

Belle Plaine, Iowa
Wednesday, September 20, 2017

The organizational meeting of the Belle Plaine Community School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 6:45 p.m. in the board room at Longfellow Elementary, Belle Plaine.

Members Present:	Marie Stratford, Mike Bachelder, Brad Cook and Rima Johnson
Members Absent:	Jon Garling
Administration Present:	Chad Straight, Heather Coover, Todd Werner
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 Johnson to approve the agenda. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2017 MEETING

Motion Cook, second Bachelder to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016 board meeting. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COMPLETION OF ANNUAL SETTLEMENT WITH BOARD TREASURER

Board Secretary/Treasurer, Stacey Kolars completed the annual settlement with the board for the fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) and provided the board with ending fund balances from the district's completed Certified Annual Report (CAR). No motion was taken on this item.

ACCEPT ABSTRACT OF ELECTION

Board Secretary/Treasurer, Stacey Kolars reviewed the Abstract of Election from the September 12, 2017 School Election. The PPEL Public Measure was passed, and Val Coffman and Rima Johnson were duly elected to the Belle Plaine Community Board of Directors for four year terms.

ADJOURNMENT OF CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD

Motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to adjourn the current school board. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting was turned over to Board Secretary Kolars who called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Board secretary Kolars took roll call. All board members were present and a quorum was declared. Board Secretary Kolars administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Directors, Coffman and Johnson.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD PRESIDENT

There was motion by Bachelder to nominate Brad Cook as Board President. Motion died for lack of second. There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to nominate Marie Stratford for the office board president; Coffman, Johnson, Cook voted, "aye," Bachelder voted, "nay." Motion carried. The meeting was turned over to Board President Stratford.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

There was motion by Johnsonr, second by Bahcelder to nominate Brad Cook for the office of board vice-president. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Cook, second Johnson to approve the agenda with the exception of numbering Business item 3 as 3.1, and adding items 3.2-Discussion of ACT Scores, adding the addendum of Action/Discussion Regarding 6th Grade Class Size as 3.3, removing Business Item 12, and adding Business item 16-Action/Discussion Regarding Election of AEA 10, District #4 Board Member. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

DELEGATIONS

Gene Severson was present at the meeting to thank the Principals, Board Members and staff for setting an example to the students regarding the flag raising ceremonies at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Severson stated this year's ceremony was the best one to date, and that the students were very respectful and well behaved.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Approval of bills, payroll, financial statements
2. Personnel/Business Items:

- a. Acceptance of Resignations-There were no resignations.
- b. Acceptance of Non-Discrimination Notice.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Elementary Principal, Heather Coover and Secondary Principal, Todd Werner both gave reports to the board on the following topics:

- The Belle Plaine Legion assisted with the open day flag raising ceremony. Thank you to the Legionaries for coming to the schools and being part of this ceremony. Thank you to the students, as well. They did a wonderful job and were very respectful.
- Fall testing will begin soon.
- Thank you to the Belle Plaine Community for their generosity to the schools and students. Many individuals, organizations and church groups have donated supplies to assist students and families as they prepare for a successful school year.
- Thank you to the Lion's Club for the \$25 donation to the art department
- Update on increased attendance in 6th grade classroom. The classroom is currently equipped with one teacher and full-time associate and everything is going well. The school continues to provide Title I services. It has been a great start to the year, and we will continue to monitor the situation in that classroom as the year progresses.
- Vision testing will begin in October
- New Math Series at Longfellow
- 7th Grade Orientation and New Student Chromebook Orientation on August 21
- Professional Development on MLA Training and Google Classroom updates
- Alternative Program has started and is going very well
- Workplace Learning, August 25-Reps presented job shadowing and internship opportunities
- UNI College Fair-9/12/17-Juniors
- Kirkwood College Fair-9/13/17-Seniors. Thank you to Doug Bannon for his hospitality and assistance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Straight reported to the board on the following:

- The baseball field sod has been applied, and the City added sprinklers on the outside of the field
- We had an LED company come and they will be giving us a bid. I am looking for other options there, as well.
- Enrollment numbers should be ready to present to the board by next month's meeting. Right now, the numbers look similar to last year's. Count day is October 1.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Stratford read a thank you note from the Belle Plaine Softball Team.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Employment of Personnel-

Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve the employment of the following personnel:

Julie Mantz-junior high volleyball coach

Kelly Clark-4.5 hour food service position

Annie Lown-3 hour food service position

There was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendations. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

2. Discussion/Focus on Education STEM Coordinator-

STEM Coordinator/Instructor, Frank Jowitt was present at the meeting to provide instructional information and demonstrations, as well as program goals to the board for the upcoming school year in the new STEM program. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

3.1 Action/Discussion on STEM Goals-

Superintendent Straight presented a report on STEM goals which included program initiatives, class offerings, long-term program goals and purchases for the program. After review, there was motion by Johnson, second by Cook to approve the STEM program goals. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

3.2 Discussion on ACT Scores-

Secondary Principal Todd Werner presented composite data to the board regarding ACT Scores for Belle Plaine Students. Werner also presented GPA data in correlation to student scores.

3.3 Action/Discussion on Sixth Grade Class Size-

Discussion took place regarding the current class size of the sixth grade class. The current class has one section with 29 total students, with one teacher and one full-time associate in the class. Concerns regarding class size and other issues were brought up by parents, Amy Steinback and Bree Stamp, who stated they would prefer smaller class sizes. Superintendent Straight and Principal Coover stated research had been done prior to making the decision to move to one section. Coover stated she had reached out to other districts to see if 29 students was uncommon and found that it was not. Coover also stated that Title services were offered to sixth graders, when typically this service stops at the 4th grade levels. Superintendent Straight stated he had made several visits to the classroom and observed that things were going very well. Straight made the

recommendation to maintain the current structure of the sixth grade classroom and continue to allow the administration to monitor the situation. There was motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. Further discussion took place regarding emotional impact of students in the classroom with study skills along with the increased rigor of the new Math Series creating possible issues with a larger class. Questions were asked by Coffman if this class could be reconfigured/departmentalized with fifth grade, or if there was room in the building for another class. Coover stated the problem with reconfiguration is the separation that needs to be made from curriculum from one grade level to another. After further discussion, a vote was made on the initial motion by Cook to maintain Superintendent Straight's recommendation to maintain the current class size in one section. The motion was unanimously denied. Motion by Coffman, second by Johnson to post another sixth grade teacher position to be hired immediately. The motion was denied unanimously. President Stratford turned the meeting over to Vice-President Cook, and made the motion to send the issue back to the school administrators to bring a second recommendation back to the board to be considered at a special meeting one week from today on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 6:45 p.m. Second by Bachelder. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

4. Appointment of Firm to Provide Legal Representation for the School District for the Upcoming Year-

Motion by Cook, second by Johnson to approve Brett Nitzschke with the Lynch Dallas Law Firm as the legal representation for the school district in the 2017-2018 school year. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

5. Action Regarding Selection of Delegate to IASB Assembly-

The Delegate Assembly during the Annual IASB Convention takes place on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. There was motion by Coffman to volunteer as a delegate and to attend the IASB Delegate assembly, second by Johnson. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

6. Action/Discussion on SIAC Committee and SIAC Members-

Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve the list of students, parents, community members and staff for the 17-18 SIAC Committee. There was motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

7. Approval of the Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Homeless Liaison-
There was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to name Superintendent Straight as the Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Homeless Liaison for the 2017-2018 school year. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.
8. Approval of Level I Investigator, Alternate Level I, and 504 Coordinator-
Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve Mr. Werner as the Level I Investigator, and Mrs. Coover as the Alternate Level I Investigator and 504 Coordinator. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.
9. Approval of Modified Allowable Growth for Special Education Deficit-
Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve modified allowable growth in the amount of \$160,173.99 for the 18-19 school year. This gives the district authority for the amount of the special education deficit. There was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to approve Superintendent Straight’s recommendation. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.
10. Action/Discussion Setting Date, Time, and Place of Regular Board Meetings and Identify Official Publication of Meeting Notices-
Superintendent Straight informed the board that this was their opportunity to set the date and time of the regular board meetings. Straight stated he was comfortable with the current time and date, and it works well with the Tri-County District’s board meetings. Straight also recommended the Star Press Union as the official publisher of meeting notices. There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to approve Superintendent Straight’s recommendation. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.
11. Action/Discussion on Fence Bid for Elementary Parking Area-
Superintendent Straight recommended the lower bid received from Life Time Fence in the amount of \$5,725 and to include the extra amount of \$500 (total of \$6,225) for the tearing out and removal of the old fence adjacent to the Pech property in the south parking lot of the Longfellow Elementary. Another bid was received from D & N Fence Co., Inc. for a total amount of \$6,790. There was motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to approve Superintendent Straight’s recommendation. All voted, “aye.” Motion carried.

12. Action/Discussion on Bid from Nursery for Arborvitae Replacement-
This item was removed from the agenda.

13. Action/Discussion on Building Lease Agreement with Kirkwood-
Superintendent Straight recommended the board authorize President Stratford to approve the lease agreement with Kirkwood in the amount of \$250 per month once the insurance issues have been resolved. There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation. All voted, "aye." Motion carried. The lease is for the use of the Tippie Room at the Kirkwood Center for the Alternative High School classes.

14. Action/Discussion on Adding Lime to the Softball Field-
Superintendent Straight recommended the board approve the addition of lime to the softball field at the high school. Straight stated approximately \$4,000 worth of lime is needed for this field. The infield will be raised a couple of inches during this process. There was motion by Cook, second by Bachelder to approve Superintendent Straight's recommendation for the addition of lime to the high school softball field. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

15. Action/Discussion on Fundraisers-
Superintendent Straight presented a compiled list of fundraisers to be approved for the 2017-2018 school year. Straight mentioned that one in particular had been pulled off this list because he wanted the board's input and further consideration before it was approved. After review of the list, there was motion by Bachelder, second by Cook to approve the fundraisers for the 2017-2018 school year. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

16. Action/Discussion on Election for GWAEA 10, District 4 Board Member-
Sue Gates is running for board member for Grant Wood AEA 10, District #4. There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to cast the board's vote for Sue Gates as a member of Grant Wood Area Education Agency Board of Directors. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

The next meeting of the board will take place on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.

There was motion by Cook, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. All voted, "aye." Motion carried.

Marie Stratford
President

Stacey Kolars
Board Secretary