

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comet Highlights - April 12
From the April 11, 2022 Board Meeting

April 14-19	No School for Students - Spring Break (Teachers have Professional Learning on April 19)
May 27	Last day of the 2021-2022 School Year
August 1 & 2	School Registration
August 15	New Teacher Induction and Teacher Professional Learning
August 16-22	Teacher Professional Learning
August 23	1st Day of School

To view a calendar of events see the following link:

<https://www.rivervalleyconference.org/public/genie/628/school/1/>

APPROVED - Consent Agenda

Approve Open Enrollments

- Emmitt Blatz - Kindergarten - Andrew to Bellevue
- Arianna Davis - 3rd - Bellevue to Dubuque
- Brooklyn Davis - 2nd - Bellevue to Dubuque
- Wade Dierksen - 4PK - Maquoketa to Bellevue
- Kinsley Felderman - Kindergarten - Andrew to Bellevue
- Blake Lyons - PK - Dubuque to Bellevue
- Isabelle Breny - 3PK - Pleasant Valley to Bellevue (Relatives in Bellevue)
- Harrison Kueter - 3PK - Dubuque to Bellevue
- Piper Kueter - 6th - Dubuque to Bellevue - Currently attend Bellevue, but will be moving into the Dubuque CSD by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Stella Kueter - 6th - Dubuque to Bellevue - Currently attend Bellevue, but will be moving into the Dubuque CSD by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Adley Felderman - 4PK - Andrew to Bellevue

Approve Resignations

- Jacob Huntley - MS/HS Chorus; Jacob informed the district of this on Tuesday as he moves on toward a master's in music serving as a graduate assistant in choral conducting - We are posting this to attain applicants
- Gary Hansen - Bus Driver effective at the end of the school year; Gary has done an outstanding job with the district throughout his approximately 30 years of service.
- Mark Ruden - HS Girls Bowling
- Rick Casel - MS Girls Basketball
- Steve Nemmers - Assistant HS Football

Approve Recommendations to Hire

- Elementary Positions (see information at the end of this section as well)
 - Shannon Anderson - 1st Grade
 - Tina Sieverding - 3rd Grade
 - Melissa Fondell - 4th Grade
- Ryan Ernst - Head HS Softball Coach
- Kristen Wright - Play Contract (For Spring Play that was a few weeks ago)
- Jessica Bormann - Summer Help (part-time) - Custodial assistance; This position(s) has been posted online and in the building. She currently serves as the district's food service director, and is interested in working this summer and cleaning, moving furniture, etc.
- Chase Kueter - Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach (pending certification in the upcoming few weeks); Approving it now means that he could start working with students prior to our next meeting if he gets his certification completed.
- Matt Wedeking - Volunteer Golf Coach
- Chase Junk - Volunteer Track Coach

**The district has not approved volunteer coaches for all of their roles in the past, but only as a "volunteer" for the specific activity at the time (which has been interpreted as overall volunteer). But, for transparency and information sharing I believe it is good to begin sharing all of the activities they are involved in as volunteers.*

Elementary Position Follow-Up:

These appear to be very good new additions to our staff (and one move to another grade, that will also be a very good move).

- *1st Grade - Shannon Anderson (She student taught here at one time, and is now teaching in Dubuque)*
- *3rd Grade - Tina Sieverding (She has been teaching in East Dubuque for 18 years)*
- *4th Grade - Melissa Fondell (She has been teaching in Dubuque for the last several years)*
- *5th Grade - Josh Kueter, who is currently teaching 3rd grade, will be moving to 5th grade based on his request and his interview with Mrs. Hartung-Schroeder, Mrs. Till (current 5th-grade teacher), and myself.*

The interview team overall consisted of the building principal and superintendent, along with eight educators in the building who shared their thoughts on the candidates prior to reference calls and "figuring out" the best fit for our district and its students:

Jessica Hingtgen will remain in her role as Instructional Coach, and we have made some plans already for professional learning and her role for next year, along with curriculum areas of Science and Social Studies at the elementary level plus various alignments at the secondary level. I will share a job description at our the Board meeting.

Recognize any Visitors

George Daugherty (community member), Memphis Jess (Student), Gabby Williamson (Student), and Curt Ernst (Teacher)

Public Hearing on the FY23

This was a time for any visitors to ask about the budget for the upcoming school year. George Daugherty asked about the spending of all "funds" that are listed in the budget and accountability for the spending as the year goes on. The board members, Mrs. Medinger, and Mr. Meyer shared the internal controls in place and monthly reports to the Board that are shared. A question was also asked in regard to concurrent courses. Meyer explained this is a way of offering our students college credits (concurrent credits technically that count for both college and high school credit) since we live a farther distance away from college campuses and regional centers than some students, and the cost for the whole year is equivalent to that of two teachers approximately and that we could not hire teachers to teach the wide variety of courses that are offered for our students as they prepare for further college, gain an AA degree, or work on a certification. This is true for all college degrees overall, as there are specific math, english, and other courses that must be taken for a degree in auto body (as an example).

APPROVED - Approve the FY23 Bellevue Community School District Budget

This is the time in the meeting for the Board to share any thoughts they have on the budget, that was set to be published and voted on at this meeting. The proposed rate was **10.53626**, and this was approved by the Board (same rate as posted in publications prior to the meeting).

Tax Rates of Local School Districts - FY2022

The following is information in regard to tax rates in our area from last year (nearby schools, conference schools, and those of our general size in a 90-minute drive or so. **Bold school districts** are those that neighbor our district directly (Remember a General Obligation Bond is an increase of \$2.70).

Alburnett	15.17224	
Anamosa	15.78226	
Andrew	11.61124	
BELLEVUE	10.87334	(10.53626 approved for the 22-23 school year)
Bettendorf	12.87278	
Cal-Wheat	11.99043	
Camanche	12.61466	
Central DeWitt	14.09356	
Clayton Ridge	11.88490	
Clinton	16.73437	
Delwood	11.87320	
Dubuque	14.66255	
Durant	11.49470	
Easton Valley	14.72135	
Lisbon	18.24483	

Maquoketa	13.13110
Midland	14.00866
Monticello	14.16469
North Cedar	13.38614
Northeast	14.86920
Springville	15.47625
Tipton	11.60354
West Branch	15.35028
West Liberty	14.28197
Western Dubuque	11.23215
Wilton	14.78094

On another note...Some may ask why do we get all the money we can, and why not try to not get all the money and lower taxes even more? My response is that we have a need to fund the programs for our students and to upkeep facilities adequately, and without utilizing the most we can we are going against what every public school across the state does...we are already low on funds, why would we not seek all we can and are told to by the state when they give us the funds, responsibility, and right to do so? Ultimately, it is for student learning and we will continue this in the future as well.

Ultimately, a few things to remember with this and why state aid matters as we move forward and approve our budget:

- The less money that the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the more local property taxes that schools must levy on their community.
- The more money that the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the less local property taxes that schools must levy on their community.
- Bellevue has traditionally had lower than average property taxes in our area, and as a whole in the state. The budget that is being published for approval at the public hearing is based on the 2.4% State Aid signed by the Governor. Overall, the budget needs to be fair, and serve our students and community well.

Remember...We are limited regardless on what we can tax for. The system does not allow the school to tax more than is legal based on state regulations. In other words, we cannot simply raise our taxes by \$5.00 to get more money to spend. What we spend on students is still part of our "Unspent Budget"

Comet Curriculum

The Bellevue BIG program had two students share their work during this school year, along with inviting the Board to the Bellevue BIG Exhibit Night on May 4.

Memphis Jess shared his work with the "Back with BIG" podcast on Spotify where his group highlights student work and projects. Gabby Williamson shared her work on the all-sports camp this summer in late June, along with the Bunny Hop that will occur this weekend. Mr. Ernst emphasized the work of students and applying their learning, and the Bellevue BIG Exhibit Night on May 4 at the Button Factory BIG area on the 2nd floor.

APPROVED - 28E Agreement with the EICCD - Career Counselor

Meyer recommend the approval of a 28E Agreement with the Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD). This was supposed to happen last year, but a change in roles at EICC delayed this action unfortunately, as we are the only district (with Maquoketa) in the northern part of the AEA without this service. Jeff Recker, Scott Jess, and I have been working with EICCD to enhance our career planning for students in regard to having a career counselor (College and Career Transition Counselor (CCTC) work directly with our district. Some key aspects:

- This would be at no expense to the Bellevue CSD as we utilize Operational Sharing funds for this position. The contract would be held by the EICCD, and the salary and benefits would be covered by our contribution of state funds designated specifically for this role.
- While this individual would be employed by the EICCD, this would be for all students planning on attending any type of college in general - not limited to those attending EICCD.
- College and Career Transitional Counselors (CCTC) are shared positions, partially funded by high schools and community colleges. The counselor would tentatively be in Bellevue two days a week, in Maquoketa two days a week, and at the EICC campus one day of the week.
 - CTCC Counselors spend time at partner institutions each week, helping provide students with information about various career options; helping shape their career exploration and studies; and, providing guidance and assistance so that students identify career and educational goals and take the necessary steps and engage in programs to make a successful transition from high school to college and careers. CTCC Counselors can focus solely on these services as they are freed from the heavy loads of traditional high school counselors providing other services.
- CCTC Counselors will assist high school students in exploring college career options and preparing for careers with necessary training and education while in high school, and then successfully transitioning to work or their chosen college or university.
- This type of program is needed to supply Iowa business and industry with the skilled workforce they need to thrive. The percentage of high school graduates pursuing education or training beyond high school has declined for three years in a row—for the first time in American history.
 - Even in the highest performing high schools in Iowa, as many as 20 percent of graduates seek no education or training of any kind beyond high school, including university, community college, apprenticeships, military, or industry-based training.
- This proposal seeks to engage high school juniors and seniors in post-high school planning, especially for students who do not see themselves following a traditional college or university education and degree pathway.

- The demand for skilled workers to fuel America's economic recovery and expansion greatly exceeds the number of skilled adults available to fill open workforce positions in skilled jobs.
 - The U.S. Department of Labor estimates are that 65 percent of jobs vacant or being created require some postsecondary education, training, and credentials that have value in the marketplace. However, only approximately 45 percent of Iowans hold postsecondary credentials, including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees and certificates in technical fields, industry-based credentials, etc. There is a huge mismatch in workforce development needs and adults with requisite education and skills. The need is a more educated and prepared pipeline of persons interested in requisite training. Iowa's community colleges have the capacity and can expand quickly to deliver training in all high-demand fields.
- A related challenge is that high school counselors currently have average workloads of 400 or more students per counselor. Servicing the needs of these students, including managing mental health, family concerns, discipline and attendance issues, is a huge task. This makes ongoing career exploration and support virtually impossible at the needed scale.
- This Community Project Funding request proposes to provide additional resource specialists to supplement high school counselors and assist students to make the connection between high school, college and careers.

Facilities

A few things on this agenda item.

1. Discussion of the Master Planning Progress
2. Plans for Space in 2022-2023 School Year
3. General Plans for the Summer and beyond

1. Discussion of Master Planning Progress

Master Planning

Meyer met with OPN Architects with Mike Reed, Brett Ernst, and Tim Roth two weeks ago, and provided them the blueprints for the middle/high school building on last week on his way to Des Moines. They are now digitized. They are likely going to visit the school extensively during our Spring Break time in April.

Some discussions from the past have included the following (but not limited to):

- Location of future buildings on the campus and property
- Safety (Safe Entrance Area to MS/HS building)
- Parking and Accessibility to the campus
- Curricular Areas - Ag, STEM, Music, Art, Industrial Tech
- Gas Line location
- Rec Center/Gym/Workout area
- Daycare

Community Meeting and Facilities Meeting

The city has scheduled a community meeting on Monday, April 25 to discuss community needs and goals in a goal-setting session to be held at the Bellevue Community Center. This was originally planned by the city for their long-term planning, and this date was adopted based on the availability of someone to assist in leading/moderating the meeting. This is not about school necessarily, yet I believe the Bellevue Elementary School may come up as a topic for discussion from some in the crowd possibly.

If I am asked, I would share the following as needs for the community (including the school systems in some manners):

- New or Renovated Elementary
- Housing - Assist with enrollment in both schools
- Daycare
- Recreation Center

2. Space

We have continued our conversations after board meeting on alternatives for space. At this time, I still foresee the following:

1. Moving the new 4th-grade classroom to the Makerspace/STEM room OR moving another grade to this area to put all 4th grade teachers in the same area.
2. Moving the Makerspace/STEM classroom area to the Teacher's Workroom.
3. Still in Discussions on this Item - Moving the art supplies from the Teacher's Workroom to either the cafeteria or other area.
4. Moving the laminator and some other teacher supplies to the custodial closet that is located in the 1800's part of the building. The pop machine and refrigerator would stay in the new Makerspace/STEM room due to outlets in the areas. The microwaves would also likely stay, or at a minimum one of the two microwaves would stay.
5. Relocating the majority of items from the custodial closet to the Boiler Room area.
6. The Life Connections counselors also utilize the current Makerspace area at times based on availability to meet with students. They will be able to meet in some other areas where they are available during the day - this is also the case now as they use the AEA room, the school counselor's office, etc.

Brett has also continued to work on getting materials to close in the stage area with plywood/sheetrock for more privacy and "soundproofing" for the music class and their activities when people are in the gym, including making it safe in regard to fireproofing with specific plywood, etc. Our staff will frame this area and complete it. We will allow for access to the stage to get items on/off with a part of the wall being relatively easy to disassemble.

3. General Plans for the Summer and beyond

Capital Improvement Projects - 2022 Projects and Purchases: "Working List" from this year and previous years

Below is information on work for this summer. I have placed an "*" beside those I view as priorities (with more to potentially be added - or deleted- after further board conversations). Meyer recommended the approval of the following at the meeting:

- Gym Floors
- Vinyl Tile in Elementary Classroom Restrooms
- Commons Area Carpet
- Duct Work in HS Boys Lockerroom
- Football/Track Seeding and Fertilizing
- North "Football" Shed
- Suburban

THE ABOVE WERE APPROVED

- ***Gym Floors (normal scheduled maintenance) - ~~\$6000 (estimate)~~ \$5,767**

This would be our annual refinishing for the MS/HS floors. We will not do the elementary gym floor this year as it is on a rotational "as needed" schedule and it was completed last summer.

- ***Vinyl Tiles in Elementary Classroom Restrooms Estimated Total: ~~\$2000 (estimate)~~ \$3121**

The tile needs to be replaced in the restrooms between some elementary classrooms. We would replace this on our own. We will do this on our own, and cost is minimal overall.

- **Paint Classrooms (as time permits and needed) Estimated Total: \$150/room**

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

- ***Commons Area Carpet Estimated Total: \$2600**

This is a relatively small area overall, so I would not expect the price to be significant. But, it is needed. This area has been used for about 12 years now every day during the school year, plus during extracurricular activities.

- ***Locker Room Duct Work Estimated Total: TBD**

The locker room "duct coverings" are becoming very tattered in the boys high school locker room. This is partly (if not solely) due to student abuse toward it. We are investigating a more durable covering on the duct work.

Athletic Areas

- ***Football Field/Track Area Estimated Price: Our own labor**

and rental of equipment

Basic annual care; Fertilizer, etc.

- ***North Shed** **Estimated Price: \$500-1000**

This area is being cleaned out of old items (chairs, etc.) that are not needed. It would be used for a halftime area for visiting teams.

- **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 once again 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 is 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: \$20,000-\$125,000**
 - *New Scoreboard: 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. This may also be connected with upgrading further in the future after a referendum, etc.*
- **Play Clock for Football (included with new scoreboard systems)**

Facilities/Vehicles and Affiliated Equipment (February 2022)

(this may not be all-inclusive)

- **Bus (2022-2023 purchase)** **Estimated Total: \$110,000 (diesel)**
Estimate Total: \$275,000 (electric)*
**Something to think about for the future.*
- ***Cameras -** **Estimated Total: ~~\$30,000~~
\$26,487**
- ***Suburban (2022-2023 or 2023-2024 purchase)** **Estimated Total: ~~\$65,000~~
\$43,336 (special school rate)
All-Wheel Drive - +\$3000
TOTAL: \$46,336**
 - Currently
 - 2001 - 175,000 miles; OK mechanically, but rust holes (student trips)

- 2001 - 195,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (student trips)
- 2007 - 163,000 miles; OK mechanically, but starting to rust (PK/SE)
- 2007 - 191,000 miles; OK mechanically, but a little rust (Student trips)
- 2008 - 98,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body (PK/SE)
- 2009 - 203,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body (Student Trips)
- 2015 - 106,000 miles in good condition (Student Trips)

- **Cars/Etc.**

- 1992 Snow Truck - Fair condition at best (not used much)
- 1994 Truck - 80,000 miles; OK...at best; Maintenance Truck
 - 1-Ton Pickup set up for a snow plow- **\$36,509 (special school rate)**
 - Combining these two vehicles above into one vehicle will be a future endeavor; Additionally a trailer to transport equipment (lifts, etc.) would be useful (Trailer estimate \$7000)
 - The truck is 28 years old...usual rotation at the time of purchase was every 20 years)
- 2000 Buick - 138,000 miles; OK mechanically and some rust (lunch)
- 2002 Buick - 185,000 miles; OK mechanically, and rust-gravel (PK/SE)
- 2005 Van - 110,000 miles; OK mechanically, some rust starting (lunch)
- 2006 Impala - 181,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)
- 2015 Impala - 93,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)

Future Potential Projects

- **Windows in MS/HS Building**

Estimated Total: TBD (few are giving "hard" estimates at this time)

This would entail making the windows larger and more operable to allow for improved air flow and natural ventilation. It would be a purchase of a window, plus expanding the size where the window is located. The windows in the original rooms are small to say the least in the MS Hallway area.

- **Flooring in MS/HS Hallways**

Estimated Total: From January 2020

"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

- **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

Elementary Needs

(Likely wait on these until decisions about building made)

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

Extracurricular Activities

The Spring season is underway. Approximately 14 boys are out for soccer at Marquette from BHS, with 11 girls. These are once again approximate numbers, but very close if not 100% accurate. Marquette only has 18 jerseys available, and some participants from both schools are forced to rotate jerseys.

Other sports have the following

- HS Girls Track - 20
- HS Boys Track - 27
- HS Girls Golf - 11
- HS Boys Golf - 11
- MS Girls Track - 10
- MS Boys Track - 30

APPROVED - Beyond the Blue

The Beyond the Blue Committee met a few weeks ago to select this year's recipients. They are the following:

- Mark Anderson (1995) - US Marshall - Nominated by Rick Pogemiller
- Angela (Griebel) Burken (1983) - Artist/Nurse - Nominated by Rick Pogemiller
- Penny (Knake) Medinger (1979) - BCSD Business Manager - Nominated by Jodi Heim and Tom Meyer
- Brian Schladetzky (1982) - Operations Manager T-Mobile (Experience as Navy Civilian Engineer) - Nominated by Molly Schladetzky and Eunice Schladetzky

Preschool - 28E Agreement

I recommend we approve the 28E Agreement to continue the 4-year old Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. This is a document we must have according to state requirements for a preschool in our district, where we are the fiscal agent as the public school. The document is at the end of the notes.

APPROVED - Professional Organization Membership

I am recommending the district continue its membership in the Iowa School Finance Information Services (ISFIS), the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for FY2021.

These organizations provide valuable information on school finance, school leadership, school policies, and school issues in general. The approximate costs associated with these are the following:

- ISFIS \$950
- IASB \$2500
- NSBA \$850

We have been involved with these organizations for many years, and we do so as they are a resource to contact in times of concern and to keep up-to-date overall about school issues. They typically save the district money in the long run.

Below is information sent to me from IASB...

Dear Thomas,

Thank you for your district's membership in the Iowa Association of School Boards. As an organization serving 327 public school boards, nine AEA boards and 15 community college boards, we are here to support effective local school board governance and serve as a strong advocate for public education. Please note that your board president was mailed this letter. You are receiving an email copy.

I urge you to continue your membership in the year ahead. IASB brings important services to your board and district. Some examples from this past year include:

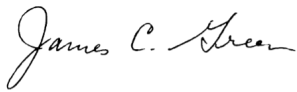
- *IASB released more than 60 sample policies, regulations and exhibits to support boards in their policy-making role and to assist districts with state and federal legal compliance.*
- *New state leadership standards for administrators meant all school boards needed to adjust their superintendent evaluation processes. IASB provided guidance, multiple webinars, a toolkit, and sample forms to help boards understand the new requirements.*
- *More than 400 newly elected school board members received orientation support, including candidate webinars, the IASB Board Member Handbook, website resources, Ready, Set, Govern! workshops, and more.*
- *Through DataDashboard and other tools, our members received a steady stream of school finance data and reports that allow comparative analysis and support data-based decisions.*
- *On the legislative front, IASB advocated based on member priorities to support school funding and teacher licensure legislation that ensures teacher quality while providing additional pathways to recruitment. We also opposed legislation that would draw funds away from public schools, diminish teacher quality, or create burdensome and costly processes.*

As we look toward 2022-23, these member services will continue as we focus on your needs. We are committed to issues such as recruiting and retaining staff, preparing students for college and careers, effective community engagement/parental involvement, and others.

With that, I invite you to renew your membership for the 2022-23 year. Your dues invoice will be emailed to your business manager in early April.

Thank you for your school board service—and for being part of IASB.

Sincerely,



James C. Green
President, IASB Board of Directors

Comet Board Reading and Reflection

The following is an article recently from the Des Moines Register on the perception of public schools...Interesting perceptions and makes me want to hear about the perceptions in Bellevue in some manner again from other survey information we have gathered in the past.

Thoughts in regard to this article about public schools? Where does Bellevue stand overall?

Two thirds of Americans say public schools are on the wrong track, new Grinnell poll finds
Cleo Krejci Des Moines Register

Public schools have gotten off on the wrong track when it comes to what children are being taught, 64% of Americans think, according to a new poll.

Just one in four Americans said schools were headed in the right direction.

And yet, Americans say they trust schools to ensure appropriate material is in their libraries. But Americans are split on whether they trust their local schools to teach racism and whether to provide private school scholarships using tax dollars are mixed, the poll found.

Opinions on those topics – which are at the heart of Iowa's current public education policy debate – were often but not always split by political party and who voters selected as president in the 2020 election.

For example, 87% of people who voted for former President Donald Trump said schools were on the wrong track. Voters who supported President Joe Biden were more split on the question. Forty-three percent said they believed schools were heading in the right direction while 42% said they were getting off track.

The poll of 1,002 adults was conducted March 15-20 by Selzer & Co. for Grinnell College. Selzer is the Des Moines Register's pollster and conducts the Iowa Poll. The survey's margin of error is plus or minus 3.1%.

Americans generally trust schools to ensure appropriate material in libraries

Overall, 71% of people in the survey indicated they trust the ability of schools in their district to ensure books in school libraries are appropriate for students. Another 22% indicated they distrust educators' ability to do so.

Among people with a child under 18 in the home, 77% indicated they trust schools' decisions and 19% did not.

Following statewide and national challenges to some school books, some Republican lawmakers in Iowa have called for more transparency about schools' library books this legislative session. A bill that proposed criminal penalties for teachers and administrators for distributing obscene materials or "hardcore pornography" to students failed this session.

A recent Des Moines Register/Mediacom poll found 64% of Iowans oppose creating criminal penalties for educators for distributing books that contain obscene material. Just over one-quarter, 27%, favor such legislation.

But other legislation aimed at school library books could still be on the table. Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, has argued that schools should post their curriculum, textbooks and library book lists on their websites.

Much of the debate in Iowa has played out among parents in districts including Ankeny, Johnston, Urbandale, Waukee and West Des Moines. Several of the books in question deal with topics of LGBTQ identities and the lived experiences of Black and Hispanic people.

The Ankeny district, for example, pulled from its shelves a comic-style memoir tracing author Maia Kobabe's journey with sexuality and gender identity titled "Gender Queer: A Memoir." But the district decided to keep on its selves "All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto" by George M. Johnson, "Me, Earl, and the Dying Girl" by Jesse Andrews and "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian" by Sherman Alexie.

Americans are split on how race is taught in schools

Fewer than half of Americans – 49% – said they trust the decisions of public educators in their local schools to teach about racism in the United States. Forty-three percent indicated they distrust educators' choices and 7% were unsure.

White Americans, at 52%, were more likely to say they trusted their local teachers compared to non-white Americans, at 48%.

Fifty-two percent of parents with children under 18 said they trusted local schools to teach racism. While just 42% of Trump voters said they trusted teachers.

A separate question found that 69% of people surveyed think it's essential for public schools to teach respect for people of different races. Another 26% of respondents said it's important, but not essential.

The survey also found that overall, 44% of respondents indicated it's "essential" to teach students languages other than English in public schools. Another 47% said doing so is important, but not essential, and 8% said it's not important.

Iowa schools are in the midst of their first school year under the direction of House File 802, a law that targets the teaching of topics like systemic racism and white privilege.

Iowa schools were advised by the state's Department of Education to assume, by implication of the law's wording, that curriculum teaching that the U.S. is systemically racist, or that individuals can hold unconscious biases or privileges, is now illegal.

Most Americans don't want tax dollars used for private school scholarships

More than half of poll respondents said states should not create scholarships for students to attend private schools.

The survey asked the question two variations of the same question with identical results.

Fifty-five percent of respondents disagree with the idea of using taxpayer funds for that purpose. Another 42% of respondents indicated they agree with the idea, and 3% were unsure.

Reynolds is advocating for legislation that would allow the state to set aside public funding to help qualifying students pay for private school. An attempt to pass similar legislation last year failed from a lack of support in the state House of Representatives.

A March Iowa Poll found similar opposition to the idea. Fifty-two percent of Iowans oppose Reynolds' plan, up 3 percentage points, from 49% last year.

More: Kim Reynolds reworked her private school scholarship bill to win rural lawmakers. Will it be enough?

Cleo Krejci covers education for the Iowa City Press-Citizen. You can reach her at ckrejci@press-citizen.com.

Information Items

Family Week Update

FYI - The message below is from the activity organizations in Iowa at the high school level about Family Week in our schools. This is new this year, and indicates that no activities can take place during this time with our coaches and students. We will also work to have our gym floors completed during this time.

The Iowa High School Music Association, Iowa High School Speech Association, Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, in response to recommendations from input from our "Ad Hoc Committee", have implemented a "Family Week" on the Unified Activities Federation Calendar. "Family Week" is a week in the unified activity federation calendar that prohibits any coach or teacher/student contact and any unified activity federation event from occurring. That period will include Saturday through Sunday of week 3 and Week 4 of the calendar and will begin July 24, 2022 through July 31, 2022. The Iowa High School Music Association supports "Family Week" and therefore there can be no music activities within the IHSMA member schools during that week. All high school students, including incoming 9th graders, are covered under the rule and are not to have contact (on or off school premises) with teachers nor use school facilities during the eight day period.

Network Security

Earlier this school year in the Fall the Board approved a company working with the AEA to do a vulnerability assessment on our network (online security for our students and "hackers" into the system). The report was released to schools on March 30 officially. We fared well overall. Some information below for the Belleveue CSD shows that the three areas we were found to be vulnerable were internal risks (with no external risks). The "OpenWrt Router..." is a Prometheus Panel that Matt Jaeger was working to fix this week. The other two are updates that need to be completed for our "Aruba" server and our "Dropbear" server that were already on the schedule to have software updated this week. So...overall we fared very well.

3 External Risks

ProCircular has calculated and ranked the following risks as points of immediate concern and remediation. This list is presented and weighed categorical rather than risk-by-risk and may include multiple vulnerabilities and/or exploits in a single risk note, the aggregate of which may be a higher risk than any single vulnerability outlined. This list, while not exhaustive, is a snapshot of the business' most critical risks at the end of the vulnerability scan as determined by ProCircular and recommends various mitigations and means to close the vulnerabilities.

Risk Identified	Risk Severity
N/A	N/A



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4 Internal Risks

ProCircular has calculated and ranked the following risks as points of immediate concern and remediation. This list is presented and weighed categorical rather than risk-by-risk and may include multiple vulnerabilities and/or exploits in a single risk note, the aggregate of which may be a higher risk than any single vulnerability outlined. This list, while not exhaustive, is a snapshot of the business' most critical risks at the end of the vulnerability scan as determined by ProCircular and recommends various mitigations and means to close the vulnerabilities.

Risk Identified	Risk Severity
OpenWrt Router with a Blank Password (telnet check)	Critical
ArubaOS-Switch Ripple20 Multiple Vulnerabilities (ARUBA-PSA-2020-006)	High
Dropbear SSH Server < 2016.72 Multiple Vulnerabilities	High

Talking to other superintendents, not all schools fared as well internally. I have one basic summary of a district's internal risks below, which resembles

some other districts. Some of the issues with this report for another district is the utilization of some older equipment and not keeping it updated..

4 Internal Risks

ProCircular has calculated and ranked the following risks as points of immediate concern and remediation. This list is presented and weighed categorical rather than risk-by-risk and may include multiple vulnerabilities and/or exploits in a single risk note, the aggregate of which may be a higher risk than any single vulnerability outlined. This list, while not exhaustive, is a snapshot of the business' most critical risks at the end of the vulnerability scan as determined by ProCircular and recommends various mitigations and means to close the vulnerabilities.

Risk Identified	Risk Severity
Web Server Directory Traversal Arbitrary File Access	Critical
Apple AirPort Base Station Authentication Credential Encryption Weakness	High
Dell iDRAC Buffer Overflow Vulnerability (CVE-2020-5344)	High
Dell iDRAC Products Multiple Vulnerabilities (June 2018)	High
Dell iDRAC Products Multiple Vulnerabilities (Mar 2018)	High
MS12-020: Vulnerabilities in Remote Desktop Could Allow Remote Code Execution (2671387) (uncredentialed check)	High
Microsoft IIS 6.0 Unsupported Version Detection	High
Microsoft SQL Server Unsupported Version Detection (remote check)	High
Microsoft Windows SMB Guest Account Local User Access	High
Microsoft Windows XP Unsupported Installation Detection	High
Python Unsupported Version Detection	High
Unsupported Web Server Detection	High
Unsupported Windows OS (remote)	High
iSCSI Unauthenticated Target Detection	High

Meyer shared complete reports with the Board.

Events Updates

Graduation and Prom are upcoming, with Prom on April 30 at Horizon Hall and Graduation in the West Gym/Stage on Saturday, May 28.

Transportation Information

At the last Board meeting, it was asked about our activity route pay for bus drivers (taking teams to games, or groups to events - FBLA, FFA, etc.). I was also asked this by a bus driver in January, along with having a conversation with Tim Roth about a month ago. I mentioned that we would explore this, and then talk with the Board. This is not an action item at this board meeting, but something we would discuss and potentially change in May 2022 or some other date.

Regardless, you can see below the rates from our district that I attained, and some other districts. We do have a maximum amount, that was adapted roughly 10+ years ago when we joined the RVC with some longer trips. I believe the biggest question is not necessarily the hourly rate, but instead the "maximum" amount.

I understand the driver's concerns with this. I also understand the aspect of making sure we are taking care of the stakeholder's tax dollars, along with treating groups equally. I have had other groups also expressing the need for more compensation (or more benefits like personal days, etc.), and that does not include our certified staff that will likely be making a proposal within the next month or so. The question is what is the fairest compensation for all groups overall, and if there are changes that need to be made.

Thoughts were to eliminate the "max hours" for activity bus drivers and pay for their hours. Action will be taken in May.

Hourly Rate for Activity Bus Drivers

Bellevue \$17.11/hour (\$109 max, unless over 10 hours then \$168 max)

- *Note that substitute employees as drivers are paid \$15.87 an hour, and their maximum amount is \$100 and \$150 respectively*
- *The minimum amount is equal to about 6.5 hours.*
 - *We have had drivers reach that threshold 36 times this year; An example is traveling to an event where we may leave at 2:30, and not return until 9:00 or later - which happens in both middle school and high school*
 - *We also typically take two buses to events, with the one leaving earlier coming back earlier (JV bus and Varsity buses, with the V bus leaving later and returning later).*
- *The maximum amounts do not happen often and are usually affiliated with all-day events like wrestling meets, field trips to Des Moines, etc. There are exceptions to that, but as a whole, these are the main areas.*
 - *We have had 8 times this year when this threshold has been met this year.*

Andrew \$15.00/hour (Elem/MS)
Bettendorf \$19.30/hour

Calamus-Wheatland	\$15.45/hour
Camanche	\$13.00/hour
Clinton	\$13.00/hour
DeWitt Central	\$15.63/hour
Durant	\$29.90 for first 1.5 hours; then \$7.25/hour
Easton Valley	\$21.65/hour
Northeast	\$12.00/hour
North Scott	\$15.31/hour
West Liberty	\$13.00/hour M-F; \$13.50 Weekends

Transportation Hourly Rate - Regular Routes

Bellevue **\$53.75/route (X 2 AM and PM) = \$107.50**

- *Sub pay is \$49.84 for substitute employees serving as bus drivers.*

Andrew	\$15.00/hour
Bettendorf	\$19.30/hour
Calamus-Wheatland	\$76.55 (am/pm route = \$22.56/hour)
Camanche	\$14.70/hour
Clinton	\$17.02/hour
DeWitt Central	\$18.68/hour
Durant	\$29.90/hour
Easton Valley	\$21.65/hour
Northeast	\$17.50-\$21.50/hour
North Scott	\$18.90/hour
West Liberty	\$84.00 per route (3 hours)

Legislative Update

Meyer shared some information on vouchers, transparency, and a few other items.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, Board Members

Meyer shared a request to meet with each board member for about 30-45 minutes sometime prior to the end of May ideally (or end of June if needed). I have done this in the past, but not for the last several years.

Meyer shared information about FBLA Members at Nationals (in Chicago) - June 29 through July 2

Qualifiers

- Alexandria Caughron
- Alivia Wagner
- Ryan Dunn
- Tate Giesemann
- Callie Recker
- Alyssa Wagner
- Kendelle Scheckel
- Alyssa Manders*
- Alexa Roeder*
- Delaney Dunne*
- Adessa Leibfried*

*Not attending

Costs for those attending (7)

Registration for Students

\$200 X 7 = \$1400

Registration for Teacher and Chaperone	\$100 X 2 = \$200
Lodging - 2 Girl Rooms; 1 Boy Room; 1 Chaperone Room (\$300/Room/Night for 3 nights; 4 Rooms X 3 Nights)	\$300 X 4 X 3 = \$3600
Conference Kit - Paid by attendees (\$30 each)	
Transportation (2 suburbans; No pay for drivers)	
Meals - Paid by attendees	

Total Cost \$5200

In the past, the Board has given up to \$5000 for the National FBLA (if students are presenting and qualified for the National Competition). Students are still fundraising for this trip regardless. Meyer will share with their advisor to continue to fundraise, but that the Board will provide some funding to cover their costs since they are presenting at a national level.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on May 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Enter Exempt Session

Meyer shared some thoughts on negotiations for the 22-23 school year. A few things:

Last year's agreement:

Tentative Agreement

The District proposes the following:

\$230	Increase on Base
\$100	Increase on Extracurricular Base
\$50	Increase on the TSS Base
\$70	Increase on Family Insurance Contribution (\$250/month)

An Extra \$500 from the TSS Funds for all teachers (one-year only)

Total Package = 2.60%

Additionally, this was also agreed upon last year:

Tentative Agreements made on April 26th:

Article XV E. Duration

The Bellevue Community School District is proposing to keep all articles in the current contract except for the following exceptions:

1. The parties agree Article XVI Base Wages and Salaries including Appendix A and Appendix B shall be open to negotiate base wages.
2. Each party (Bellevue Education Association and the Bellevue Community School District) may open one language item each year provided the items have gone through the Labor Management Committee (Article VI D) process.

This agreement would begin on July 1, 2021 and would be in effect through June 30, 2023 (two years)

BEA Chief Negotiator:

Tracy Joo 4/26/21

Superintendent:

Tom Meya 4.26.21

Preschool Agreement

**Agreement to Deliver Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program
for Four-Year-Old Children with
BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by the Bellevue Community School District ("District") and Marquette Catholic Schools ("Preschool Provider").

WE, the undersigned Agencies, for the purpose of delivering the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, hereby consent and agree to the following:

Term: The term of this Agreement shall be from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The parties may renew this Agreement for subsequent school years upon the written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate the Agreement with or without cause upon sixty days (60) written notice. Any communication or notice shall be deemed to have been given if delivered or mailed to the Representative noted below at the addresses set forth.

Assurances:

Preschool Provider will:

1. Offer a minimum of 10 hours of instruction per week from the teacher, exclusive of recess (Iowa Code 256C.3(3)f)
 1. The weekly schedule should be constant and not change from week to week so that every child is offered at least 10 instructional hours per week.
 2. Agrees not to charge tuition or fees for the instructional portion of the day for any four-year old who is receiving day care services.
 3. Secular Instruction: All faith-based partners must ensure that, from the time instruction supported by Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds start until the time such instruction ends, no religious instruction takes place. There is to be no interruption or "sprinkling" of such instructional time for any faith-based purpose. |
2. Preschool programs collaborate with participating families, early care providers, and community partners, including Early Childhood Iowa area boards, Head Start programs, shared visions, and other programs provided under the auspices of the child development coordinating council, licensed child care centers, registered child development homes, area education agencies, child care resource and referral services provided under Iowa Code section 237A.26; early childhood special education programs; services funded by Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and family support programs to make available resources, including those described in sub rule 16.3(14), required to meet the needs of the child. Iowa Code 256C.3(3)e.
3. Preschool programs collaborate to ensure that children receiving care from other approved child care arrangements can participate in the voluntary preschool program with minimal disruption to the child. Iowa Code 256C.3(3)e.
4. Ensures all employees shall have criminal background checks, child and dependent adult abuse and sexual registry background checks.
5. Ensures that all staff members are provided appropriate staff development to early childhood education, Iowa Code 256C.3(4)d.

6. The preschool program involves families through at least one home visit by the licensed teacher of the child, one family, night, and at least two family teacher conferences per year, Iowa Code 256C.3(3)g.
7. A minimum of one certified teacher and one appropriately certified support staff member is present when 11 to 20 children are present, Iowa Code 256C.3(3)a. Proof of certification should be provided to the district prior to October 1st or upon employment.
8. There are never more than 20 children per classroom, Iowa Code 256C.3(3)a.
9. The program has aligned curriculum, assessment, staff development, and instructional strategies to the Iowa Early Learning Standards, Iowa Code 256C.3(3)c.
10. Teachers provide instruction on the skills and knowledge included in the Iowa Early Learning Standards, Iowa Code 256C.3(3)c.
11. The program submits all required data to the Department, including annual submission of session information in CASA, Iowa Code 256C.3(4)c.
12. The program submits any additional data requested by the Department to conduct program evaluation, Iowa Code 256C.3(4)c.
13. The preschool program administers Teaching Strategies GOLD early childhood assessment online to each child enrolled, Iowa Code 279.6
14. The preschool program implements a research-based or evidence-based curriculum, Iowa Code 279.6.
15. Submit documentation by the 10th of each month to the district for expenditures appropriate to the funding. Provide copies of receipts for expenditures to include a per hour rate for appropriately licensed teachers and support staff.
16. Each Community Partner will refund any portion of the monthly allocation not expended for direct instructional or administrative/operational costs (not exceeding 10% of monthly allocation) to the district annually (by June 25).
17. Maintain attendance records in a student management system on a weekly basis.

District will:

1. Provide up to 95% of the state cost per four year old student for the number of four year old students submitted on the prior year's certified enrollment. Payments will be made on a monthly basis after proper documentation of expenditures has been submitted to the District. Unused fund allocations will not carry over from one fiscal year to another.
2. Retain up to 5% of the total program allocation for administrative costs associated with the program.
- ~~3.~~ Bill providers for transportation if applicable.
4. Work with Preschool Provider to meet all Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances and requirements.
5. Schedule regular meetings with preschool partners to discuss program updates.
6. Maintain a database of children enrolled in Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.
7. Make available to any teacher in a statewide voluntary preschool program that is not employed by the District staff development that the District offers to the District's personnel to maintain the skills appropriate to the teacher's role. The Districts shall ensure that staff members for the program are provided appropriate staff development in early childhood education.

Representatives: The contact person for each party shall be as follows:

Preschool Provider:
Jessica Medinger (program)
Randy Koos (finance)
502 Franklin Street
Bellevue, IA 52031

District:
Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder (program)
Penny Medinger (finance)
1601 State Street
Bellevue, IA 52031

This Agreement may not be modified, changed, or varied except by a written document signed by the parties.

Signed:

FOR: Marquette Catholic Schools

DATE: _____

FOR: Bellevue Community School District

DATE: _____