

Belle Plaine, Iowa  
October 18, 2017

A meeting of the Belle Plaine Community School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:45 p.m. in the board room at Longfellow Elementary, Belle Plaine.

Members Present: Marie Stratford, Mike Bachelder, Brad Cook,  
Rima Johnson, Val Coffman

Members Absent: None

Administration Present: Chad Straight, Todd Werner, Heather Coover

Board Secretary Present: Stacey Kolars

Visitors Present: Interested Patrons

Press Representative: None

The meeting was called to order by President Stratford at 6:45 p.m.

#### **AGENDA**

Motion Cook, second Bachelder to approve the agenda, with the exception of removing the title of “Organizational Meeting” per the request of President Stratford. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The consent agenda items were considered. There was motion by Johnson second by Cook to approve the consent agenda items. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried. The consent agenda items that were approved are listed below:

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2017 Regular Meeting and Organizational Meeting and the minutes from the September 27, 2017 Special Meeting.
2. Approval of bills, payroll, financial statements.
3. Personnel/Business Items:
  - a. Acceptance of the resignations - There were no resignations.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**-Secondary Principal, Todd Werner and Elementary Principal, Heather Coover gave reports to the board on the following topics:

- Thank you to the Belle Plaine Lion's Club for conducting the vision screenings for the preschool and kindergarten students. Your support is greatly appreciated.
- PTO is again funding the Kindergarten students to visit the pumpkin farm. Thank you to PTO for their partnership and support.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> Professional Development meeting-Longfellow
- MAP testing went smoothly again with the Chromebooks.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>
- Student Centered Classrooms at the secondary level
- FFA Alumni presentation at the high school
- FFA Farm Safety Day was a big hit at the high school
- MAP Testing took place October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the secondary levels.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Straight informed the board that he was looking at a perforated window logo design for one of the larger windows at the high school. This window logo displays the district's mascot and allows a person to see out of the window, but the logo is displayed from the outside. Superintendent Straight stated this logo would cost approximately \$800, and asked for the board's input. Cook stated he had seen them in other districts and thought they looked sharp. Superintendent Straight stated he would continue looking into designs.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Employment of Personnel:

There was motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to approve Kristin Balvin's employment as a food service employee at 2 hours per day with pay beginning at \$9.12 per hour. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

2. Action/Discussion on LED Lighting Bids-

Superintendent Straight presented bids to the board regarding new LED lighting from three companies. After review of the bids, it was determined that the bids received were not based on the same specifications; one company bid to replace all fixtures, with another bid quoting mostly retrofitting costs on existing fixtures. After discussion, there was motion by Cook, second by Coffman to throw out all

bids and go back to the companies requesting uniform bids; that they all bid on the specification that included re-lamping the existing fixtures. In the same motion a special meeting was set for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. to review and approve the revised bids. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

3. Action/Discussion Regarding Raise for Groundskeeper-  
Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve a \$0.50 raise for groundskeeper, Les Jacobi retroactive to July, 2017. Superintendent Straight stated Jacobi has been completing many different duties for the school, and with a shared maintenance director, it helps the district to have someone available with his abilities. The district also receives extra sharing money that would help counter the extra expense. There was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.
  
4. Action/Discussion on Early Retirement Offerings -  
Superintendent Straight informed the board that he sent communication to the faculty essentially polling teachers to see if anyone would be interested in retiring early at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. To be eligible for early retirement, teachers need to be at least 55 years of age prior to their resignation date, and have provided at least 15 years of service to the district. Superintendent Straight stated he received only one response. Discussion took place regarding the amount of prior year's early retirement offerings, versus the current offerings of \$25,000 per person with payments spread out over two years. Straight explained that payments are made out of the management fund for early retirement, and that the purpose of offering an early retirement was more of a budget consideration. Coffman stated that she felt that this type of offering should be put into policy and should be offered for ongoing years so teachers are able to plan for their retirements. Straight countered that early retirement offerings were not for the purpose of rewarding teachers, but for budgetary purposes. Straight went on to say that if offered every year, it defeats the purpose of money savings to the district, and eliminates the incentive for teachers. Cook stated he believes the district values experienced teachers, and that we don't want to encourage them to leave unless it's a financial concern to the district. Coffman stated she felt early retirement offerings shouldn't always be a financial concern. After further discussion, there was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to not offer early retirement for the 2017-2018 school year. Cook voted, "aye;" Bachelder voted, "aye;" Stratford voted, "aye;" Coffman voted, "nay;" Johnson voted, "nay." Motion carried.

5. Action/Discussion on Early Graduation Request-  
A letter was presented to the board from student, Keonna Shoudy asking the board to approve her request to graduate early. Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve Ms. Shoudy's request for early graduation provided she completes the requirements necessary to graduate. There was motion by Coffman, second by Johnson to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.
  
6. Discussion of IASB Conference and Workshop-  
Superintendent Straight informed the board that the Annual Iowa Association of School Boards Conference and Workshop would be taking place Wednesday, November 15, Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17, 2017. If board members are interested in attending, please let Stacey know prior to October 29, 2017. Stratford, Bachelder and Superintendent Straight will be attending the Thursday, November 15, 2017 general session. No action was taken on this item.
  
7. Review Disaggregated Data by Class -  
Superintendent Straight stated that disaggregated data had been sent to the board for their review. This data includes information regarding male/female ratios and minority distribution among each class.
  
8. Action/Discussion on Hiring an Architect for Common Areas at the High School-  
Superintendent Straight provided information to the board regarding an initial proposal from Struxture Architects regarding remodeling projects at the junior/senior high school. Straight stated the architect would require \$5,000 initially for presentation of preliminary drawings, schemes and concepts. The district is currently looking at a prioritized list that includes remodeling of the library and cafeteria areas at the junior/senior high school. Discussion took place that included other areas of the building including the old restroom areas as well as the Art and FCS classroom areas. After further discussion, there was motion by Bachelder, second by Coffman to approve the hiring of an architect for the remodeling projects. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.
  
9. Discussion of Certified Enrollment for 2017-2018 -  
Superintendent Straight presented information to the board regarding the current enrollment numbers for the district for the 2017-2018 school year. After review and discussion, the actual number of student attending the district is 532.80.

10. Action/Discussion on Purchasing Weight Room Equipment-  
Superintendent Straight informed the board that the athletic director and weight room sponsor have asked to purchase some weight room equipment. The booster club will help with some of the cost. Superintendent Straight stated that these costs could be paid for by the district out of PPEL or SAVE funds. The initial cost is \$8,179. Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve this purchase. There was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.
  
11. Action/Discussion on Changing Date of November School Board Meeting-  
Superintendent Straight informed the board that the current date of the regularly scheduled board meeting for November would need to be changed since it interfered with the dates of the IASB Annual Convention. There was motion by Johnson, second by Coffman to move the November board meeting to Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:45 p.m. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.
  
12. First Reading of Board Policy 606.1 Class Size-Class Grouping-  
Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve the first reading of the board policy addressing class sizes. After a brief discussion, there was motion by Bachelder second by Cook to approve the first reading of Board Policy 606.1. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

Marie Stratford  
President

Stacey Kolars  
Board Secretary