the following:

1. Clarify scope of work narrative, projected inclusive renovation costs for the current building along with information provided by Legat Architects. This will be provided in report form and executive summary as a package for community engagement and education including:

- A narrative of site traffic logistics, safety concerns, limitations for outdoor student play and staging areas as it relates to safety and function, limitations of site as it relates to additions for any needed program requirements.
- ADA accessibility challenges as they exist currently.
- Student safety inside the building, site line challenges, room size limitations and program function challenges related to current room sizes and configuration.
- Existing building updates needed per code requirements and building additions needed to meet program needs.
- Building systems age, life expectancy and efficiency challenges.
- Work collectively with you on listing Iowa Board of Education mandates and requirements that are limited by the existing building currently.

2. Clarify scope of work narrative, narrative regarding space by area and cost breakdown focused on the following:

- Added detail narrative by area of the building and list projected costs.
- Listing of square foot space by area as it is listed in the programming study information provided by Legat.
- Provide a cost breakdown by area by: classroom / instruction, cafeteria / kitchen, administration, commons areas and circulation, gymnasium and workroom / storage areas. (This breakdown is intended to be a tool to illustrate what the projected costs provide and to show how program spaces would ultimately be limited by reduced project budget scenarios.)
- Include cost model projections for both a renovation and new building.

Meyer mentioned having a discussion with some Bellevue BIG students or other students interested in engineering/designing to potentially develop some ideas of where some areas could be located in the future to provide a beginning look at "what could be" in the short- and long-term future.

More discussion and planning will take place in the future, with other meetings with groups and the school board.

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## Board Notes for August 12, 2019 Board Meeting - 6:30 PM

### Consent Agenda

Approved Open Enrollment Requests (Kindergarten and Preschool can be approved until September 2, 2019...unlike other grades where there is a March 1 deadline annually)

- Sutton Loch - 4-Year Old Preschool - Andrew to Bellevue
- Harper Pitts - Kindergarten - Andrew to Bellevue
- Ian Teply - PK - Dubuque to Bellevue
- Emma Teply - TK - Dubuque to Bellevue
- William Pickrell 2nd - Easton Valley to Bellevue (they attended Bellevue this past school year, therefore this is allowable and a natural approval).
- Emmitt Hurley for the 2020-21 School Year - Kindergarten - Dubuque to Bellevue

### Approve Resignations

- None at this time

### Approve Recommendations to Hire

- Dave Ripperger - MS/HS Social Studies - Dave coaches wrestling in our district, and has held that position since the renewal of the program in 2013; Dave was allowed to be released from his contract with the Dubuque CSD on Monday (today), and his highly recommended.
- Kelsey Ernst - MS Volleyball (replacing Trisha Pickett; Will coach with Judy Michels)
- Kristen Wright - Assistant HS Drama Director (Director is Jake Huntley, music teacher)
- Rebecca Lahey - .5 time Cheerleading sponsor (will work with Heather Merrick who is the other .5 employee in this role)
- Jennie Michels - Middle School Student Council Sponsor
- Lindsey Schwartz - Full-Time Associate (Special Education Funds); She will be serving at the MS/HS for the 2019-2020 school year with two students predominantly, but also with some other students in Mrs. Meyer's room primarily. This is still an impact of not hiring for Abbie Fitzgerald when she resigned last school year in approximately February (we covered it with someone from the elementary the last part of last school year).
- Heather Wood - 0.5 FTE Elementary Library Associate; Heather has a teaching certification at the elementary level.
- Laura Bowman - 0.5 FTE MS/HS Library Associate; Laura has a teaching certification in English at the 5-12 level.

- Iris Davies - Transportation Driver for the District as needed (pending state license attainment)

**Recognize any Visitors**

Tracey Till & Cris Kellogg (BEA); Brin Daugherty began as the student school board representative.

**Comet Curriculum**

- Meyer shared some information from FBLA and their learning from the National Convention in San Antonio.
- Hartung-Schroeder and Recker shared information from conferences they attended this summer on student learning initiatives, which they attended with several staff members. They also explained focus areas from the conferences, and its immediate impact on instruction and culture in the schools impacting student learning and student success for all students.

**Summer Projects Update**

Meyer provided a few updates on certain projects for the summer. Additionally, the buildings are ultimately ready for student return. Some of the more significant updates:

- Elementary Roof
- MS/HS Hallway ceiling tile and lights (along with Level 2/3 Special Ed Room...lights not sticking down for student safety)
- MS Girl's Locker Room
- Gas Line between music room and industrial tech building
- Promethean Panels (the week of August 12)
- Furniture improvements (MS/HS Social Studies and English Classroom)
- MS/HS Parking Lot - Sealed
- MS/HS Parking Lot lights (Safety)

**PPEL Information**

Approved.

Below is the resolution discussed at our Board of Education meeting on August 12:

*The President of the Board called the meeting to order. The Superintendent presented a recommendation that the form of ballot be approved and the election called on the question of continuing to levy and impose a voter approved physical plant and equipment property tax and income surtax, which must be approved by the Board and submitted*

*to the County Commissioner of Elections no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day following the last day on which nomination petitions can be filed.*

In this process it would be presented to the county auditor after our meeting, and then placed on the November 5, 2019 election ballot (school board elections are also at the same time, along with some other things possibly).

Remember this is a continuation of a current levy (NOT a new levy on taxpayers): RESOLUTION ORDERING ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING TO LEVY AND IMPOSE A VOTER APPROVED PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT PROPERTY TAX AND INCOME SURTAX

The actual ballot language (legal language required) for its uses is below:

*Shall the Board of Directors of the Bellevue Community School District, in the County of Jackson, State of Iowa, for the purpose of purchasing and improving grounds; constructing schoolhouses or buildings and opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings; purchasing of buildings; purchase, lease or lease-purchase of technology and equipment; paying debts contracted for the erection or construction of schoolhouses or buildings, not including interest on bonds; procuring or acquisition of libraries; repairing, remodeling, reconstructing, improving, or expanding the schoolhouses or buildings and additions to existing schoolhouses; expenditures for energy conservation; renting facilities under Chapter 28E, Code of Iowa; purchasing transportation equipment for transporting students; lease purchase option agreements for school buildings or equipment; purchasing equipment authorized by law; or for any purpose or purposes now or hereafter authorized by law, be authorized for a period of ten (10) years to levy and impose a voter-approved physical plant and equipment tax of not exceeding One Dollar Thirty-Four Cents (\$1.34) per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation of the taxable property within the school district, and be authorized annually, in combination, as determined by the board, to levy a physical plant and equipment property tax upon all the taxable property within the school district commencing with the levy of property taxes for collection in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and to impose a physical plant and equipment income surtax upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the school district on December 31 for each calendar year commencing with calendar year 2022, or each year thereafter?*

*[END OF BALLOT LANGUAGE]*

Some other specifics are the following (in more "common language" from my perspective):

- A 10-year duration (FY23-32)
- At the maximum \$1.34 rate
- Funded with a combination of property tax and income surtax
- Used for the broad purposes allowed by law.

This will be delivered to the County Auditor on or before September 20, 2019.

The quick overall explanation of this fund and why it is needed:

1. A key to remember is that this is a CONTINUATION of our current funding system and is not in addition to any other funds we are receiving to educate students.

2. This levy may be used for the following purposes:
- Purchase and improvement of grounds
  - Construction of schoolhouses or buildings and opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings
  - Purchase, lease, or lease-purchase of equipment or technology exceeding \$500 per transaction
  - Payment of debts contracted for the erection or construction of schoolhouses or buildings, not including interest on bonds
  - Procuring or acquisition of library facilities
  - Repairing, remodeling, reconstructing, improving, or expanding the schoolhouses or buildings and additions to existing schoolhouses
  - Expenditures for energy conservation
  - Rental of facilities
  - Purchase of transportation equipment for transporting students
  - Purchase or lease-purchase of school buildings
  - Equipment purchases for recreational purposes
  - Payments to a municipality or other entity as required under section 403.19, subsection 2 [TIF]
  - Demolition, clean up and other costs incurred within two years of a natural disaster.

\*As you can see, this revenue is important for our district.

3. Revenues may NOT be used for:
- Employee salaries or travel
  - Supplies
  - Printing costs or media services
  - Any other purpose not expressly authorized by Iowa Code.
4. The *school board* may annually certify a regular Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) in an amount up to 33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.
5. The *voters* may authorize a voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) for a period not exceeding ten years and in an amount not exceeding \$1.34 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The VPPEL revenues may be used for the same purposes as the PPEL revenues. In addition, the board may obtain loans against future VPPEL revenues and may repay that debt with interest from the VPPEL. Bellevue has a total PPEL of \$1.67 (\$0.33 + \$1.34).

### **Handbooks - Students and Staff**

#### **Approved.**

Student Handbooks are attached in a separate mailing, along with staff handbooks. No significant changes from the prior year.



### Farm Lease

#### Approved.

Scott Hingtgen is farming our land based on prior utilization before the purchase of the property. The rental price remained the same for the land, and it equals out to be 19 acres of tillable land at \$165/acre. This equals out to \$3,135.00 per year at two payments of \$1,567.50 due in October 2019 and March 2020. Scott has paid for the entire year already.

### Career and Technical Education (CTE) Update

As I have mentioned in the past, we may be having 2-4 students going to Maquoketa HS this year for an advanced welding course (in addition to what they have already learned with Mr. Marshall). This is a part of a sharing agreement which is encouraged by the state of Iowa, and the plan is that we will be offering some college credit electrician courses to students from Bellevue, Maquoketa, and Easton Valley second semester. In the past we sent students to the Quad Cities for this, with a few gaining credit (and a few not).

I believe this is a good option for our students, and allows the three districts mentioned earlier to allow for multiple options for students and giving them a head-start on their college degree in a "trade career" after they graduate. The courses at Maquoketa will allow them to have a basic certification in an area of welding, while the electrical courses will be in addition to what we are already teaching and allows the students to have about ½ of their basic certification completed. Easton Valley is also offering some computer science this school year, but we already offer most of the courses for this in a more extensive manner at Bellevue (they do have a gaming course, but we offer this as another option as well).

It is important that we provide our students with preparation for their future, whether it is a two- or four-year college, going directly into a trade or employment, or other routes. This is another route.

The cost for this is dependent on the salary of the teacher teaching the course and the amount of students. Ultimately, when we send students it costs us. When students attend here from another district we gain some funds. Additionally, there is some state "sharing" and "supplemental" funding incentives for this. Before any of these funds come into play it will cost us somewhere between \$400 and \$800 a course overall, but as I said some of this money is reimbursed for sharing based on the state formula from the Iowa Department of

Education. This is not a bad cost for something to assist our students.

One final thing, the courses offered at Bellevue are first scheduled and available for Bellevue students. If there is room for other students then we allow for their enrollment (which we expect a few spots to be available for these advanced courses). This is the same way we work with scheduling Marquette students.

On another note, the Eastern Iowa Community College District is planning on having a referendum for a Regional Center in September of 2020. The location will likely be in Clinton County, and its ease for our district to send students to it may prove to be difficult and time-consuming as a whole based on a location in DeWitt, Low Moor, or Camanche area. I have expressed my concerns, along with the other Jackson County Superintendents.

### **Depositor Banks**

Approved.

I recommend the Bellevue CSD name Bellevue State Bank, Fidelity Bank, ISJIT, and UMB Bank as depositor banks for 2019-2020 school year up to an amount of \$21,000,000. We have done this for several years, and it allows us options in depositing funds. Penny can explain more about this process at the meeting.

### **School Finance Update**

Meyer provided a brief overview of our budget at this time. Right now it appears as if we are under budget by approximately \$50,000-\$60,000. I was hoping for more than that, but...this is where we are ending up at for the end of the fiscal year overall. Meyer also shared some initial enrollment information from registration...which appears to place us near our enrollment from last year (which was a significant increase from the year before).

### Comet Reading and Reflection (from last week's notes)

Meyer shared this "opinion" article in the Des Moines Register last week as he found it interesting for discussion.

What are your thoughts? Is this appropriate preparation for our students?

#### ***Students need soft skills to set them apart in a competitive work environment***

*Patricia Tice, Iowa View contributor Published 10:31 a.m. CT July 30, 2019 Dr. Patricia Tice is the owner of Etiquette Iowa. College Prep Etiquette is a division of Etiquette Iowa.*

*The time is nigh. Ads for school supplies are in abundance. Summer softball championships are playing out on the field. And soon it will be time to head back to the classroom.*

*As a retired high school guidance counselor, I know all too well those feelings of summer coming to a close. But not to worry. I believe our greatest hope lies with the young adults who populate our private and public high schools.*

*This summer, I have spent time with leaders of top high schools in an effort to understand the following question: What are students (and parents) looking for in the high school experience? What are their expectations?*

*The most obvious answer is this: the diploma. Everyone wants the diploma. As it should be. But it goes much deeper than the diploma.*

#### *College prep etiquette*

*Students need confidence and soft skills (or people skills) to set them apart in a competitive work environment. This is like icing on the already great cupcake, as students are often working very hard in their studies and extracurricular activities, but may need a bit more knowledge to bring all of their gifts and talents together on a resume. They need to know how to present themselves well, both inside and outside of the school environment.*

*I don't believe better test scores necessarily mean a better school (though good test scores certainly help). But I'm certain that better relationships always make a better school. Better relationships create stronger schools and stronger kids, which in turn build stronger communities.*

To that end, high school kids need to learn:

- public speaking
- how to write well
- storytelling
- critical thinking (not cynicism)
- good manners
- active listening (hear with your eyes)
- how to solve problems
- good customer service
- how to sell
- how to fight against entitlement

These qualities represent much, including trust, respect, honor and love.

### Communication

Mastering great communication skills such as greetings and handshakes will make a lasting first impression.

Activity tools of ...

- writing their own personal "leaving the elevator speech"
- whether military, college or work is a better fit post high school
- building a personal college prep portfolio
- creating their own personal mission statement
- dining manners
- the trimester of the college application process
- the game-changing information in Common Data Set

...are among the student accomplishments, with the overall goal to answer the question "What positive contribution am I making to my school, neighborhood, community?"

Good manners are as important as a good education. Learning to learn, and being curious are superpowers. Making friends is about giving. We often want to solve problems in schools with more information. But the game changer is usually not more information, it's more connection. It's not knowing more, it's caring more. It's not more rules and requirements, it's stronger relationships, where everyone belongs.

To all of the high school students in Iowa:

- Know you have purpose
- Know your strengths
- Know your dreams
- Know your choices shape your future
- Know you matter (you have infinite worth)
- Know empathy
- Know kindness (show it)
- Know I'm your biggest fan

## Bus Bids and Purchase

(Tim Roth came to the meeting to discuss and assist in opening bids)

Approved.

The district has received "authorization to expend funds" for a new school bus from the Iowa Department of Transportation. This means that we can review bids, and then decide to approve the purchase of a new bus accordingly. Bids are from the following companies and will be opened at the board meeting:

- Thomas Bus Sales (Des Moines) = \$88,262
- Hogle Bus Company (Marshalltown) - \$85,989
- School Bus Sales (Waterloo) - \$93,882

The purchase was authorized to the lowest bid, which met specifications presented to the companies a few months ago.

## Information Items

### Board of Education Welcoming for New Teachers

New Teachers and significant others on Monday, August 19th from 6:30-7:30 at Flatted Fifth (appetizers, pop, water, etc.)

- Kelsey Ernst - Kindergarten
- Katie Heilman - 5th Grade
- Rebecca Lahey - MS/HS English
- Natalie Vernon - MS/HS English
- Laura Garrudo Carrasco - HS Spanish
- Jake Huntley - 3-12 Vocal Music
- Dave Ripperger - MS/HS Social Studies

### Registration Update

Registration went well overall on July 29 & 30. Nicole Schafer, the MS/HS Secretary, went to the hospital in labor on Monday morning prior to registration and delivered a baby on Tuesday (Congrats!). But, Karla Weinschenk (elementary secretary) and Heather Merrick (associate at the MS/HS) did a great job in handling things. We had a long line on Monday night the last 2 hours or so, but all went well as a whole.

We appear to have a significant amount of new students, and I will attempt to give you an overview of enrollment figures at the meeting.

### IASB Annual Conference

November 21, 2019 is the annual conference.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Adjourn

Next meeting is on September 9, 2019 at 6:30