



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

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Comet Highlights - April 9, 2024

- April 17 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- May 8 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- May 15 (TENTATIVE DATE) Board Meeting
 - *The normal meeting would be on May 13, but we have a MS Music Concert that evening, along with HS soccer. Would this other date be a possibility for Board members?*
- May 24 Last Day of School for Students
- May 24 "Believe in the Blue" Program - 6:00 Social; 7:00 Program
- May 25 Bellevue CSD Graduation - 4:00

To view a calendar of events, see the following link:

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

**Tate Gieseemann will be the new student board member for the remainder of this school year as Leo Aschenbrenner has soccer games the next two meetings, plus Tate will be the student council representative for next school year.*

APPROVED - Consent Agenda

Open Enrollment Requests

- Jocelyn Elia Henry - Dubuque to Bellevue - 10th Grade
- Haisley Anne Williams - Andrew to Bellevue - 1st Grade in 23-24 - Haisley has already been attending Bellevue Elementary, but has moved and still wants to attend school in the Bellevue CSD.

Resignations

- Jennifer Meyer - MS/HS Special Education Teacher - She will be moving to Colorado where she will be working as a special education teacher in the Clear Creek and the Gilpin County School Districts.
- Kim Jochum - Elementary Reading Teacher - Kim will be retiring from teaching after 35 years as a classroom teacher and reading teacher (along with many other valuable roles).

- Tom Meyer - Superintendent - I am moving to Colorado to be the Superintendent at the Clear Creek School District RE-1 beginning on July 1, 2024. I will fulfill my contractual duties through June 30, 2024, along with continue to be a support as needed through phone calls, emails, and other things as needed.

Recommendations to Hire

- Michael Geneser - HS Spanish - Michael has a wide range of experiences teaching Spanish in both the US and internationally. We believe he is a great fit for this position as we move forward.
- Lori Kueter - 2nd Grade Teacher - Lori is currently teaching at Easton Valley, and is a BHS graduate. Lori and her husband Nic have students in the Bellevue CSD. We believe Lori will bring significant positives to the district with her knowledge of education and elementary learning.
- Maddie Weber - MS Reading - Maddie is a graduate of BHS and has been teaching ELA at Easton Valley MS/HS this past year.
- MS Teacher - TBD - I may have a recommendation for this position at the board meeting, but at this time I do not.
- Shelley Martin - MS/HS Custodial Staff - Shelley began on April 1, and is off to a great start. She lives near Bernard, and has a student at Cascade HS (others have graduated).
- Jenna Ries - Substitute Associate

Recognize any Visitors

Amanda Canganelli and Evan Davies, along with the FBLA group of Mrs. Weber, Tate Giesemann, Presley Kettman, and Anthony Sprank.

Public Hearing

This is designed for the public to speak, and not for Board members. Board members are to listen at this time, and not necessarily respond to comments. Visitors are allowed up to three minutes to talk based on our board policies. No one in attendance commented at the public hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed BELLEVUE School Budget Summary
Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025

Location of Public Hearing: BCSD Board Room, 1601 State Street, Bellevue, IA 52031	Date of Hearing: 04/08/2024	Time of Hearing: 06:30 PM
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The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 24/25 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2025	Re-est. 2024	Actual 2023	Avg % 23-25
Taxes Levied on Property	1	4,317,478	4,172,499	3,245,908	% 15.3
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	21,456	24,642	19,238	% 5.6
Income Surtaxes	3	289,685	292,020	251,967	% 7.2
Tuition/Transportation Received	4	803,658	886,207	806,717	
Earnings on Investments	5	399,626	493,642	182,908	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	257,200	252,600	267,806	
Student Activities and Sales	7	250,000	242,421	280,998	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	73,480	195,236	151,695	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	16,383	12,318	8,931	
State Foundation Aid	10	4,301,415	4,304,112	4,112,575	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	15,027	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	921,502	838,905	1,066,911	
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	84,414	84,414	0	
Title I Grants	14	56,000	56,000	54,915	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	551,850	467,699	781,358	
Total Revenues	16	12,359,174	12,322,715	11,231,927	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	3,183,587	9,916,413	0	
Transfers In	18	386,720	421,308	399,389	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	2,500	3,041	16,208	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	15,931,981	22,663,477	11,647,524	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	16,067,061	7,199,879	6,261,604	
Total Resources	23	31,999,042	29,863,356	17,909,128	
*Instruction	24	8,962,549	6,093,512	6,123,091	% 21.0
Student Support Services	25	346,823	290,261	269,985	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	475,820	387,339	425,223	
General Administration	27	434,279	261,879	258,622	
School Administration	28	583,451	429,268	435,521	
Business & Central Administration	29	301,444	238,231	253,699	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	1,342,775	715,582	734,126	
Student Transportation	31	1,017,436	609,198	476,203	
*Total Support Services (lines 25-31)	31A	4,502,028	2,931,758	2,853,379	% 25.6
*Noninstructional Programs	32	958,380	529,276	445,175	% 46.7
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	14,725,000	2,257,557	209,394	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	1,228,965	1,249,764	369,329	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	346,668	313,120	309,492	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)	35A	16,300,633	3,820,441	888,215	% 328.4
Total Expenditures	36	30,723,590	13,374,987	10,309,860	
Transfers Out	37	386,720	421,308	399,389	
Other Uses	38	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	31,110,310	13,796,295	10,709,249	
Ending Fund Balance	40	888,732	16,067,061	7,199,879	
Total Requirements	41	31,999,042	29,863,356	17,909,128	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)		13.23799			

APPROVED - Budget Guarantee Resolution

This budget will include the Budget Guarantee based on the state of Iowa's lack of funding and our decrease in enrollment and funding. The budget guarantee helps school districts cover this loss, but it is NOT state-funded; rather, it is passed along to local property taxpayers.

Many school districts in Iowa will have to increase their property tax levy to raise these monies to support their schools. Bellevue is one of the districts involved, but will not have to raise our taxes from the amount last year (actually a decrease). The Budget Guarantee is defined as a "buffer" for districts with enrollment decreases, and is funded through local property

taxes. This is a 101% budget guarantee meaning that we get 1.00% "new money" in comparison to last year (allowing us to make necessary changes to our budget as needed for a year).

We have done this a few times in my tenure in Bellevue...likely about 2 or 3 times.

APPROVED - Adopt Budget

I believe this is a "fair" budget for our district. The tax rate is actually going down from last year to \$13.23799 in the published budget - this will be adjusted based on knowing SSA at this time, but cannot be any higher than this. Last year's tax rate was approved at \$13.45296. The prior budget shared above this section is what was published in the Bellevue Herald-Leader recently.

Below are tax rates from other districts from the two prior years (those in bold are rates higher than our rate that specific year):

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	
Alburnett	15.14869	14.87977	
Anamosa	15.25319	14.98833	
Andrew	11.46406	11.65033	
BELLEVUE	10.53640	13.45296	Proposed for FY25 - 13.23799
Bettendorf	12.38015	12.37844	
Cal-Wheat	12.89183	11.76433	
Camanche	15.82635	16.81958	
Central DeWitt	13.71500	13.53211	
Clayton Ridge	11.31122	11.33259	
Clinton	15.57555	15.45633	
Delwood	11.99238	13.45438	
Dubuque	13.91240	14.51122	
Durant	9.36493	9.77471	
Easton Valley	14.60831	14.45877	
Lisbon	17.17836	17.17463	
Maquoketa	12.99392	12.99416	
Midland	13.91711	13.93092	
Monticello	14.03522	14.66066	
North Cedar	13.50524	13.49628	
Northeast	14.86117	14.36113	
Springville	15.13020	15.05988	
Tipton	12.21212	12.70886	
West Branch	15.00065	15.00378	
West Liberty	13.01615	12.95152	
Western Dubuque	11.20071	10.72016	
Wilton	14.56481	13.53178	

On another note...Some may ask why we get all the money we can, and why not try not to 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. 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 I would anticipate that we will continue this in the future.

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

- The less money the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the more local property taxes they must levy on their community.
- The more money the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the fewer local property taxes they must levy on their community.
- Bellevue has traditionally had lower-than-average property taxes in our area and the state as a whole.

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."

Review Financial Audit of FY23

Abbey shared some specifics from our audit, along with a pamphlet of various information from our auditors. Once again, there were no significant issues in our audit.

APPROVED - "Comet Curriculum" - FBLA

The following FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students qualified for Nationals in Orlando this summer. They shared some information at our Board meeting and talked about the national convention in Orlando from June 29-July 2. Tracy Weber, the advisor, cannot attend, but Alice Sprank (parent) will chaperone the group.

Tate Gieseemann

- Agribusiness 4th
- Banking & Financial Systems 1st (team event)
- Insurance & Risk Management 2nd
- Securities & Investments 4th

Josh Edwards

- Banking & Financial Systems 1st (team event)

Gabe Manders

- Banking & Financial Systems 1st (team event)

Presly Kettmann

- Broadcast Journalism 2nd (team event)
- Community Service Project 3rd (team event)

Anthony Sprank

- Broadcast Journalism 2nd (team event)
- Community Service Project 3rd (team event)

The Board has also traditionally provided up to \$5000 to the FBLA members for their national competitions based on their qualifying for the competition based on state results, as well as chaperone costs. Funding for the students would include airfare, lodging, etc.

FBLA is also fundraising for this in addition to the funds from the district to cover costs.

Superintendent Search

The Board discussed updates on the Superintendent search and questions/concerns. Meyer shared the information on the Grundmeyer Leader site, along with other openings. The Board also discussed stakeholder groups for the interviews on May 6 or May 14. Abbey will be working with the groups, and the administration on deciding on other members to include from the school in addition to various community members, etc.

Bellevue CSD Facilities

Meyer provided updates regarding the elementary project, and some of those are below.

Tricon Construction and Tri-City Electric

Both groups met with Brett Ernst on Monday. Some of their conversations focused on the following topics:

1. Electrical
 - a. A trailer will be placed to the east of the bus garage for meetings, building plans, etc.
 - b. The groups will get electricity for the trailer from the bus garage.
 - c. Electricity for the general project will come from the softball lights area.
2. The power lines that run along the east fence will be placed underground in the future on the east side of our property (to the east of the new elementary building). The school district will give the city an easement for this.
3. There will be some "tearing up" of the part of the driveway to the fields as they work on the sanitary and water lines. They will fill this in in a relatively short amount of time.
4. The fence running along the east side of our property will be removed, as planned. It is partially in the way of the construction and is also old and needs to be removed.
5. Door Access/Cameras/Phones are being finalized/discussed.
 - a. Key cards will be used (not key phabs)
 - b. The doors can be scheduled/locked down/etc. Remotely.
 - c. The EMS program's "keys" can be programmed to work for the school.
 - d. With our Safety Grant from the state, we plan on replicating the types of systems in the current elementary school and the middle/high school building.

OPN Billing

At the last board meeting, we briefly discussed OPN's billing and costs. The following is an overview of our monthly bills and the amounts paid in different areas.



200 5th Ave SE
Ste 201
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

TWT ✓

INVOICE

Invoice Number: 23210000-9
Date: February 29, 2024
Project Number: 23210000

Bellevue Community School District
Attn: Meyer, Tom
1601 State Street
Bellevue, IA 52031

Bellevue Community School District - New Elementary

For Professional Services Rendered Through: February 29, 2024

Fee Services

	Contract Amount	Percent Complete	Fee Earned	Prior Billings	Current Billings
PreDesign	\$10,000.00	100.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Bidding/Negotiations	\$24,142.50	100.00	\$24,142.50	\$12,071.25	\$12,071.25
Design Development	\$201,187.50	100.00	\$201,187.50	\$201,187.50	\$0.00
Add Services (Amendments)	\$55,570.00	44.00	\$24,450.80	\$25,948.00	(\$1,497.20)
Schematic Design	\$160,950.00	100.00	\$160,950.00	\$160,950.00	\$0.00
Construction Documents	\$201,187.50	100.00	\$201,187.50	\$201,187.50	\$0.00
Construction Administration	\$269,627.50	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$922,665.00		\$621,918.30	\$611,344.25	\$10,574.05

\$10,574.05

Reimbursable Expenses

	Amount
Mileage	\$247.64
Postage / Delivery Service	\$30.75
Printing	\$16,607.98

\$16,886.37

Invoice Total \$27,460.42

Additionally, Matthew Stewart from OPN shared the following projected "draw schedule" rough draft for the project for funds and payments earlier this week:

Base Bid + Accepted Alts	\$11,822,000.00
Contingency - 5%	\$590,000.00
Total Construction Cost	\$12,412,000.00

Const Months	Month	Percent	Est Draw \$
1	Mar-24	2.00%	\$248,240
2	Apr-24	2.00%	\$248,240
3	May-24	3.00%	\$372,360
4	Jun-24	4.00%	\$496,480
5	Jul-24	4.00%	\$496,480
6	Aug-24	6.00%	\$744,720
7	Sep-24	8.00%	\$992,960
8	Oct-24	9.00%	\$1,117,080
9	Nov-24	9.00%	\$1,117,080
10	Dec-24	9.00%	\$1,117,080
11	Jan-25	9.00%	\$1,117,080
12	Feb-25	8.00%	\$992,960
13	Mar-25	6.00%	\$744,720
14	Apr-25	6.00%	\$744,720
15	May-25	5.00%	\$620,600
16	Jun-25	3.00%	\$372,360
17	Jul-25	2.00%	\$248,240
18	Aug-25	5.00%	\$620,600
		100%	\$12,412,000

Draw Schedule

Additionally, we will use the following "draw schedule" working with ISJIT to try and maximize our funds from the bond proceeds by locking in some interest rates.

Abbey has been very active in this process to earn our district the most interest funds as possible. The following is the anticipated draw schedule so we can lock in some higher interest rates before the anticipated drop in rates begin this summer.

Instrument	Maturity	Rate	Net Proceeds	Face Value
T-Bill	8/15/2024	5.162%	\$511,336.58	\$521,000.00
T-Bill	9/19/2024	5.167%	\$678,761.85	\$695,000.00
T-Note	10/15/2024	5.094%	\$765,158.94	\$781,000.00
T-Note	11/15/2024	5.083%	\$762,995.69	\$781,000.00
T-Note	12/15/2024	5.049%	\$761,869.77	\$781,000.00
T-Note	1/15/2025	4.990%	\$759,995.54	\$781,000.00
T-Note	2/15/2025	5.017%	\$675,850.51	\$695,000.00
T-Note	3/15/2025	4.932%	\$506,288.47	\$521,000.00
T-Note	4/15/2025	4.892%	\$515,626.52	\$521,000.00
T-Note	5/15/2025	4.909%	\$424,577.98	\$434,000.00
T-Note	6/15/2025	4.832%	\$256,376.27	\$260,000.00
T-Note	7/15/2025	4.771%	\$170,348.78	\$173,000.00
T-Note	8/15/2025	4.751%	\$419,496.89	\$434,000.00

Legislative Update and Impacts

The legislature has approved an increase in pay for new teachers and veteran teachers. Some specifics with this include the following:

- **Teacher Compensation**—The minimum teacher salary would be set at \$47,500 in year 1 and \$50,000 in year 2. The minimum salary for veteran teachers (those with 12 years of experience) would be set at \$60,000 in year 1 and \$62,000 in year 2. Money for these increases would be provided through the Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS). A tiered system based on enrollment will determine the average amount of TSS provided to each district within an enrollment tier. TSS amounts would be adjusted to ensure that districts receive enough state funding to reach the requirement minimums. The amount provided to districts will increase each year by the amount of SSA. Additionally, \$14 million would be provided for increased wages for educational support personnel.
- **Supplemental State Aid (SSA)**—Sets the SSA rate at 2.5% for the upcoming school year.

As seen above, SSA is also 2.5%, meaning our district will get \$48,369 in new money. If we do not want to go into our "savings," this is the amount that we have to provide to our staff at ALL levels. We also have some funds in savings, but the question in our "exempt" session is how far we want to go into these funds.

Up to 28 faculty members (as low as 12) may be impacted by the new law that moves the minimum teacher salary to \$47,500 and those with 12 years of

experience to \$60,000. The question is whether it is the "base" salary or the salary with TSS funds (Teacher Salary Supplement funds). For example:

A teacher could be making \$49,442 but have a base salary of \$44,340 and TSS funds of \$5102 already. Does this teacher benefit from extra TSS funds for the "base salary" or not? This is still being worked out at the state level.

Fuel Bids

I have been in contact with Eastern Iowa LP. They have been sending me information about their fuel prices every Tuesday for the last three weeks, at my request.

Some history of our fueling process is that at one time, years ago, there were two fuel places in town, and the school alternated between them each year. Then, one closed, and we went with the one still in business.

Talking to other superintendents and Tim Roth, it has become clear that it is difficult to "contract" a fuel price based on its regular change. In the last two weeks, it has gone from \$3.67/gallon to \$3.60/gallon last week.

Meyer shared some of the prices for fuel from River Valley and Eastern Iowa LP that we have paid are the following from the last 1-2 months, and the plan is to contact both groups over the next several weeks to compare their prices on similar days.

24-25 Calendar

The following are two draft calendars for the 24-25 school year based on input from staff members. I believe they are relatively correct with hours (the hours need to be verified before being finalized).

I met with the DLT about the following two calendars (with input to delete another option that did not seem realistic), and a description is the following:

6B- Requires our students to return for one day after Memorial Day in order to assist in getting the required 188 teaching days.

8B - Requires us to shorten our Spring Break by one day, with a teacher workday on the Monday after the Easter holiday and students returning on the Tuesday after Easter.

Staff with thoughts shared that they liked the "8B" calendar the best. There will be a public hearing on the calendar on Wednesday, May 15 (regular board meeting date moved to this day based on conflicts).

Bellevue Community School District - 2024-2025 School Calendar – Draft 6B

Summary of Calendar:
 Days/Hrs. in classroom:
 First Semester.....82/521
 Second Semester95/610
TOTAL 177/1131
 (State Required Minimum= 1080 hours)

Notes for Discussion:
 1. This only includes 177 Student Days; We have had 178 the past two years; Prior to that we had 179 student days.

2. Early Dismissal Professional Development days/hours.

- 2024-2025 – In most cases the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month = 22 hours
- No early dismissal in January as a result of full days of Professional Learning
- 2023-2024 – 8 Early-Dismissal Professional Learning Days for Teachers = 16 Hours

3. Full Day Professional Development Days

- 2023-2024 – 8 Full Day Professional Learning Days; 2024-2025 has 10 days included in this calendar – need one more.

4. There is no room for snow days before Memorial Day to be made up if needed, unless we utilize a “holiday” to do this.

*This calendar is one-day short of the normal 178 days and one teacher day short IF we do not have a day after Memorial Day.

Holidays:

- Labor Day (9/2)
- Thanksgiving Day (11/28)
- New Year’s Day (1/1)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/20)
- President’s Day (2/17)
- Memorial Day (5/26)

August 2024					Student Days/Hours	
M	T	W	Th	F		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23	1	6.5
26	27	28	29	30	6	39
September 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	10	65
9	10	11	12	13	15	95.5
16	17	18	19	20	20	128
23	24	25	26	27	25	158.5
30					26	165
October 2024						
	1	2	3	4	30	191
7	8	9	10	11	35	219.5
14	15	16	17	18	40	252
21	22	23	24	25	45	284.5
28	29	30	31		49	310.5
November 2024						
				1	50	317
4	5	6	7	8	55	349.5
11	12	13	14	15	60	380
18	19	20	21	22	65	412.5
25	26	27	28	29	67	425.5
December 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	72	458
9	10	11	12	13	77	488.5
16	17	18	19	20	82	521
23	24	25	26	27	82	521
30	31				82	521
January 2025						
		1	2	3	82	521
6	7	8	9	10	87	553.5
13	14	15	16	17	92	586
20	21	22	23	24	96	612
27	28	29	30	31	101	644.5
February 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	106	677
10	11	12	13	14	111	707.5
17	18	19	20	21	115	733.5
24	25	26	27	28	120	762
March 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	125	794.5
10	11	12	13	14	130	825
17	18	19	20	21	135	857.5
24	25	26	27	28	140	888
31					141	894.5
April 2025						
	1	2	3	4	145	920.5
7	8	9	10	11	150	951
14	15	16	17	18	154	977
21	22	23	24	25	157	996.5
28	29	30			160	1016
May 2025						
			1	2	162	1029
5	6	7	8	9	167	1061.5
12	13	14	15	16	172	1092
19	20	21	22	23	177	1124.5
26	27	28	29	30	178	1131
June 2025						
2	3	4	5	6		

Teacher Work Days

- August (5) - 16, 19, 20, 21 & 22
- January (2) – 3 & 20; April (1) – 21
- May (2) – 27 & 28

188 Teacher Days*

Aug. 16	Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 19	Teacher Professional Learning; All Returning and New Teachers; All Staff Welcome and Professional Development
Aug. 20-22	Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 23	Begin 1 st Semester
Sept. 2	Labor Day (No School)
Sept. 11	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Sept. 25	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 10	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 11	No School
Oct. 23	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 25	End 1 st Qtr. (45 days)
Nov. 13	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
Dec. 11	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Dec. 20	End of 2 nd Quarter/1 st Semester (37 days/82 days)
Dec. 23-Jan. 5	Winter Break (No School)
Jan. 3	Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 6	Begin 3 rd Quarter/2 nd Semester
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day (No School); Teacher Professional Learning
Feb. 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Feb. 17	President’s Day (No School)
Feb. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 27	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 28	No School
Mar. 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Mar. 14	End 3 rd Qtr. (48 days)
Mar. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Apr. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Apr. 18-22	Spring Break – No School
Apr. 22	Teacher Professional Learning
May 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal
May 23	End 4 th Qtr. (47 days)
May 26	Memorial Day
May 27	End 2 nd Semester (88 days/.)
May 28	Teacher Professional Learning
May 29	Teacher Professional Learning

Bellevue Community School District - 2024-2025 School Calendar – Draft 8B

Summary of Calendar:

Days/Hrs. in classroom:

First Semester82/521

Second Semester96/610

TOTAL DAYS/HS 178/1131

(State Required Minimum= 1080 hours)

Notes for Discussion:

1. Early Dismissal Professional Development days/hours.

- 2024-2025 – In most cases the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month = 24 hours
- No early dismissal in January as a result of full days of Professional Learning
- 2023-2024 – 8 Early-Dismissal Professional Learning Days for Teachers = 16 Hours

3. Full Day Professional Development Days

- 2023-2024 – 8 Full Day Professional Learning Days; 2024-2025 has 10 days included in this calendar (this includes two at the end of the year).

4. There is no room for snow days before Memorial Day to be made up if needed, unless we utilize a "holiday" to do this,

Holidays:

Labor Day (9/2)

Thanksgiving Day (11/28)

New Year's Day (1/1)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/20)

President's Day (2/17)

Memorial Day (5/26)

August 2024					Student Days/Hours	
M	T	W	Th	F		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23	1	6.5
26	27	28	29	30	6	39
September 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	10	65
9	10	11	12	13	15	95.5
16	17	18	19	20	20	128
23	24	25	26	27	25	158.5
30					26	165
October 2024						
	1	2	3	4	30	191
7	8	9	10	11	35	219.5
14	15	16	17	18	40	252
21	22	23	24	25	45	284.5
28	29	30	31		49	310.5
November 2024						
				1	50	317
4	5	6	7	8	55	349.5
11	12	13	14	15	60	380
18	19	20	21	22	65	412.5
25	26	27	28	29	67	425.5
December 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	72	458
9	10	11	12	13	77	488.5
16	17	18	19	20	82	521
23	24	25	26	27	82	521
30	31				82	521
January 2025						
		1	2	3	82	521
6	7	8	9	10	87	553.5
13	14	15	16	17	92	586
20	21	22	23	24	96	612
27	28	29	30	31	101	644.5
February 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	106	677
10	11	12	13	14	111	707.5
17	18	19	20	21	115	733.5
24	25	26	27	28	120	762
March 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	125	794.5
10	11	12	13	14	130	825
17	18	19	20	21	135	857.5
24	25	26	27	28	140	888
31					141	894.5
April 2025						
	1	2	3	4	145	920.5
7	8	9	10	11	150	951
14	15	16	17	18	154	977
21	22	23	24	25	158	1003
28	29	30			161	1022.5
May 2025						
			1	2	163	1035.5
5	6	7	8	9	168	1068
12	13	14	15	16	173	1098.5
19	20	21	22	23	178	1131
26	27	28	29	30		
June 2025						
2	3	4	5	6		

188 Days Teacher Days

Aug. 16	Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 19	Teacher Professional Learning; All Returning and New Teachers; All Staff Welcome and Professional Development
Aug. 20-22	Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 23	Begin 1 st Semester
Sept. 2	Labor Day (No School)
Sept. 11	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Sept. 25	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 10	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 11	No School
Oct. 23	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 25	End 1 st Qtr. (45 days)
Nov. 13	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
Dec. 11	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Dec. 20	End of 2 nd Quarter/1 st Semester (37 days/82 days)
Dec. 23-Jan. 5	Winter Break (No School)
Jan. 3	Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 6	Begin 3 rd Quarter/2 nd Semester
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day (No School); Teacher Professional Learning
Feb. 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Feb. 17	President's Day (No School)
Feb. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 27	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 28	No School
Mar. 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Mar. 14	End 3 rd Qtr. (48 days)
Mar. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Apr. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Apr. 18-21	Spring Break – No School
Apr. 21	Teacher Professional Learning
May 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal
May 23	End 4 th Qtr. (47 days)
May 23	End 2 nd Semester (88 days/.)
May 26	Memorial Day
May 27	Teacher Professional Learning
May 28	Teacher Professional Learning

Teacher Work Days

August (5) - 16, 19, 20, 21 & 22

January (2) – 3 & 20; April (1) – 21

May (2) – 27 & 28

APPROVED - Farm Lease Agreement

Scott Hingtgen is renting the farmland that the school owns. We need to approve this agreement. Some specifics are below:

Total Acres	17.14 acres
Workable Acres	11.60 acres
Price/Workable Acre	\$165/acre
Total Rent Due	\$165 X 11.60 = \$1914.00

Scott has been a very good patron of the school land and is always willing to work with the district when we ask him about going on the property for any type of soil testing, general work, etc.

APPROVED - Preschool - 28E Agreement

The Board approved 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. Ultimately, our district and Marquette must work together on the preschool programming as we are the fiscal agent for the funds from the state.

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 Consortium of State School Boards Association (COSSBA) for FY2024.

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
- COSSBA \$950

We have been involved with the first two organizations for many years, and have just joined COSSBA over the last two years. They all serve as 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.

APPROVED - EICC College and Career Counselor - 28E Agreement

I again recommend we approve a 28E Agreement with the Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD). The 2024-2025 school year will be the 3rd year of this position, which is a position the state is encouraging. The district has been working with EICCD to enhance our career planning for students by 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 EICCD would hold the contract, 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, it would apply to all students planning on attending any type of college—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 a week.
 - CTCC Counselors spend time at partner institutions each week, helping 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, 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 load of traditional high school counselors who provide 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 businesses and industries with the skilled workforce they need to thrive. For the first time in American history, the percentage of high school graduates pursuing education or training beyond high school has declined for four years in a row.
 - Even in the highest-performing high schools in Iowa, as many as 20 percent of graduates seek no education or training 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 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 an 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 in making the connection between high school, college, and careers.

Comet Board Reading and Reflection

I found this brief article interesting in regard to "what is education for" in regard to the future of students. Specifically, "what is a high school diploma doing for students?".

Superintendent's Playbook: Education in 2024 needs to be future-focused

By Micah Ward March 13, 2024

Take a moment and ask yourself, "How did I get into education?" Was it a teacher who inspired you when you were in school? Was it a last-second decision? Or, chances are one of your parents was a teacher or was involved in K12 education in some way. The latter circumstance is why many adults are in their chosen profession. But when it comes to Gen Z, that's far less likely to happen.

This generation of students is all about forging their own futures. How can they not be? Technology is evolving faster than ever before and the job market of 2024 is vastly different than it was 30-plus years ago. That's why Mike Nagler, superintendent of the Mineola Union Free School District in New York, is giving students every opportunity to receive career-based education and experience before graduating high school.

The vision

Nagler's son is currently a senior in a neighboring district and class valedictorian. Despite excelling academically, he tells his father, "I hate school."

"What do you mean you hate school?" Nagler asks.

"I don't understand why I have to learn what they want me to learn," his son replies. "I want to learn what I want to learn."

Then, the lightbulb went off in Nagler's head. Even if students are doing well in school, are they actually happy with the education they're receiving? So, he created Synergy, a program where students can take classes asynchronously while pursuing career-based educational experiences.

"I thought, 'Why don't we take the coursework and put it in the cloud and take a seven-hour day and tell the kids, 'You design your day;'" says Nagler.

Interestingly enough, the school occupies what was once a bank. But its wide-open space on the "floor" of the building makes it perfect for collaboration, including individual rooms lined across its perimeter that students can reserve to meet virtually with teachers and work on assignments.



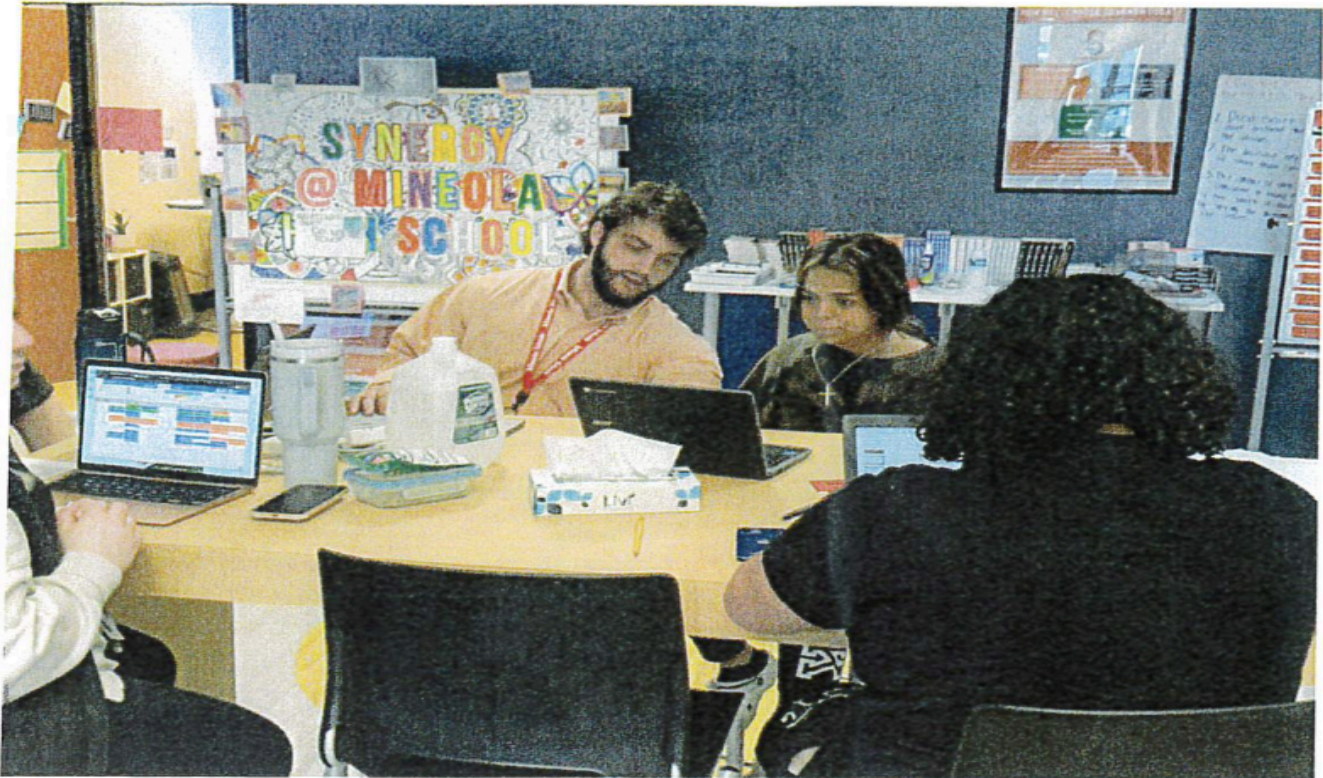
In retrospect, he says it's very similar to the college experience. However, there's more structure in place to support students.

The district has a partnership with Cisco, a networking, cloud and cybersecurity solutions company, that allows administrators like Nagler to track all sorts of student data, including how much time students spend on a particular subject and how often they meet with a teacher.

"They own the space, the time and the pace," he says. "I have kids now... social studies is a year-long course. They crank through it. They're almost done. That frees up time for them to go explore stuff they want to explore."

For instance, Synergy often hosts seminars for students interested in a particular field or subject area. Students also have the opportunity to meet virtually with experts in any given

profession who volunteer their time to pour into that student.



“The heart of the whole concept is that we understand the things you *have* to do and the things you *want* to do,” he explains. “How do we create a bridge for you to do both?”

At the front of the school, also, is a coffee shop where students can work during the school day and make money, thanks to the beauty of asynchronous learning.

“If you want to work a three-hour shift, go right ahead,” says Nagler.

Sounds like a pretty sweet gig if you’re a high school student, right? It’s a lot of freedom the district is awarding its students, but Nagler says there are policies in place to ensure students stay on track with their coursework.

While coursework is asynchronous and accessible via “the cloud,” students are required to physically attend school. Teachers—who are also on site—are given office hours to monitor students’ activity and progress, so if a student isn’t on top of their work, that teacher then steps in.

Creating future-focused educational experiences

“I think this generation [of students] is very different,” Nagler explains. “Previous generations became their parents, and I don’t think this generation is going to do that.”

He adds that educators are obligated to prepare kids for a life of success beyond high school.



“That weighs on me because I don’t think we’re doing that,” he argues. “In many respects, if you’re not going to college, I don’t know what a high school diploma is doing for you. And I think we can do better. We can offer certifications, we can offer different opportunities for kids to leverage their time and make money in the economy they’re going into.”

Above all, Nagler says he’s committed to his pursuit to educate the next generation of students by equipping them with the tools to design their individual path to success.

“It’s really a shift from content to skills that the state’s not ready for, but the world is,” he explains.

Information Items

Family Week

There will be no practices or events at school for students this summer from July 28 through August 4. This is a part of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls Athletic Union standards that have been in effect for the last few years (approximately 3-5 years).

Events Update

Meyer provided an overview of upcoming events for the district and extracurricular involvement for this Spring.

See the graph below with the students participating at the start of the season in our Spring Sports from Bellevue. This does not include golf members (I will have those next week).

HS Spring Sports Roster

HS Boys Track	HS Girls Track	HS Boys Soccer	HS Girls Soccer
Casey Tath	Hannah Braet	Spencer Abbott	Lorena Bara
Payton Griebel	Lillyan Courtney	Leo Aschenbrenner	Olivia Carter
Kaden Guenther	Cate Dunne	Dalton Clasen	Savannah Edwards
Tait Nemmers	Juliana Gleason	KeShawn DeShaw	Adyson Ellingson
Dylan Knuth	Leana Grothe	Jack Hiland	Aunika Hager
Nolan Dunne	Gabby Hingtgen	Chase Hunter	Rayna Kilburg
Gabe Manders	Grace Hingtgen	Noah Kilcoyne	Sienna Koenig
Josh Edwards	Cadence Klein	Logan Kloser	Kelsey Knief
Jaden Baskin	Bella Leibfried	Mitch Manders	Abriella Leibfried
Sam Hurley	Tayla Leibfried	Race Marks	Callie Recker
Keenan Kilburg	Jacob Olszewski	Ben Meyer	Grace Recker
Connor Kilburg	Jami Portz	Brody Recker	Cora Schneider
Sam Gassman	Noelle Schlie	Parker Richter	Cadence Veach
Emery McCutcheon	Bel Sieverding	Gavin Roling	Alyssa Wagner
Kinnick Paulsen	Jade Sprout	Gavin Schroeder	Ava Yeager
Carter Dierks	Cydney Tath	Luke Sprank	
Chase Barsema		Niles Wood	
Kindrick Decker			
Mason Fox			
Anderson Griebel			
Carter Hickson			
Jack Kirk			
Jaxton Leach			
Ayden Stark			
Brody Sullivan			
Brandon Reardon			
Dylan Portz			
Carson Dierks			
Mason Holdgrafer			
Parker Harris			
Liam Flickinger-MNG			
Everett Arlen-MNG			

**Girls Soccer also has approximately 12-13 students from Maquoketa.*

Boys Golf Members (12) include the following: Kempton Sikkema, Cal Bonifas, Owen Putman, Owen Portz, Kaiden Miller, Gavin Guilliams, Colt Scheckel, Peyton Meier, Carter Michels, Max Stroud, Tyler Sinar, Koleson Merrick

Girls Golf Members (6) include the following: Adalynne Leach, Miranda Stroud, Kendelle Scheckel, Addysen Felderman, Maddi Meyer, Karley McCombie

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder shared information about the DARE graduation being hosted at Bellevue Elementary on Thursday, with 72 total students from the two schools. Also, the preschool prom is on Friday night. Plans are also being made for summer school for grades K-2.

Tate Giesemann shared information in regard to the high school "Survivor" contest happening this weekend, with students "staying in school" during the week until "voted off" or "losing a competition." He also shared about Operation Prom on May 10, with Prom on May 11. Students will be transported by bus to Timber Lanes in Maquoketa on May 11 for Prom.

Groundbreaking Ceremony - BOARD DECIDED TO HAVE THIS ON MONDAY, APRIL 15.

Matthew Stewart from OPN and Tricon wondered if the district wanted to have some type of groundbreaking ceremony for the new building. The Board decided to have a small event with the Board members (and shovels) on the property. Meyer will notify the newspaper as well.

Update on Weather-Related Teacher Makeup Days Process (see below)

The following is information in regard to teacher makeup days for their contractual obligation. This was developed with input from the administration and the District Leadership Team (teachers from both buildings), and a few others.

The information below concerns teacher contractual obligations for the 2023-2024 school year and options for meeting their contractual obligation of 188 days.

Days/Hours Missed

While we have missed five full days (along with one late start), we are still above the state-mandated student learning contact hours of 1080. Below is information on our days missed to this point:

- *January 9*
- *January 10*
- *January 12*
- *January 16*
- *January 22 (2-hour late start)*
- *January 23*

*Each school day counts for **6.5 hours** toward the total of 1080 hours required for schools in the state of Iowa. At the start of the school year, we had 1133 hours built into our calendar. Therefore, even without making up a day, we are still at 1098.5 hours. See the information below:*

$$\begin{array}{r} 6.5 \text{ hours} \times 5 \text{ days} = 32.5 \text{ hours} \\ 2.0 \text{ hours} \times 1 \text{ day} = 2.0 \text{ hours} \\ \hline 34.5 \text{ hours} \end{array}$$

- 1098.5 - 1080 hours = 18.5 hours over the required amount of hours without making up a day due to weather-related issues.

Makeup Days for Students

At the most recent Board of Education meeting on March 11, 2024, the decision was made to have one makeup day for students. This makeup day will be on **Friday, May 24**, with Graduation still occurring on Saturday, May 25.

Contractual Obligations for Teachers

By making up one day, the district increases its student learning contact hours to 1105. This also allows teachers to work toward their contractual obligations of 188 days.

Teachers have had the opportunity for two virtual learning days, and those who opted to participate only need to make up two days at this point.

When similar weather-related situations have occurred in the past, teachers were allowed to make up their contractual time after school or on other days when we have scheduled days off of school.

Options for Making Up Days for Teachers

Some districts do not allow for "Teacher Virtual Days" when school is not in session (or require all to participate in these types of days) and/or require all teachers to return to school to make up ALL contractual days. The Bellevue CSD did not and is not requiring this process for making up days at this time.

As an alternative for making up days, teachers have the following potential options for making up days between now and the end of May:

- Grade Level or Grade Span Collaboration
- Curricular Area Collaboration
- Reading Conference in Cedar Rapids (July) - would be exempted from the requirement to complete by the end of May.
- Stay late with this documented by the teacher(s) and time submitted to the building principal.
- LETRS Training
- AI work
- Other work or personalized learning needs as approved by the administration.

Teachers may also opt to come into school and work after the required contractual work day of Tuesday, May 28. This would likely mean coming to school on May 29, May 30, and possibly May 31 depending on the number of contractual days needed for the teacher.

Bellevue Masonic Lodge

As a follow-up to our last meeting, see the following information from the Bellevue Masonic Lodge and their desire to advocate for our public school as part of their mission.

Below are the notes from the March 22 Board Notes

I met with several Bellevue Masonic Lodge members on Monday night (Mayrch 18) at their meeting. We discussed their desire to have a cornerstone for the building. Ultimately this would be engraved in the materials or a "plate" put on the building with their support on a corner. It would be similar to the one they have on their building (the following):



This is typically a community event that brings recognition to the school and the community with several dignitaries attending: State/US Senators and Representatives, leaders of the Masonic Lodge from the area and the state, and others. They are excited about this opportunity and hope to be able to proceed. The timing of it can be at the opening of the building or any time during construction.

Adjourn

Next Meeting - May 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Exempt Session

This involved discussions about negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year.

Negotiations

Our initial meeting with the BEA was to be on **April 11 at 3:45**, but this date has been changed as the district and the association attempt to finalize more information on TSS funds and its impact. At the next meeting (when scheduled), the BEA will share their initial proposal, and then afterward, I plan on sharing the district's proposal.

Total Package Trend in the Bellevue CSD

Below is some information over the last several years regarding "total package" compensation for staff members, including contribution to family health insurance.

<u>Year</u>	<u>% Total Package Increase</u>	<u>Employee Insurance Contribution (Sing/Fam)</u>
2024-2025	TBD	TBD
2023-2024	3.75%	\$300
2022-2023	3.40%	\$300
2021-2022	2.60%	\$250
2020-2021	2.60%	\$180
2019-2020	3.00%	\$150
2018-2019	2.00%	\$100
2017-2018	2.19%	\$95
2016-2017	3.40%	\$80
2015-2016	4.00%	\$70
2014-2015	3.95%	\$70
2013-2014	3.9%	\$60
2012-2013	3.62%	\$40
2011-2012	3.10%	\$25
2010-2011	2.09%	No contribution
2009-2010	4.55%	No Contribution
2008-2009	4.94%	No Contribution
2007-2008	5.19%	No Contribution
2006-2007	2.54%	No Contribution
2005-2006	4.00%	No Contribution
2004-2005	3.60%	No Contribution
2003-2004	4.06%	No Contribution