

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comet Highlights from the February 10, 2020 Board Meeting

February 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
February 17	No School (President's Day) - Potential Snow Make-Up Day (At this point, I would recommend not
March 11 & 12	to have this as a day for make-up). Parent-Teacher Conferences - 3-Hour Early Dismissal; Teacher Professional Learning 12:30-2:00; Conferences from 3:30-8:00
March 13	No School
March 19	PK Open House (3- and 4-Year Olds)
April 10 & 13	No School - Spring Break (April 13 is a potential
May 18	snow makeup date at this time) 6-12 Vocal Concert
May 19	6-12 Band Concert
May 21	Elementary Music Concert
May 23	Graduation - 8:00 PM
May 28	Last Day of School for students (Thursday - Make-up Day #1)
August 3 & 4	Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year

Believe in the Blue - Board Meeting Update

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF4JrMtCsC0&feature=youtu.be>

Notes for the Board Meeting on February 10, 2020**Consent Agenda****Approved Open Enrollment Requests for 2020-2021**

- Amelia Josephine Ernst - Kindergarten - Maquoketa to Bellevue
- Lea Jo Maria Atkinson - 9th Grade - Easton Valley to Bellevue

Approve Resignations

- Tracey Hueneke - Tracey is retiring in March. She is going to assist in training the new person for the position, but will be ending by April 1. Tracey has been an employee with the

district for nearly 30 years, and has seen a lot of changes in the Food Service Department during that time (letter attached).

- Matt Jaeger - HS Student Council - Matt is resigning this position with student council at the end of the school year, and we will look to post this position to interested staff members in the upcoming week or so after the board meeting.

Recognize any Visitors

Tracey Till and Cris Kellogg - Teachers; Bellevue Education Association.

Financial Audit Review

Penny shared some highlights from the annual audit of the district, with a few common themes from past years, including the next agenda item. Some specifics include:

- The financial records provided to the auditors met the requirements for schools.
- Revenues increased for the fiscal year by \$429,108.
- Expenditures increased for the fiscal year by \$131,894.

The complete audit report is on the website.

Memorials from the District

Approved. The auditor, as noted earlier, was concerned about the memorials being given by the district. It is common practice for our district to do the following, and I believe we should continue as a part of being in a small community. This statement needs to be approved annually if the Board feels the same.

In the interest of public perception, the Board (District) may recognize the death or serious illness of current or past employees and board members with a contribution of flowers or a certificate declaring a financial contribution to student groups based on the individual's perceived interests. Additionally, the Board (District) may recognize the death of immediate family members of employees and board members which occur during their employment or term of service. The amount will not exceed \$50.

Facilities and Space; Facilities and Capital Improvement Projects

There are a few aspects again to this agenda item. They are the following:

1. Space and Rooms for 2020-2021 at the elementary
2. Planning for improvements to the facilities for Bellevue Elementary students.
3. "Summer" projects and Expenditures

Space Topic

A separate building for space for students was not pursued at this time, with the following options being available for students and staff for the 2020-2021 school year based on three sections for grades K-2:

Potential Grade-Level/Subject-Content
Areas Moving at Bellevue Elementary
(There are also more possibilities
or combinations of these alternatives)

Alternative A

1. 4th N. Decker to 1st Floor Old Building
2. 4th Herrig to 1st Floor Old Building
3. 3rd Kueter to Library
4. 1st Roth to 2nd Floor N. Decker
5. 1st Witte to 2nd Floor Herrig
6. PK Pickett Old Building to 1st Floor Roth
7. K Kelsey Ernst Old Building to 1st Floor Witte
8. Library to Old Building Veach
9. Makerspace to Old Building Kellogg Room (remove partitions)
10. Reading Veach to Old Building Special Education Room
11. Reading Jochum to SAFE Room

Alternative B

1. New 2nd Grade Section to 1st Reeg on 2nd floor
2. 1st Reeg to Deppe Special Education Room Old Building
3. Deppe Special Education to Veach Reading Old Building
4. Veach Old Building to Old Building Special Education Room
(Share with Venema) or Safe Room at elementary (or other identified areas) or Rickertsen as counselor to the Safe Room and Veach to the Counselor's room (all rooms are in the old building)

Alternative C

1. Deppe Special Education Old Building to Veach Reading Room
2. Veach Reading Room to Old Building Special Education Room
3. 1st Witte to Deppe Special Education Room
4. K. Ernst Kindergarten Old Building to 1st Witte Room
5. 1st Reeg Room to K. Ernst Kindergarten Room Old Building
6. PK Pickett Old Building to 1st Roth
7. 1st Roth to PK Pickett Old Building
8. New 2nd Grade to Kueter 3rd Grade
9. Kueter 3rd Grade to Reeg 1st Grade (2nd floor)

Alternative B and C include moving Jodi Deppe from her current special education room where we have an "isolation" room as needed. This has not been needed the last several years, and I do not anticipate it being needed in the near future...but, that can change in a hurry. Utilizing this room differently does allow for some other options, although I have been hesitant to do this due to potential need in the room for an isolation room, the rooms location to an elevator as needed to get to the special education room, need for office help quickly from the special education room in its current location, etc. This option also does not allow grade levels to be together overall, although they may be closer than the current setup for 1st grade. Thoughts?

The Board input is important in this process of moving, yet final movements will be discussed further with teachers and the appropriate changes will be shared with the Board.

Moving into next year and the need for three sections for grades K-2 is based on the following:

Current Year (2019-2020)

PK 4-Year Old - 57
Transitional Kindergarten - 10
Kindergarten - 55
1st Grade - 51

Projected for Next Year (2020-2021)

Kindergarten - 54 (10 TK + 44 PK-4),
with 13 going into TK (which is a
large number for TK)
1st Grade - 55
2nd Grade - 51

*Note the PK and K numbers
Indicate a total of 67
potential Kindergarten students
for 2020-2021

*Based on the needs of students
in TK, K, and 1st I recommend three sections.

Separate Building Option Costs...

- Wick Building for two sections would be \$113,000 - \$120,000
- Wick Building for three sections (PK) would be approximately \$170,000
 - With the Wick Building, would it be worth its cost when selling the building and the lot at some point (or close to it?)
- Portable Building (financial costs are estimates...likely less than actual cost)
 - Lease (New) = \$775/month (1 section) or \$1400/month + installation of \$36,000; Total for 3 years;
 - **Total = \$63,900 for one section and \$86,400 for two sections**

- Purchase (New) = \$90,000 for one section; \$150,000 for two classrooms in the same building; Plus, installation of \$36,000;
 - **Total = \$175,000-\$200,000**
- Lease (Used) = \$550/month for one section; \$900/month for two classroom building, plus installation of \$18/square foot;
 - **Total = \$37,800 for one section; \$68,400**

Future Facilities

Meyer is planning to establish a tour of some of the schools Duane discussed for the week of February 24. A potential idea to change the plan based on the voters input is being discussed continuously. Some options moving forward include the following:

- Same plan as before.
- Same plan as before, but with alterations to the appearance/space in the building.
- Same plan as before, but with alterations to the appearance/space in the building...and add a daycare at a new facility.
- Change plan to add on to the current Bellevue MS/HS campus, and make some more improvements to security at the MS/HS campus
- Look at a more "fully-framed steel structure" for a building (likely connecting with the current building).
- Look at a "pole-type" building for an elementary
- Renovate the elementary, and look at building on in some direction.

There are concerns with all of these, but the belief is that something must be done.

**FYI...Future election dates for a referendum for Iowa's cities, schools, counties, and colleges are the following:*

Even Years (2 options)

- *1st Tuesday in March*
- *2nd Tuesday in September*

Odd Years (3 options)

- *1st Tuesday of March*
- *2nd Tuesday of September*
- *1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday of November*

These dates are a change from the past, as the 2019 legislature lowered the 4 date option in both even and odd years to two and three respectively each year.

"Summer Projects"

Below is a variety of information on projects for the "summer" and other times if we can start some of them earlier. Recognize that we have a little over \$900,000 in PPEL, and usually bring in a little over \$400,000 each year. It is good to keep some of this each year, and our balance is higher than it has been for the last several years (while the SAVE balance is lower since purchasing land, but we bring in about \$500,000 each year in this fund and use it for building projects, etc. mainly.

We can act on these in March (that would be my plan at this time).

Facilities/Vehicles (2020 Options) - February 10, 2020

(this may not be all-inclusive)

- Parking Lot Cameras/System Upgrade Estimated Total:
Total System:\$25,000 - \$30,000

If we are looking to upgrade our parking lot system, do we want to explore improving our system overall to meet the needs of 2020 and beyond? While the other system is working okay, it is not as capable as some of the new technology for camera capabilities, access, etc.

- Ceiling Tile and Lights Replacement Estimated Total = ~~\$15,000-20,000~~
\$18,363 total for MS and/or HS rooms and bathrooms in HS (Ceiling Tile =
\$13,250; Lighting = \$5113)

New ceiling tile would make the room look better with new lights to brighten the room with ~~new floor tile~~; The current ceiling tile also has old insulation on it which is not needed and makes the ceiling tile sag.

In future year(s) it would be a good idea to do windows in each room (make larger and more usable) and flooring.

- Flooring in MS/HS Hallways Estimated Total: See below

"Trowel stained" floor like Hall of Pride is likely around \$12,000;

"Stained" cement (if possible), would likely be around \$10,000;

A tile floor is about \$9500;

An epoxy floor is around \$9000.

Benefits to any over other? The floor that takes the most work and chemicals to clean, etc is the tile floor; The floor that is most long-lasting and less labor and no chemicals (besides basic soap) is the stained or "troweled" floor; The epoxy floor is also less chemicals, but will show scratches and scrapes more often

- Flooring in Elementary Rooms Estimated Total:\$15,000

This would be for three areas where the carpet should be replaced:

Current Rooms: Pickett (carpet is fraying), Reeg (was used as Art room in the past), and Library (water stains from the past leaks and other issues)

- Gym Floors Estimated Total:\$3000-\$7000
- Redo Main Gym Floor Estimated Total:\$75,000

Gym Floors - This is the normal process for the summer, and I believe we only need to do the west gym and the main gym...therefore, waiting on the elementary gym another year as we do not utilize it nearly as much and it is still acceptable for use by classes at the elementary, our school groups/teams, and outside groups. ~~but this year all three need to be done (we have been doing the elementary every other year the last several years).~~

Redo Main Gym Floor - This is needed at some point, and I am checking on this price with a couple of vendors. My estimate is only my "best guess" from past conversations, but things change, and I want to make sure I am remembering correctly.

- **Paint Elementary Rooms** **Estimated Total: \$150/room**

If we are moving classrooms this year in the summer it would make sense to paint the classrooms as well.

- **Paint in West Gym (striping)** **Estimated Total: \$100-\$150**

This would include some type of "highlighting" the white walls with some blue paint (possibly with another color) to make the area more "lively" in some ways.

- **HS Restroom Renovation** **Estimated Total: \$5,000**

These are our main restrooms during activities, and the appearance and usefulness need some potential updating. Possibly putting some type of partition up between new urinals would be a benefit for privacy; This is the low number and would need some more exploration on costs overall but it is in this range overall

- **Sidewalk: Concrete north side of MS/HS** **Estimated Total: \$10,000**

The sidewalk is used is cracked and needs repairs at some time

- **Utility Tractor** **Estimated: \$20,000-\$25,000**

This would be utilized at the MS/HS likely, and moving the current one to the elementary. This is used for snow removal and would need a blade and brush. It is also used to mow, etc. other times of the year. An updated quote the district received midweek for a John Deers was in this range, and also included a hard cab, snow blower, rotary broom, and mower deck.

- **Transportation: Bus** **Estimated: \$90,000-\$95,000**
(the district received a \$25,000 grant for this Purchase...not finalized yet)

This would be for a route bus. This bus would also have seatbelts on it (our first, and all future buses are required to have seat belts).

- **Transportation: Bus Barn Hoist (used?)** **Estimated Total: \$2500-\$7500**
Ease/capability of doing repairs

Athletic Areas

- **Football Field/Track Area** **Estimated Price: Our own labor and rental of equipment**

Basic annual care; Fertilizer, etc.

- **Press Box** **Estimated Price:TBD**

The building is aging (1st and 2nd floor are from 1972 approximately, and the top floor is from an addition built on to it in the mid-1980s). We are going to be examining the flooring on the upper levels to make sure it is still solid and able to hold the appropriate weight of the number of people in the area (we have also done this in the past). Additionally, we will be looking at the stability of the building overall. This will be a future project, to build a new press box, the question if it is this year or a later year. Also, is the current location the right location for a future parking lot by a new elementary potentially in the future.

- **Football Scoreboard** **Estimated Price: \$13,500**

This could include a fundraising drive in some manner with the community, especially if we would want to do a larger board or have athletics pay for this solely. I received the impression from the Board that you would prefer a basic scoreboard, and not to include a video board, etc. at this time. This may also be connected with upgrading further in the future after a referendum, etc.

- **Play Clock for Football** **Estimated Price: \$4500-\$6500**

This could be connected with the scoreboard project, and the higher cost is a playclock that is on the same scoreboard as the time.

Vehicles

- **Suburban (2019-2020 purchase)** **Estimated Total: \$55,000**

- Currently

- 2001 - 167,000 miles; OK mechanically, but rust holes (student trips)
- 2001 - 184,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (student trips)
- 2007 - 145,000 miles; OK mechanically, but starting to rust (PK/SE)
- 2007 - 175,000 miles; OK mechanically, but a little rust(Student trips)
- 2008 - 92,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body (PK/SE)
- 2009 - 184,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body(Student Trips)
- 2015 - 80,000 miles in good condition (Student Trips)

- **Cars/Etc.**

- 1992 Snow Truck - Fair condition at best (not used much)
- 1994 Truck - 75,000 miles; OK...at best; Maintenance Truck
- 2000 Buick - 130,000 miles; OK mechanically and some rust (lunch)
- 2002 Buick - 180,000 miles; OK mechanically, and rust-gravel (PK/SE)
- 2005 Van - 100,000 miles; OK mechanically, some rust starting (lunch)
- 2006 Impala - 178,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)
- 2015 Impala - 78,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)

A future idea may be to buy a new suburban from Special Ed or Preschool Funds (to only use to transport those students legally) and then purchase one of our current suburbans we purchased with SE funds at a used price from the general fund. There are also some new requirements for inspections with the state which may play a part in purchasing a new suburban

Other

- **PK-12 Innovation Center (AG and STEM)**

**Estimated Total:
\$250,000-\$400,000 (?)**

Utilized by students in all grade levels to replace the current Voc. Ag building which is not used by students at this time due to safety and learning concerns. This may be a potential "Wick-type" building in the future.

- **Family and Consumer Science Room Update**

Estimated Total: TBD

Cost is dependent on actions

This room has been the same for quite some time and is in need of some updates in sink, cook and prep areas. Microwaves need to be replaced.

We did purchase a new refrigerator and two stoves in the last few years. There are currently 6 stations for students, but this could likely be reduced to 4 or 5 stations.

Technology & Instructional Items

Instructional Items

- ***Chromebooks:** Estimated Total: \$200 X 100 =
\$20,000

Buying annually for 3rd grade & 6th Grade at this time. Likely look for approval on this for February or March of 2020 to order and get ready for the next school year.

- **Promethean Boards:** Elementary **Estimated Total: \$4,500 each**

We have been updating these in the last few years. These are both boards on carts or mounted on walls. When on carts it allows for the "front of the room" to be anywhere. They are interactive and utilized a great deal by our staff at the elementary. We may add one for the MS

- **Technology "Backbone" - Servers/etc.** **Estimated Total: \$10,200**

We need to update our servers in school, basically by eliminating some and upgrading to get to a server for each building. Currently we are operating on an old Windows system that is past its "glory days". We can reduce from about 4 to 5 servers being used to the one for each building with more and more things being cloud-based. With this change though, we will have to update our "timeclock and payroll system" which is also due for an upgrade which will also make it cloud-based. The cost of servers will be about \$2000 each, plus an update for the Attendance Enterprise system for payroll, etc. will be \$6200 the first year, and then \$4400 annually.

Elementary Needs

(Likely wait on these until decisions about building made)

- Elementary Cafeteria Updates \$50,000-\$75,000
(Windows/Tables) Depends on future of building
- Elementary Playground Equipment
- Green Space
- Windows
- Boiler?

Overall Costs of Some Priorities (some of these may not happen this school year's budget cycle)

Camera System	\$30,000
Ceiling Tile and Lights	\$20,000
Elementary Flooring (carpet)	\$15,000
Gym Floor (Annual...)	\$ 8,000
Paint Elementary Rooms	\$ 1,000
Striping/Highlighting West Gym	\$ 200
Utility Tractor	\$25,000
Bus	\$95,000

Chromebooks	\$20,000
Servers/etc.	<u>\$10,200</u>
	\$224,400
Fall/Winter 2020	
Suburban	\$55,000

2020-2021 Calendar Discussion

Below is a draft copy of an updated draft of a calendar, with input from the District Leadership Team two times in the last few weeks. It is also being shared with others.

In regard to early dismissals and no-school days for teacher professional learning, Maquoketa is going to have early dismissals twice a month (they had discussed weekly before), while most Clinton County schools are dismissing early each week on Wednesday. You can notice that we have some intermixed throughout the year between early dismissals and no school days for students for professional learning (I am still working to make sure our early dismissal dates coordinate with Andrew).

Some key points are listed along the left-side of the calendar, along with the 1st semester ending prior to Winter Break.

I will have the calendar discussion on our agenda for next month to discuss, along with a required public hearing. I also added a statement which another district in the QC area utilized in their calendar last year about the "last day" of school.

2020-2021 School Calendar – Bellevue Community School District #8

Summary of Calendar:

Days/Hrs. in classroom:
 First Semester = 83/525.5
 Second Semester = 97/620.5
 Total Days/Hours = 180/1146
TOTAL Hours Required: 1080

CALENDAR LEGEND

- Begin Quarter/Semester
- End Quarter/Semester
- Holidays/Breaks
- No School for Students; Teacher Professional Learning (Holiday)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Early Dismissal Days

Does not include Professional Development days/hours.

HOLIDAYS:

- Labor Day (9/7)
- Thanksgiving Day (11/26)
- New Year's Day (1/1)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/18)
- President's Day (2/15)
- Memorial Day (5/31)

Notes:

- Conferences in October at this time as a result of conference tournaments the following week.
- Spring Break over Easter, with a full teacher workday on the Tuesday after Easter.
- January 4 would be a teacher workday
- January 18 (MLK Day) would be a Teacher Professional Learning Day
- Parent-Teacher Conferences Early in February
- Currently 8 full-day professional development days (3 during the school year); 6 2-Hour Early Dismissal Days; 4 3-Hour Early Dismissal Days (1.5 hours each day of Professional Learning) for Parent-Teacher Conferences

*There will be no school make-up days beyond as long as we stay at or above the required 1,080 Instructional Hours. Teacher Professional Learning Days may be used as make up weather days at the discretion of the superintendent. If 188 teacher contract days have not been served by June 4, additional day(s) will be made up individually by June 30. Individual or group make-up plans will be approved by the administration.

August 2020					Student Days/Hours	
M	T	W	Th	F		
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	26	27	28	5	32.5
31					6	39
September 2020						
	1	2	3	4	10	65
7	8	9	10	11	14	91
14	15	16	17	18	19	121.5
21	22	23	24	25	24	154
28	29	30			27	173.5
October 2020						
			1	2	29	186.5
5	6	7	8	9	34	213
12	13	14	15	16	39	245.5
19	20	21	22	23	44	278
26	27	28	29	30	49	308.5
November 2020						
2	3	4	5	6	54	341
9	10	11	12	13	59	371.5
16	17	18	19	20	64	404
23	24	25	26	27	66	417
30					67	423.5
December 2020						
	1	2	3	4	71	449.5
7	8	9	10	11	76	480
14	15	16	17	18	81	512.5
21	22	23	24	25	83	525.5
28	29	30	31			
January 2021						
				1		
4	5	6	7	8	87	551.5
11	12	13	14	15	92	584
18	19	20	21	22	96	610
25	26	27	28	29	101	642.5
February 2021						
1	2	3	4	5	106	675
8	9	10	11	12	111	701.5
15	16	17	18	19	115	727.5
22	23	24	25	26	120	760
March 2021						
1	2	3	4	5	125	792.5
8	9	10	11	12	130	825
15	16	17	18	19	135	857.5
22	23	24	25	26	140	888
29	30	31			143	907.5
April 2021						
			1	2	144	914
5	6	7	8	9	147	933.5
12	13	14	15	16	152	966
19	20	21	22	23	157	998.5
26	27	28	29	30	162	1029
May 2021						
3	4	5	6	7	167	1061.5
10	11	12	13	14	172	1094
17	18	19	20	21	177	1126.5
24	25	26	27	28	180	1146
31						
June 2021						
	1	2	3	4		
7	8	9	10	11		

180 Days/1146 Hours

- Aug. 17 New Teachers
- Aug. 18-21 Teacher Professional Learning (All Teachers)
- Aug. 24 Begin 1st Semester
- Sept. 7 Labor Day (No School)
- Sept. 16 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- Oct. 7-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-8:00; 3-Hour Early Dismissal
- Oct. 9 No School
- Oct. 23 End of 1st Qtr. (44 days)
- Oct. 28 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- Nov. 11 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- Dec. 9 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- Dec. 22 End of 2nd Quarter (39 days). End of 1st Semester (83 days)
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 Winter Break (No School)
- Jan. 4 Teacher Professional Learning
- Jan. 5 School Resumes Begin 2nd Semester
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day (No School); Teacher Professional Learning
- Feb. 10-11 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-8:00; 3-Hour Early Dismissal
- Feb. 12 No School
- Feb. 15 President's Day (No School)
- Mar. 12 End 3rd Qtr. (47 days)
- Mar. 24 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- Apr. 2-6 Spring Break
- Apr. 6 No School for Students; Professional Learning for Teachers
- Apr. 28 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
- May 26 End of 4th Qtr. (50 days); End of 2nd Semester (97 days)
- May 27 Teacher Professional Learning
- May 31 Memorial Day

Legislative Update

A few updates are the following:

It is discussion time on school funding again...Note the graphics which follow, along with some narrative from Margaret Buckton from ISFIS (Iowa School Financial Information Services)....

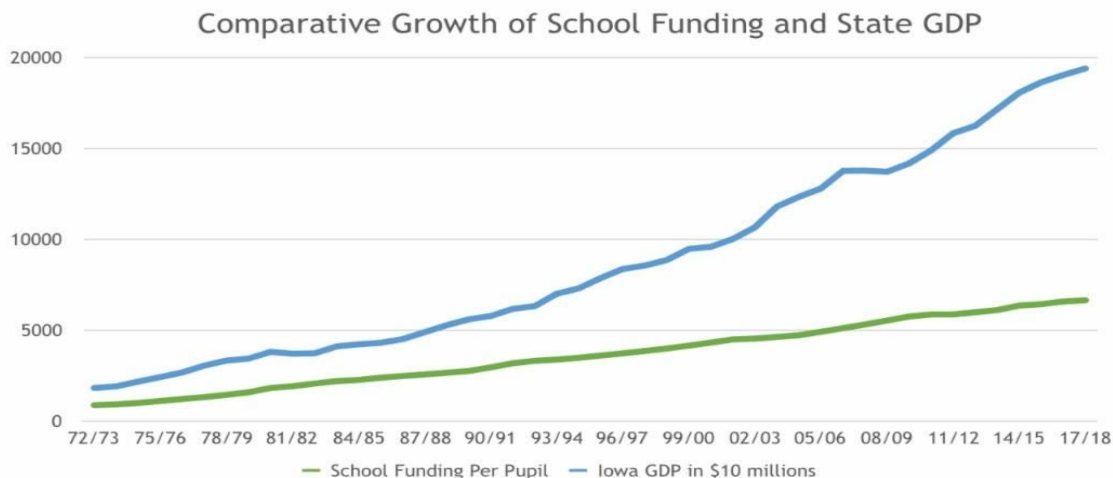
The clock on SSA is ticking, with a deadline of Feb. 14 for the legislature and governor to enact the per pupil increase. The Gov. has proposed 2.5% and the legislature has yet to introduce a bill. The SAI, UEN and RSAI are all requesting 3.75%.

In recent years, legislators have responded that they would like to give more to schools but can't afford it. This year, the state budget is in good shape:

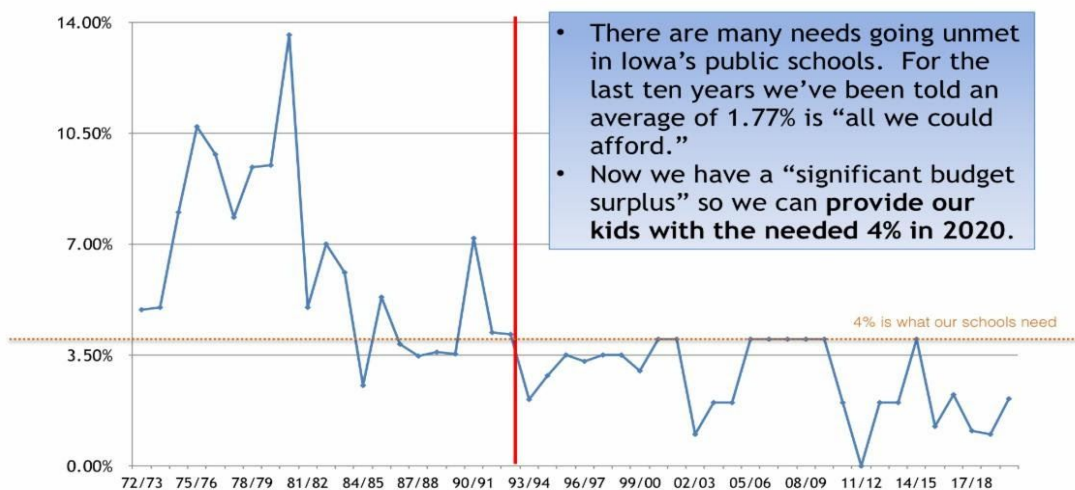
- *With a strong economy, the state can afford to invest in public schools.*
- *Reserves are full (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation).*
- *Surpluses are growing (LSA Governor's Budget Recommendation).*
- *The Governor's FY 2021 Recommendation estimates a carry-forward surplus of \$386.5 million (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation).*
- *The Governor's budget recommendation estimates a \$249 million balance in the Taxpayer Relief Fund at the close of FY 2021 (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation).*
- *The state can afford 3.75% and still have a big balance in the Taxpayer Relief fund.*
- *Significant tax cuts were made in 2018.*
- *The state's general fund growth in FY 2019 far exceeded the REC estimate and FY 2020's growth is outpacing the REC estimate. State General Fund daily receipts, through yesterday, are up 7.2% compared to FY 2019, year-to-date.*



School Funding has not kept pace with Iowa's economic growth



Iowa School Funding 1972 - 2019



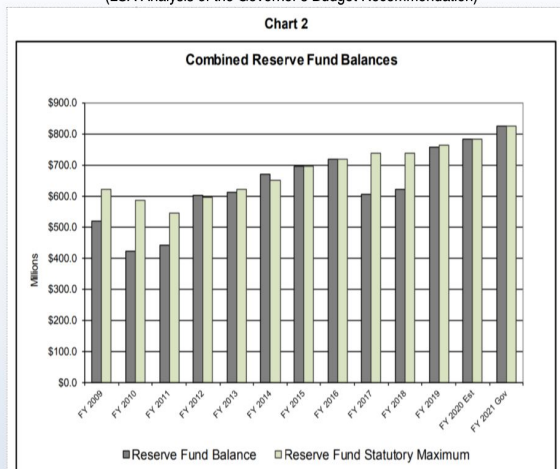
What Next?

- The clock on SSA is ticking, with a deadline of Feb. 14 for the legislature and governor to enact the per pupil increase.
- The Gov. has proposed 2.5%, the House agrees and the Senate is at 2.1%
- The SAI, UEN and RSAI are all requesting 3.75%.
- In recent years, legislators have responded that they would like to give more to schools but can't afford it. Is that still the case?

State can Afford 3.75%

- With a strong economy, the state can afford to invest in public schools.
- Significant tax cuts were made in 2018 and are still unfolding.
- Reserves are full (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation)
- Surpluses are growing (LSA Governor's Budget Recommendation)
- The Governor's FY 2021 Recommendation estimates a carry-forward surplus of \$386.5 million (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation)
- The Governor's budget recommendation estimates a \$249 million balance in the Taxpayer Relief Fund at the close of FY 2021 (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation)
- The state's general fund growth in FY 2019 far exceeded the REC estimate and FY 2020's growth is outpacing the REC estimate. State General Fund daily receipts, through yesterday, are up 6.7% compared to FY 2019, year-to-date through 1.28.20. See daily receipts on the Legislative web site [here](#).

The Governor's FY 2021 budget recommendations include combined reserve fund balances of \$824.1 million which is the maximum (LSA Analysis of the Governor's Budget Recommendation)



Is SSA the priority?

- As seen in one Senate Republican reply to a superintendent's question; "Though we do have some surplus, we have many funding requests. K-12 will be by far our greatest increase to make it our #1 priority."
- Not this year:
 - #1: Taxpayer Relief Fund transfers general fund surplus of \$175.5 million into the fund, leaving a balance of \$249 million in FY 2021.
 - #2: Medicaid has an increase of \$167 million in FY 2021 (doesn't even count the FY 2020 supplemental appropriation over \$80 million.)
 - #3: School aid plus transportation, Equity and Behavior, etc., varies from the Senate low \$91.3 million, to the House high at \$103 million.
- It would take \$72.5 million to move education to #1 priority based on this budget.
- 3.75% costs the state \$153.4 million, which still leaves room for transportation and formula equity of \$13.1 million, total of \$166.5 million.
- That would still leave the coffers full, deposit AT LEAST \$65.3 million into the Taxpayer Relief Fund, not even counting that FY 2020 revenue growth/surplus which is running well ahead of the REC estimate.

Comet Reading and Reflection

Below is an excerpt from the book "You, Your Child, and School: Navigate Your Way to the Best Education" by Sir Ken Robinson and Lou Aronica. I believe it connects with the question of what schools need to do, and what our parents and community members believe school should offer students. What is it we expect from the school?

Learning, Education, and School

Before we get into this, let me distinguish three terms, which will keep coming up: *learning*, *education*, and *school*.

- *Learning* is acquiring new skills and understanding.
- *Education* is an organized program of learning.
- *School* is a community of learners.

Children love to learn; they don't always enjoy education and some have big problems with school. Why is that?

Learning is natural for children. Babies learn at a prodigious pace. Take language. In their first twenty-four months or so, they go from being inarticulate bundles of cries and gurgles to being able to speak. It's a remarkable achievement and nobody, including you, "teaches" your child how to do it. You don't be- cause you couldn't. Learning to speak is far too complicated. How do babies learn to speak? They have a natural capacity for it and they love to learn. How do they do it? By listening and by copying you and the others around them. You encourage them with your smiles and delight, and they encourage you with theirs. They learn to speak because they want to and they can. As they go through life, they'll pick up all sorts of other skills and knowledge just for the love of learning: because they want to and they can.

Education is a more organized approach to learning. It can be

formal or informal, self-directed or organized by someone else. It might be at home, online, at work, or somewhere else. Peter Gray is a research professor of psychology at Boston College and author of *Free to Learn*. Children, he says, "are beautifully de- signed, by nature, to direct their own education. For most of human history, children educated themselves through observ- ing, exploring, questioning, playing and participating. These educative instincts still work beautifully for children who are provided with conditions that allow them to flourish."²

A school is any community of people who come together to learn with and from each other. I was asked recently if I thought schools are still a good idea. I do, and the reason is that most of what we learn in our lives we learn with and from other people. Learning is as much a social as an individual process. The real question is what sort of schools help children learn best? Many young people are turned off education not because they don't want to learn but because the rituals and routines of conven- tional schooling get in the way.

For most of us, our main experience of formal education is grade school. What images does "school" bring to mind? If you think "high school," you may picture long corridors and lockers, classrooms full of desks with blackboards or whiteboards at the front, a hall with a stage, a gym, science labs, maybe a music room or art studio, and a sports field somewhere. What about what goes on there? You may think of separate subjects (some more important than others), fixed schedules, bells and buzzers, students streaming between rooms in age groups, assignments, tests, and after-school programs. What about preschool or ele- mentary school? Whatever your own feelings about school, the fact is that if you passed out somewhere and woke up in one, you'd probably work out quickly where you were. Since the in- troduction of mass education in the nineteenth century, schools

have become recognizable places that work in typical ways. Many of the rituals of schools are taken for granted largely because school has been like this for a long time. Not all schools are like this, and schools don't have to be this way at all. The fact that so many are is a matter of habit, not necessity. We'll be looking at different ways of doing school and at how the best schools create conditions in which young people enjoy learning and want to achieve at their highest levels. It's important that they do enjoy education, for them and for you.

What's It All For?

Starting as toddlers, most children in the United States spend around fourteen years in school, forty weeks a year, five days a week for an average of eight hours a day, counting homework. It adds up to around twenty-two thousand hours of schooling, not counting college. That's about the same amount of time that all the motorists in Switzerland spent last year in traffic jams. The Swiss are a patient people, but even so, that's a lot of time. This doesn't include the time you spend getting your children ready for school in the morning, dropping them off, picking them up, helping with homework, going to meetings and events, and all the hours you spend yourself in traffic jams as a result. What do you hope for from this huge investment of time and energy? Why are you educating your children in the first place? What do you expect that they and you will get from it?

In my experience, most parents want their children to learn about the world around them, develop their natural talents and interests, and acquire the skills and knowledge they'll need to become good citizens and make a decent living. These are reasonable expectations. We had them when our own children were going through school, and our parents did when we were young.

Whatever you want, what sort of education do you think they need? If you think a conventional academic education supported by perfect test scores is best, you may well be wrong. Even if you don't think that, many policy makers do and that's a problem. In my view they're wrong too.

All Change

One of the reasons you have to think differently about education these days is that the world your children are living in is so different from the one that you and your parents grew up in. We'll go into this in later chapters, but these are some of the headlines.

Families are changing. These days, only 60 percent of children in the United States live in families where their biological parents are married. The other 40 percent live in a variety of situations: with a single mother, with a single father, with grandparents, with parents of the same sex, in a blended family, or none of the above. There are similar trends in many other countries. By the way, in case you're wondering if you're a parent, let me clarify. Given these vast social changes, for our purposes, being a parent means fulfilling particular roles rather than being a specific blood relative. You may be the child's biological parent, maybe not. Whatever your situation, if you have a primary responsibility for the home care and well-being of a child, you are a parent.

Children are changing. Physically, young people are maturing younger than ever before, especially girls. They are facing huge social pressures from popular culture and social media. They are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety, much of it related to pressures at school. They are becoming less healthy and more sedentary. For example, childhood obesity has more than doubled in the past thirty years and more than quadrupled in adolescents.

Work is changing. Digital technologies are disrupting many traditional job markets and creating whole new ones. It is almost impossible to predict what sorts of jobs today's students will be doing in five, ten, or fifteen years, assuming they have a job at all.

The whole world is changing. Let's face it, there are tumultuous changes sweeping the entire planet on every front: cultural, political, social, and environmental. Education has to take account of this if it's to help your children make their way, let alone flourish, in a world that's changing faster than ever.

Evidently, governments understand some of this and are hard at work in committee rooms and voting chambers trying to control what goes on in schools. Along the way, education has become a major political issue, and you and your children are in the crosshairs.

What's the Problem?

For over thirty years, governments everywhere have been pouring resources into attempts to reform education and raise standards in schools. Their motives are mainly economic. As digital technologies in particular have transformed international trade and employment, policy makers have recognized that high standards in education systems are vital to national prosperity and competitiveness. They're not wrong about that. The problems for you and your children lie in the strategies they've adopted to "improve" education. In many countries, there are four main ones: *STEM disciplines, testing and competition, academicism, and diversity and choice*. In some countries, notably the United States, there is a fifth: *profit*. At first glance, some of these reform strategies may seem to make sense. In practice, they've often backfired with worrying consequences for many young people and their families.

Information Items

A. Performance Profiles

Last week the Iowa School Performance Profiles were released by the Iowa Department of Education. Bellevue Elementary was viewed as "Acceptable", while the "growth" at the Bellevue MS/HS was viewed as "Needs Improvement" (specifically for students who are on Free/Reduced Lunch as a "target"). Ultimately, I have several perspectives and opinions on this.

- First thing, we are measuring something against scores from a new assessment with a previous assessment which is no longer used (that does not seem right, correct, but it is a fact);
- Next, we are measuring students on a test that has NO impact on their future for college, additional training, etc. While we will emphasize the importance of this, we cannot make someone score better if it gets challenging and they do not "push" themselves. At the same time, "pushing themselves" as students must be something we instill in them and their work ethic overall.
- We are measuring aspects that have no direct correlation to some areas or some careers. We have no measurement of how well students do in our school in regard to grades, learning, etc. For example: The "F" rate at the MS/HS went down dramatically 1st semester...Classes failed for the semester: 20 classes (compared to previous three year average of over 30). This is not where we want it yet - at zero, but it is making progress and is the right direction.
- Finally, how accurate is this for the success of our students? We have a very high graduation rate, average 3.15 in college courses (by some of the same students who were not at a level they needed to be), and we emphasize student passions and interests (or atleast we try to in most classes...which needs to be in all classes).

Some other school district results (I have more if you would like to see them, or a website to access at:

<https://www.iaschoolperformance.gov/ECP/Home/Index>

- *Andrew: Elementary school - commendable; middle school - acceptable*
- *Bellevue: Elementary school - acceptable; middle/high school - needs improvement*
- *Central: Elementary and middle/high schools - both acceptable*
- *Clayton Ridge: Elementary school - high performing; middle school and Iowa Virtual Academy - acceptable; high school - commendable*

- *Easton Valley: Elementary school - acceptable; high school - needs improvement*
- *Edgewood-Colesburg: Elementary school -- acceptable; high school - commendable*
- *Maquoketa: Briggs and Cardinal elementary schools - both priority; middle school - needs improvement; high school - commendable*
- *Maquoketa Valley: Delhi, Earlville and Johnston elementary schools - all commendable; middle and high school - both high performing*
- *Monticello: Carpenter and Shannon elementary schools, middle school and high school - all commendable*
- *Western Dubuque: Cascade and Farley elementary schools - both exceptional; Dyersville Elementary and Drexler Middle/Intermediate schools - both commendable; Epworth and Peosta Elementary schools, Cascade Junior/Senior High School and Western Dubuque High School - all high performing*
- *West Delaware - Lambert elementary - needs improvement; middle and high schools - commendable*
- *MFL MarMac - MFL MarMac elementary school, McGregor Intermediate School and MFL MarMac Middle School - all acceptable; high school -- commendable*

B. Regional Center Update

I met with representatives from the Eastern Iowa Community College District (including Clinton Community College representatives) recently, along with superintendents from Northeast, Clinton, DeWitt, Cal-Wheat and Camanche. The *article* below refers to this meeting and the status of Career and Technical Education offerings for our students. Prior to the *article* is an overview from my perspective, where I stressed that Jackson County and its schools must also receive some funding regardless, and it is important to not forget about Jackson County although the enrollment is smaller than Clinton County when we are "grouped" together.

General Update:

Some indecisiveness from EICC on the future of a Regional Center (Plan A of Superintendents). Don Doucette (Chancellor for EICC) did not want to commit to this and instead wanted to look at doing things on the current campuses of the schools in the college district. He referred to this as Plan B.

Superintendents in attendance were not pleased with this as it may limit the opportunities for students. Don has not been promoting the Regional Center concept due to his beliefs of financial burdens and extending the referendum that will end in 2021. The superintendents were pushing EICC to look at a Regional Center in Clinton County, along with providing funds to expand the current facilities and offerings in Maquoketa for Jackson County.

Don stated that there is not buy-in for this in Scott County, due somewhat to some leadership changes in many QC schools. It was mentioned by the superintendents in attendance that North Scott is looking at a \$5 million Ag building for the metro area. Don stated that the high schools in the metro are providing for students with their current facilities, and that Scott County has a lot of voters to convince of a need for this in areas outside of Scott County (also the by far the largest population in the college district). The referendum needs to be a 5-county bond regardless from Don's opinion.

The current levy ends in 2021 (September?). It was mentioned that it is easier to "extend" this now (Meyer and some others echoed this), than to wait when it expires and "start over" again....Don mentioned to possibly run a bond issue in March 2021 if Plan A is pursued, or even for funding for Plan B (if they cannot do it on their own).

Superintendents discussed equity of programming, and how Clinton and Jackson County feel they get what is "good enough" in comparison to Scott County...and other areas. When Wyoming, Iowa can provide services to students through Kirkwood, how can EICC not do the same?

The meeting ended with Don agreeing to continue to look at this, check with Scott County superintendents, and with his board.

My thought....it is going to be on current campuses from the discussion today. I asked for funds for Jackson County schools if that is the case, for the equity of our students and their education.

Article from Maquoketa and DeWitt newspapers

*Window closing on new tech center?
Superintendents to meet with EICC chancellor*

School district superintendents throughout the region reportedly will meet with the chancellor of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges amid ongoing efforts to enhance career technical education (CTE) opportunities in Eastern Iowa.

A handful of area superintendents say they expect to meet with Donald Doucette on Monday morning. They say they are eager to learn his stance on one of their top priorities: A new regional facility. They fear that time is running out on a grand opportunity.

Iowa legislation that was signed in 2016 ordered high schools to align their curriculums with community colleges and to develop a "regional center" approach that strives to meet the demands of the evolving labor market and gives all students hands-on access to strong occupation-focused programming.

Since then, the superintendents of eight school districts in the area have expressed hope that a centralized facility be constructed to cut down on travel times for the students in those districts. Students in the Cal-Wheat and Bellevue districts, for example, would face dispiriting travel times to the Clinton, Scott or Muscatine college campuses.

But funding such a project remains a huge hurdle.

In 2018, Karen Vickers, former vice chancellor of student development for EICC, suggested the potential extension of a successful \$33 million bond measure that she spearheaded for the benefit of the three colleges under the EICC umbrella more than a decade ago.

If repeated, that amount of funding might do the trick, officials say.

When that bond measure was passed in 2007, it cost property owners \$15 per \$100,000 assessed valuation per year. That bond measure will be paid off in September.

The prevailing belief among at least four superintendents is that it is a whole lot easier for taxpayers to support a tax levy they currently are paying as opposed to letting that tax levy expire and then asking voters for a "new" one.

They worry that time is running out to launch a successful campaign asking taxpayers to renew the bond measure in September.

In the meantime, superintendents have agreed on pursuing about 20 "career academies." Class instruction for any of the academies in question likely would have to take place at one of the three EICC campuses.

At a recent meeting, Gabe White, interim dean of instruction at Clinton Community College, said the college is ready to offer programming in business, education and advanced manufacturing.

"We're absolutely committed to meeting the programming needs for both Jackson and Clinton counties," Knight said. "We're still in the planning stages of how we can meet those needs. So, in the meantime, we've identified programs that were able offer in our existing facilities in the next academic year."

C. Beyond the Blue

The Beyond the Blue committee met on Monday, January 27. They selected 4 recipients to receive the award. Recipients include the following (with more information to come at a later time): Steve Griebel, Nancy Kieffer (Roling), Greg Schulte, and Art Sunleaf.

D. Graduation 2020 and beyond

Graduation for this year is on Saturday, May 23 @ 8:00 PM. Future graduation dates/times may need to be a point of discussion in the future, but here is some basic information. We will include this as an agenda item for discussion and possible action in March or April.

Last May and June we had some discussion as a Board about the date of future graduations. We did not change it this year due to people already reserving spots for their graduation parties, etc. for the Class of 2020. Some notes from this discussion include the following:

A few key points to consider:

- State Track - One thing to remember in the decision-making process is that a Saturday afternoon/evening has a potential to conflict with state track if we move it up before 8:00, unless we move it up a week or back a week. This year state track is scheduled on May 23 (the final day of state track). If we decide to move it in the future, I believe we need to move it to a date which is not connected with state track...which may also mean altering our schedule (See information later in this section, as seniors can only be released up to 5 days before the last scheduled day of the school year for all students).

(Marquette also has graduation this same weekend and this makes it easier on relatives traveling to Bellevue, etc)

<u>Year</u>	<u>State Track</u>	<u>Graduation</u>
● 2019-2020	May 21-23	May 23
● 2020-2021	May 20-22	May 22 or 29 (tentative)
● 2021-2022	May 19-21	May 21 or 28 (tentative)

This indicates that graduation could be held after state track the next two years, and the time could change.

- Required Days for Seniors - Seniors can not officially be released from school until 5 days before the school year is scheduled to end with the approved calendar (snow days do not count in this counting of days as it is based on the original/approved calendar for the year). This school year I

anticipate seniors being released on May 20 (4 days before...Memorial Day is the 25th). We could move graduation in the future, but this also means moving some other things in our calendar and then also having to look at the days we go to school (teacher contract days are 188 and we could utilize more professional learning days, but these would need to be after school is over, etc.)

Below is the May calendar for this school year for reference.

<table border="0"> <tr><td>41</td><td>40</td><td>43</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	41	40	43	39	May			1		4	5	6	7	8		11	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	22		25	26	27	28	29	<table border="0"> <tr><td>May 23</td><td>Graduation</td></tr> <tr><td>May 25</td><td>MEMORIAL DAY</td></tr> <tr><td>May 27</td><td>End of 4th Quarter (45 Days)/!</td></tr> <tr><td>May 28</td><td>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</td></tr> <tr><td>May 29</td><td>Teacher Quality Day</td></tr> <tr><td>May 28-Jun 5</td><td>POTENTIAL SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS</td></tr> </table>	May 23	Graduation	May 25	MEMORIAL DAY	May 27	End of 4 th Quarter (45 Days)/!	May 28	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	May 29	Teacher Quality Day	May 28-Jun 5	POTENTIAL SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS
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Below are the responses from the Graduation Survey from the past. Over 100 parents responded (including last year's graduate parents)

- Results of Separate Graduating Class Parents
 We currently have graduation at 8:00 on Saturday night. Do you believe this time should be moved to a different time of the day? If so, what time? Check all that apply to your perspective (impacts percentages).

	2019	2020	2021
Keep the same	12%	8%	26%
Different time	31%	21%	17%
4:00 on Saturday	36%	34%	22%
5:00 on Saturday	19%	16%	13%
6:00 on Saturday	21%	34%	22%
Other	17%	21%	9%

Do you believe Saturday is the best day, or would you prefer a Sunday afternoon?

	2019	2020	2021
Keep on Saturday	93%	81%	96%
Move to Sunday	7%	19%	4%

- Overall Results (Response Percent out of a total of 103 Responses)

<u>Time of Graduation</u>	
Keep the same	14%
Different time	24%
4:00 on Saturday	32%
5:00 on Saturday	17%
6:00 on Saturday	26%

Day of Graduation

Keep on Saturday 85%
Move to Sunday 10%

*some did not reply to this question.

*Parent responses

2019 Parents - 42

2020 Parents - 38

2021 Parents - 23

- Other comments of note (I can share a more in-depth comment by comment narrative to new board members if desired, and to veteran board members)
 - The West Gym Location was a positive location.
 - "Crank up" the air conditioning earlier in the gym.
 - Nice to see the graduates on stage (seeing their faces was nice, instead of the back of their heads).
 - An earlier graduation time would give family time to celebrate, and 8:00 is late for some elderly people.
 - Some people are forced to spend the night if they want to see graduation and go to the party.
 - Trying to stay away from Memorial Day weekend would be nice.
 - Keeping graduation the same weekend, and different day, than Marquette is good for families.
 - Saturday night graduation is a good tradition and does not conflict with other graduations in the area for high school or colleges.
 - 8:00 is a good time as it allows people to celebrate prior to graduation, and is nice for families.

E. Community Involvement/Awareness

I have asked the administrators, instructional coaches, and our District Leadership Team the following recently...

Big Question: What do we do? Does our community know?

- *How many people in our community are aware of our achievements?*
- *What percentage of the public understands the challenges we face?*
- *How many of us actively promote our schools?*

What are your responses?

We (yes YOU are included) must promote what we are doing to the public. It is imperative for the success of our school system PK-12. Something to think about.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, Board Members

Some of you may be hearing that football has dropped down to Class A from 1A the last several years. This is only for one year at this time while the state works on some changes to the classification system, although for the many years there has been a classification schedule of two years for scheduling purposes.

Additionally, Deputy Steve Schroeder from the Jackson County Sheriff's Department spoke with students last week about "threats" and terrorism. He had 15-minute meetings with grades 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM