

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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Comet Highlights
December 14, 2020

"Face Coverings, Social Distancing, Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing"

December 17	MS/HS Choir Concert - At this time seating is limited to two people per student involved.
December 18	Recording of the Elementary Winter Concert; Release date online expected to be on December 22 on Youtube.com
December 21	MS/HS Band Concert - At this time seating is limited to two people per student involved
December 22	1st Semester Ends
December 23-January 4	Winter Break
January 4	Teacher Professional Learning Day - Grades
January 5	School Resumes for students; Start of the 2nd Semester
May 28	"Beyond the Blue" Recognition Evening (tentative)
May 29	Graduation - 4:00 PM (Saturday)

Regular COVID-19 Updates for the Bellevue CSD

www.bellevue.k12.ia.us

APPROVED - Consent Agenda

Approve Open Enrollment Requests

- None at this time

Approve Resignations

- Dave Broders - Substitute Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Brain Swartz - Assistant HS Baseball for the 2020-2021 school year

Recognize any Visitors

Jeff Recker (MS/HS Principal) and Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder (Elementary Principal)

Hearing on Proposed Issuance of Bonds

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED
ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,500,000 SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURE SALES, SERVICES AND USE TAX
REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Bellevue Community School District, in the County of Jackson, State of Iowa, will hold a public hearing upon its proposed issuance of approximately \$2,500,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, which may be issued in one or more series over multiple fiscal years, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 423F.2 and 423E.5, for the purpose of providing funds to currently refund the outstanding School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, dated November 1, 2009, including costs of issuance and a debt service reserve fund if required by the purchaser. Any bond proceeds remaining after completion of this project will be used for other school infrastructure projects as authorized by the School District's Revenue Purpose Statement.

The hearing will be held in the Board Room, Administration Office, 1601 State Street, Bellevue, Iowa, on December 14, 2020, at 6:30 P.M.

BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT


Secretary of the Board of Directors

This is the time for anyone in the public to share thoughts on this issuance of bonds. No one shared any comments.

APPROVED - Resolution to Approve Resolution on Refunding Bonds

In simple terms, refinancing our bonds for the late 2000 addition will save us over \$300,000.

The Board approved the following resolution:

Act upon the recommendation to approve a Resolution Supporting the Proposed Issuance of Approximately \$2,500,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds.

Some information with this...

The current amount of debt we have left to pay is a little over \$2.1 million. We could pay some of this now, but his advice to us is with the interest rate so low and a potential other project in the future it would make sense to take this rate now and have this money to put toward a new project, other projects, etc.

The proposed rate would allow us to pay a good share of the principal off early, and therefore creating this better rate from banks or other entities that would bid on our bonds.

The district will be refinancing to save over \$300,000 for our taxpayers overall! By not doing this, we would be fiscally irresponsible in many ways.

I believe this is an extremely good idea and recommend we proceed at this time.

Some specifics are:

1. The current interest rate of 4.0% to 4.7% on the left-hand side of the document below.
2. The proposed interest rate estimate of 1.5% on the right-hand side (toward the top)
 - a. A district recently in our area refinanced for 1.36%...and this could vary from 1.3% to 1.8% (1.5% is an estimate, but fairly conservative overall).
3. The savings estimate is \$327,268.73 (under the "B" arrow).
4. The current "call payoff" which we would be eligible to do is 2.5 million with all of the inclusions in it. We do not have this much currently in PPEL and SAVE combined, but we are close. Yet, by using all of that it would also mean we would not have funds to use for emergencies (roofs, boilers, buses, smaller building projects, etc.).
5. The option to do this (and get the best savings return) allows us to pay more the first few years since we believe we have enough in our PPEL and SAVE to cover the emergency needs if they would appear.
6. By not doing this we would be fiscally irresponsible in many ways. I am sharing an overall step-by-step process for this action below as well.

FINAL RESULT: Bankers Bank purchaser

\$4,830,000.00

Belleve Community School District, Iowa
School Infrastructure Sales, Services & Use Tax Revenue Bonds
Dated 11/1/2009

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total	Minus Earnings on DSPF	Est'd P&I Payments
07/01/2010	-	-	120,990.00	120,990.00	120,990.00	-	-
07/01/2011	-	-	90,742.50	90,742.50	336,485.00	-	-
07/01/2012	155,000.00	1.500%	89,580.00	244,580.00	339,160.00	-	-
07/01/2013	160,000.00	2.000%	87,980.00	247,980.00	375,960.00	-	-
07/01/2014	200,000.00	2.250%	85,730.00	285,730.00	371,460.00	-	-
07/01/2015	200,000.00	2.500%	83,230.00	283,230.00	366,460.00	-	-
07/01/2016	210,000.00	3.000%	80,480.00	290,480.00	370,960.00	-	-
07/01/2017	220,000.00	3.250%	77,330.00	297,330.00	374,660.00	-	-
07/01/2018	230,000.00	3.500%	73,755.00	303,755.00	377,510.00	-	-
07/01/2019	235,000.00	3.750%	69,730.00	304,730.00	374,460.00	-	-
07/01/2020	245,000.00	3.900%	65,323.75	310,323.75	375,647.50	-	-
07/01/2021	255,000.00	4.000%	60,546.25	315,546.25	376,092.50	-	-
07/01/2022	270,000.00	4.100%	55,446.25	325,446.25	380,892.50	(5,749.95)	375,142.55
07/01/2023	280,000.00	4.200%	49,911.25	329,911.25	379,822.50	(5,749.95)	374,072.55
07/01/2024	295,000.00	4.250%	44,031.25	339,031.25	383,062.50	(5,749.95)	377,312.55
07/01/2025	305,000.00	4.300%	37,762.50	342,762.50	380,525.00	(5,749.95)	374,775.05
07/01/2026	320,000.00	4.400%	31,205.00	351,205.00	382,410.00	(5,749.95)	376,660.05
07/01/2027	335,000.00	4.500%	24,165.00	359,165.00	383,330.00	(5,749.95)	377,580.05
07/01/2028	350,000.00	4.800%	16,627.50	366,627.50	383,255.00	(5,749.95)	377,505.05
07/01/2029	365,000.00	4.700%	8,577.50	373,577.50	382,155.00	(369,079.95)	(6,924.95)
07/01/2029	-	-	8,577.50	373,577.50	382,155.00	(429,329.60)	\$2,626,122.90
Total	\$4,830,000.00	-	\$2,395,297.50	\$7,215,297.50	\$7,215,297.50	-	\$2,626,122.90

Bonds First Callable: July 1, 2021
Debt Service Reserve Fund: \$363,330
Additional Bonds Test (ABT): 1.20x

Current Interest Rate

ESTIMATED NEW BONDS - REFINANCING OLD BONDS

Dated Date Assumed: June 25, 2020
New Reserve Fund: \$0.00

Date	Principal Maturity	Interest Rate	Semi Annual Interest Payment	Semi Annual P & I Payment	Annual P & I This Issue
7/1/2020					
1/1/2021					
1/1/2021					
1/1/2022	341,000	1.500%	16,804	16,804	374,154
7/1/2022					
1/1/2023	346,000	1.500%	13,793	13,793	373,585
7/1/2023					
1/1/2024	354,000	1.500%	11,198	11,198	376,395
7/1/2024					
1/1/2025	357,000	1.500%	8,543	8,543	374,085
7/1/2025					
1/1/2026	364,000	1.500%	5,865	5,865	375,730
7/1/2026					
1/1/2027	371,000	1.500%	3,135	3,135	377,270
7/1/2027					
1/1/2028	47,000	1.500%	353	353	47,705
7/1/2028					
1/1/2029					
7/1/2029					
1/1/2030					
7/1/2030					
Totals:	2,180,000		118,924	2,299,924	2,298,924

PIPER SANDLER

SOURCES OF FUNDS

New Refinancing Bond Principal: 2,180,000.00
Release of Prior Reserve Fund: 383,330.00
Accrued Interest Paid from Prior Sinking Fund: 0.00

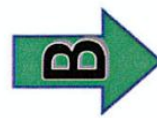
Total Sources of Funds: 2,563,330.00

USES OF FUNDS

Call Prior Bond Principal: 2,520,000.00
Accrued Interest on Old Bonds: 0.00
Bonding Costs: 43,260.00

Surplus / Deficit: 70.00

Total Sources of Funds: 2,563,330.00



Estimated Savings	Current Approx D/S Coverage
988.38	1.62
487.55	1.62
917.55	1.61
690.05	1.62
930.05	1.61
310.05	1.61
329,800.05	12.72
327,198.73	

70.00 Plus Surplus
327,268.73 Total Est'd Savings



Savings

Bellevue Community School District, Iowa



Approx \$2,180,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services & Use Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds (Current Refunding Series 11/1/2009)

PRIVATE PLACEMENT

Estimated 2021 Timetable

*Monday, November 9 th (2020)	REGULAR BOARD MEETING -Board approves Engagement Letter with Piper Sandler (Placement Agent) -Board approves Engagement Letter with Ahlers & Cooney (Bond Counsel) <i>*subject to A&C timeline</i> -Board <u>sets date</u> of public hearing for the SAVE Bonds
After 11/24, but Before 12/4	Penny Medinger has Notice of Hearing published in area newspaper
*Monday, December 14 th	REGULAR BOARD MEETING -Board Conducts Public Hearing for Issuance of Approximately \$2,500,000 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds (the amount published is higher than expected actual issuance to assure the hearing covers any amount possible)
December 14th – 28th	Waiting Period for Potential Hearing Response
Week of March 8 th	Piper Sandler distributes Offering Terms to prospective purchasers for review
*Monday, March 29 th	11:00AM Interested Bond Purchasers provide bid details to Piper Sandler. INTEREST RATES SET THIS DATE. 12:00PM Piper & District Admin review proposals to determine most favorable and Piper circulates details to Ahlers & Cooney ahead of evening meeting & 4/12 meeting X:XXPM SPECIAL BOARD MEETING (2:00PM or later in the day; can be by telephone, may last 5+ minutes) -Board reviews results of proposals received -Board takes action to award or reject best proposal; award resolutions provided by Ahlers & Cooney
+++ IF ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS ARE NOT RECEIVED VIA THIS DIRECT SOLICITATION ON THIS DATE THE PROPOSAL(S) RECEIVED MAY BE REJECTED AND THE PROCESS FOR THE SALES TAX BONDS COULD BE ADJUSTED FOR A CONVENTIONAL SALE & THIS TIMELINE WOULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY +++	
*Monday, April 12 th	REGULAR BOARD MEETING -All legal documents for bonds executed at this meeting; Provided by Ahlers & Cooney -Included in these documents is the Call Notice resolution to be filed with UMB Bank
Monday, April 27 th	Transactions closes. Bond proceeds are delivered to District's Fund 33 bank account awaiting pay-off of prior bonds on 7/1/2021.
Not Later Than June 1 st	UMB Bank provides notice of call to existing bondholders (at least 30-days' notice required)
Thursday, July 1 st	UMB Bank calls remaining 2009 SAVE Bonds in full = \$2,520,000 using bond proceeds + prior DSRF
* Board Action Dates	
January 1, 2022	-District makes initial interest payment on the new refunding SAVE Bonds; semi-annually thereafter
July 1, 2022	-District makes initial principal payment on the new refunding SAVE Bonds; annually thereafter

Revenue Purpose Statement (Election to Extend)

Discussion on the District's Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS)

Iowa schools have previously passed multiple times a R.P.S. question over the past 20 years within their districts. **Those prior voted authorizations will all expire on 1/1/2031** as a result of legislation that went into effect 7/1/2019 which extended the sales tax until 1/1/2051 and also placed an absolute expiration date on all prior R.P.S.

Thus, each school will need to have another R.P.S. election at some point to put in place the authority for their school board to spend (including borrowing, if desired) the revenue from the sales tax in the period beyond 1/1/2031.

The R.P.S. is not increasing or decreasing anyone's taxes and it is not extending or shortening the period during which we will pay the penny tax; it is simply setting out in writing those purposes that the local school board will have the authority to spend the revenues.

Most R.P.S. are fairly vague and cover almost any legal purpose, and the language itself is generally derived from discussions between the school board or school administration and the school's bond attorney. **If a school has no need to borrow against the SAVE with bond repayment that extends beyond 1/1/2031 there is no immediate hurry to renew the R.P.S. as the board already has the authority to spend/borrow up to that 1/1/2031 expiration. The renewal election could be completed any time between now and 1/1/2031.

But, if the school thinks they may need to borrow from the SAVE for a period longer than just the 1/1/2031 final payment it will become necessary to have the R.P.S. extended by election prior to completing any such borrowing with bond payments that extend beyond that 1/1/2031 date. Many schools have already held the R.P.S. election in the fall of 2019, spring 2020 or September 2020; not because they felt there was an imminent need to borrow for longer periods of time, but simply to get the requirement to extend out of the way so it isn't a hindrance at some point in the future when the school might want or need to borrow for a longer repayment period. The renewal vote requires 50%+1 approval when voted. (Note that it does not require 60% like a referendum).

When to do this?

Even though this does NOT IMPACT THE TAX RATES OF PEOPLE AT ALL, it is still recommended we do this early in case it does not pass. Remember, this is only for the approval to spend money IF we would have a need to that would be voted on.

If it would not pass we would have to wait 6 months to have it again, therefore having it in March of 2021 would make sense overall. Then, if it would not pass we could have it again in November (September would be short by one week roughly).

Election Dates in Future Years:

- Odd Years
 - 1st Tuesday of March
 - 2nd Tuesday of September
 - 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday of November
- Even Years
 - 1st Tuesday in March (March 2, 2021)
 - 2nd Tuesday of September

APPROVED - Approve Ordering an Election for the RPS

This is the agenda item where we will need to approve steps to have an election on March 2, 2021. Some official documents for the process are below:

December 14, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Bellevue Community School District, State of Iowa, met in _____ session, in the School Board Conference Room, 1601 State Street, Bellevue, Iowa, at 6:30 P.M., on the above date. There were present President _____, in the chair, and the following named Board Members:

Absent _____
:

Vacant: _____

|

ITEMS TO INCLUDE ON AGENDA

BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Resolution Approving Revenue Purpose Statement, Ordering an Election on a Revenue Purpose Statement to Authorize Expenditures From Revenue Received From the State Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund, and Ordering the Publication of a Notice of Election

Below is the actual Resolution being presented...

The Superintendent presented a Revenue Purpose Statement, which must be approved by the Board and submitted to the County Commissioner of Elections at least forty-six days prior to the date of the election.

Board Member _____ introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Board Member _____ seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was:

AYES _____
:

NAYS _____
:

Whereupon, the President declared the resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION APPROVING REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT, ORDERING AN ELECTION ON A REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE SECURE AN ADVANCED VISION FOR EDUCATION FUND, AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF ELECTION

WHEREAS, the School District receives revenue from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund ("SAVE Revenue") pursuant to Iowa Code Section 423F.2, as amended; and

WHEREAS, by operation of law, the School District's current Revenue Purpose Statement governing the use of SAVE Revenue will expire on January 1, 2031; and

WHEREAS, the School District wishes to adopt a Revenue Purpose Statement that includes all proposed uses of SAVE Revenue, will take immediate effect upon voter approval, and will extend beyond the expiration of the current Revenue Purpose Statement; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapter 47 requires that the District submit this election resolution to the County Commissioner of Elections at least forty-six days prior to the date of the special election:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF JACKSON, STATE OF IOWA:

1. That the Board wishes to authorize spending SAVE Revenue for the following purposes and, in doing so, must approve the following Revenue Purpose Statement.

2. That the following Revenue Purpose Statement shall be approved:

Revenue Purpose Statement

Bellevue Community School District

Pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 423F.3, the Bellevue Community School District hereby adopts and submits to the Commissioner of Elections of Jackson County, Iowa, this Revenue Purpose Statement to be submitted to the electors at an election to be held March 2, 2021.

Money received by the Bellevue Community School District from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund may be spent for any one or more of the following purposes:

To provide funds to acquire or install information technology infrastructure (including improving buildings or sites for the purpose of accessing broadband digital telecommunications) and school safety and security infrastructure.

To provide funds to build and furnish a new school building or buildings; to build and furnish addition(s) to school buildings in the District; to remodel, reconstruct, repair, expand, and improve the school buildings in the District; to purchase and improve grounds; for demolition work; to furnish and equip district facilities.

To provide funds for the purchase, lease or lease-purchase of buildings, equipment (including transportation and recreation equipment), or technology and to repair transportation equipment for transporting students as authorized by law, to implement energy conservation measures, sharing or rental of facilities including a joint infrastructure project for the purposes of offering classes under district-to-community college programs as authorized in

Iowa Code Section 423F.3(3)(c), procuring or acquisition of libraries, or opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings.

To provide funds to purchase land as part of start-up costs for new student construction program or if the sale of the previous student construction was insufficient to purchase land, and to purchase construction materials and supplies for a student-constructed building or shed intended to be retained by and used by the District.

To provide funds to make payments to a municipality or other entity as required under Iowa Code Section 403.19(2).

To provide funds for demolition, cleanup, and other costs if such costs are necessitated by, and incurred within two years of, a disaster.

To provide funds to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds; provide for supervision and instruction for recreational activities; or for community education purposes.

To provide funds for the payment of principal and interest or retirement of general obligation bonds issued for school infrastructure purposes, energy improvement loans, loan agreements authorized by Iowa Code Section 297.36, sales, service and use tax revenue bonds issued under Iowa Code Section 423E.5 or Iowa Code Section 423F.4.

To provide funds for property tax relief; and

To provide funds for other authorized expenditures and purposes as now or hereafter permitted by law and designated by the Bellevue Community School District.

Comet Curriculum - COVID-19 Impact

Below is general information to view in regard to the impact on attendance at school by both students and staff. You will obviously notice a reduction in illness and quarantined students from the last few weeks. Specifically, when we had over ½ of our staff gone and over 100 students gone in the district.

Summary of Absences - COVID-19 Data				
Date	Staff Not in School (Elem; MS/HS)	Students Not in School Illness and/or COVID-Related (Elem; MS/HS)	Illness - Quarantine (Elem; MS/HS)	District Total (Students)
November 6	5 (13.9%); 6 (18.2%)	57 (16.3%); 17 (4.5%) -	10 - 47; 4 - 13	74 (10.1%)
9	8 (22.2%); 5 (15.2%)	68 (18.4%); 48 (12.6%)	10 -58; 21 - 47	116 (15.9%)
13	12 (33.3%); 9 (27.3%)	71 (20.3%); 54 (14.2%)	10 - 61; 16 - 38	125 (17.1%)
16	11 (30.6%); 10 (30.3%)	54 (15.4%); 52 (13.7%)	11 - 43; 11 - 41	106 (14.5%)
17	10 (27.8%); 11 (33.3%)	50 (14.3%); 62 (16.3%)	13 - 37; 13 - 49	112 (15.3%)
18	10 (27.8%); 11 (33.3%)	49 (14.0%); 62 (16.3%)	15 - 34; 14 - 48	111 (15.2%)
19	9 (25.0%); 8 (24.2%)	53 (15.1%); 53 (13.9%)	19 - 34; 10 - 43	106 (14.5%)
20	9 (25.0%); 8 (24.2%)	50 (14.3%); 51 (13.4%)	11 - 39; 10 - 41	101 (13.8%)
23	9 (25.0%); 9 (27.2%)	47 (13.4%); 51 (13.4%)	4 - 43; 11 - 41	98 (13.4%)
24	8 (22.2%); 7 (21.2%)	50 (14.3%); 45 (11.8%)	10 - 40; 9 - 36	95 (13.0%)
30	5 (13.9%); 2 (6.0%)	19 (5.4%); 21 (5.5%)	4 - 15; 6 - 15	40 (5.5%)
December 1	4 (11.1%); 4 (12.1%)	22 (6.3%); 21 (5.5%)	7 - 15; 6 - 15	43 (5.9%)
2	2 (5.5%); 3 (9.1%)	23 (6.6%); 17 (4.5%)	7 - 16; 2 - 15	40 (5.5%)
3	3 (8.3%); 6 (18.2%)	21 (6.0%); 20 (5.3%)	9 - 12; 5 - 15	41 (5.6%)
4	4 (11.1%); 3 (9.1%)	22 (6.3%); 20 (5.3%)	4 - 18; 7 - 13	42 (5.8%)
7	1 (2.7%); 4 (12.1%)	17 (4.9%); 13 (3.4%)	6 - 11; 5 - 8	30 (4.1%)
8	2 (5.5%); 4 (12.1%)	17 (4.9%); 17 (4.5%)	7 - 10; 9 - 8	34 (4.7%)
9	1 (2.7%); 5 (15.2%)	18 (5.1%); 9 (2.4%)	8 - 10; 4 - 5	27 (3.7%)
Positive Cases	Students (Elem + MS/HS = Total)	Teaching Staff (Elem; MS/HS)	Other Staff	Total for All Students, Teachers & Other Staff
November 24	22 + 30 = 52	9 + 4 = 13	6 + 4 = 10	75
December 3	27 + 31 = 58	9 + 4 = 13	7 + 4 = 11	82
December 10	28 + 33 = 61	10 + 4 = 14	8 + 4 = 12	87

Jackson County Positivity Rate - COVID-19

- September 24 - 13.1% (21st highest in the state - out of 99 counties)
- October 2 - 13.0% (18th highest in the state; it has been in this area all week)
- October 7 - 12.3% (21st highest in the state)
- October 16 - 12.1% (36th highest in the state)
- October 23 - 14.4% (19th highest in the state) - Not a good trend for our county, and ultimately our school district (note the letter below sent to me from the department of health).
- November 3 - 25.9% (Highest in the state)
- November 5 - 27.9% (2nd Highest in the state)
- November 12 - 32.4% (6th Highest in the state)
- November 20 - 27.5% (11th Highest in the state)- It has went down, but still way too high in comparison to other states.
- November 24 - 22.2% (35th Highest in the state) - This number continues to go down overall...Good News
- December 3 - 18.6% - 50th in the state - Continuing a downward trend...but still above the "extreme" of 15.0% that was mentioned this summer.
- December 10 - 17.2% - 44th highest in the state...once again still above the extreme of 15% discussed this summer.
- **December 14** - 16.8% - 37th highest in the state

Summary

Positive Tests in the Bellevue CSD (12.10.20)

	Students	Teaching Staff	Other Staff
Bellevue Elementary	28	10*	7
Bellevue MS/HS	33	4	4
District Total	61	14	12

**Includes two staff who are in both buildings*

Total Students & Staff Members Testing Positive = 87

<u>Active Cases</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Elementary	0	0
MS/HS	1	0

Additionally, below is a copy of the letter sent out last week, along with a new flowchart from the IDPH. The reason for no extracurricular activities prior to completing the 14 days is that we can say that students can wear a mask with fidelity during the school day (we can monitor this and they are not actively running, etc.), but this fidelity or insurance of it being worn proper during practices or events is not as high and we do not feel comfortable with this.

Schools in Jackson and Clinton County are doing the same with the 14-day extracurricular activities, but some Clinton County schools are likely not going to follow the 7- and 10-day guidance and will remain at 14-days. Lunch is an issue for some districts with not being able to spread apart and they would have to find an alternative location for individual students to eat that they do not have available. We feel comfortable with the lunch and spacing when

eating without a mask and our overall spacing (we have not quarantined anyone from lunch contact at this time).

To: Parents and Students in the Bellevue CSD
From: Tom Meyer, Superintendent
Kelley Humphrey, School Nurse
Re: Quarantine Requirement Changes
Date: December 4, 2020

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Jackson County Department of Public Health have recently revised quarantine requirements for individuals who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The Bellevue CSD will begin with these new quarantine guidelines on Monday, December 7 (recognize these could change again in the near future). Some specific information in regard to the new guidelines are listed below:

1. People may return to school after seven or ten days in quarantine if they are asymptomatic (symptom-free). This would mean they could return to school on the 8th or 11th day after being a close-contact with the COVID-19 individual. **Before students return to school, families need to confirm and collaborate with the school nurse to verify these dates.** Some critical information for these two scenarios are the following:

- Students and staff can return after day seven if they have a test on day 5 or after and it is negative. The negative test result will need to be shared with the school nurse prior to their return to school.
- Students and staff can return after day ten, and in this scenario they would not have to test prior to their return.

2. When students or staff return earlier than the 14 days that has been the standard in our district, they are required to wear a mask at all times (except when eating or drinking). If a mask is not worn, students will be sent home and will not be able to return to school until the 14-day quarantine standard has been met.

3. Students will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities until after the 14-day standard for quarantine has been completed.

4. If students are experiencing symptoms, they should continue their 14-day quarantine and get tested.

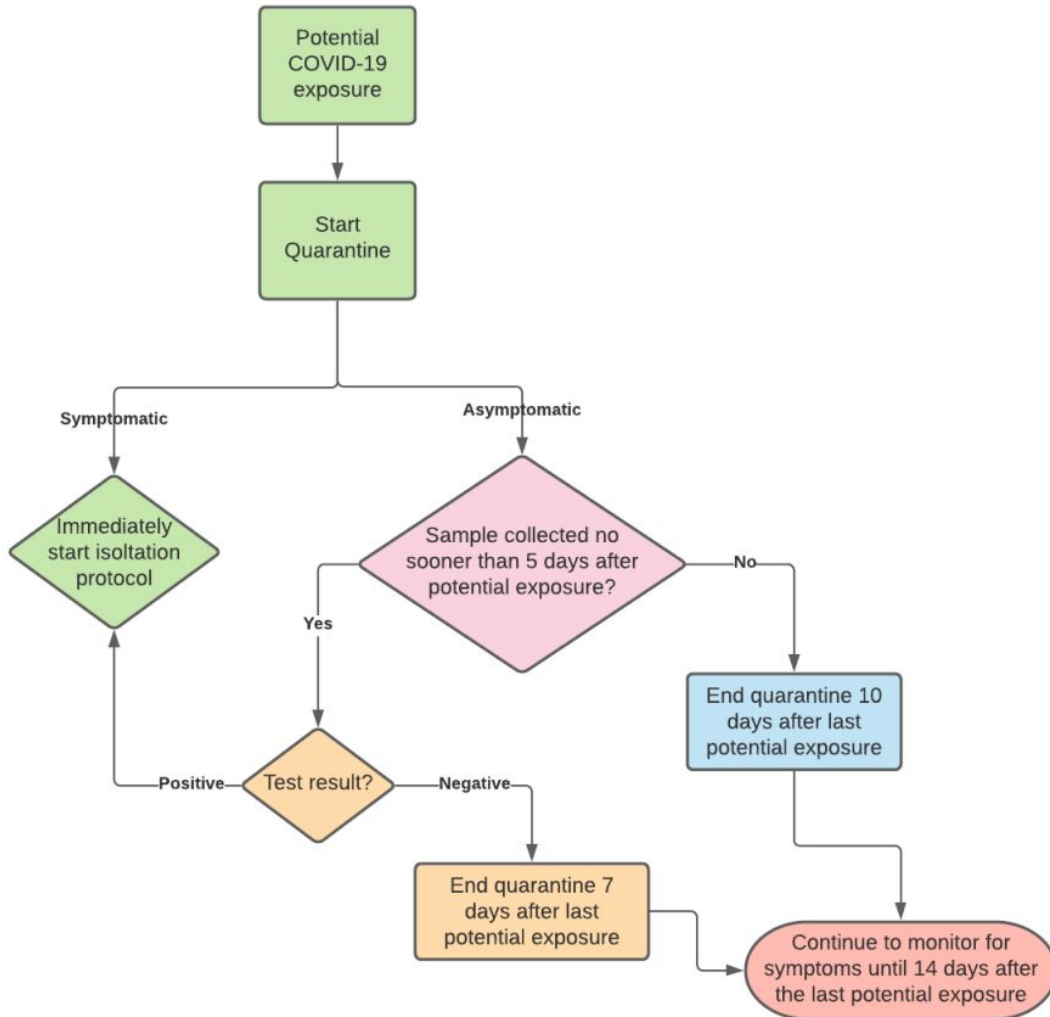
5. If students test positive at any point during the quarantine, they will need to isolate for 10 day from the symptoms onset or date of the test (whichever occurred first).

If you have any questions or concerns please refer to the graphic on the next page, and please contact the school for clarification and further information. The district is continually adjusting to the changing environment and impact of COVID-19, and will continue to monitor conditions for the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.



COVID-19 Quarantine Flowchart

for persons potentially exposed to a positive COVID-19 case



Day 0 is the last day of the potential exposure.

NOTE: If at any time symptoms consistent with COVID-19 develop, **regardless of testing status**, the person should immediately start self-isolation and contact their local public health authority or healthcare provider. Furthermore, regardless of when the quarantine period ends, all persons should wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash their hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

APPROVED - Career and Technical Education Center Discussion and Possible Action

Discussions are ongoing with the Regional Center. This has been happening now for about three years!

I had a meeting via last week with the superintendents in Clinton and Jackson County (another is scheduled for Friday), along with representatives from the Eastern Iowa Community College District. EICCD is looking to have a bond referendum in March of 2021, and they want districts to commit to a specific number of students for programs overall. I have been very reluctant to commit numbers (and funds), and EICC and the other area superintendents are aware of this...other superintendents are also reluctant to do this, but programming for our students may be dependent on this. The referendum would include funding for Scott and Muscatine county programs also.

An example of programming for the students is the welding program at Maquoketa. We typically have been planning to send 3-6 students each year to the program after they gain some basics for a certified program in our welding program with our equipment, staff, etc. If we are not involved in this plan, then we may not be able to send them to this college-level programming.

Below are the programming plans for the three areas they would like to have funded with their bond referendum...

EICC/CCC Career Academies Offered in Clinton and Jackson County

The following Career Academies will be offered to high school juniors and seniors in Clinton and Jackson County. Several of these are currently offered. Others will be offered in new or expanded facilities beginning in the fall of 2022; these are indicated by *. Students may also attend other Career Academies in Scott, Muscatine, and Louisa counties if not offered in Clinton or Jackson County campuses.

CCC (Main) Campus

Information Technology

*Automotive Technology

*Welding

Engineering Technology

Education

Healthcare Academies

CCC Dewitt Center

*Information Technology

*Agriculture

*CNC Machining

*Construction Technology

*Healthcare Academies

*Business

CCC Maquoketa Center

Healthcare Academies

Education

*Engineering Technology

Welding

*CNC Machining

Definition of Career Academies

Career Academies are programs offered by the Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC) on the campuses of Clinton, Muscatine and Scott community colleges that provide the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to earn college credits, industry-recognized postsecondary credentials, and a substantial portion of an Associate of Applied Science from EICC while in high school.

Career Academies are partnerships between area school district and EICC colleges that follow a closely aligned curriculum or “guided pathway” in a career or technical field that begins with secondary-level instruction and leads to postsecondary credentials or degrees.

Costs for the district would be about \$2500/student, although it could be \$2700 or \$2900 depending on the number of credits (this is the same for all districts), and if we would commit 5 students (right now this is an estimate I would recommend...) it would equal out to about \$12,500/year for 8 credits. Right now we have paid about \$10,000 for 2.5 students (one student only took the courses for one semester and left the program). The cost for this last year was about \$4000/student. Also, a portion of this could be considered rent and

could be taken from PPEL if we would choose. Cost will increase each year, as the following graph shows...

	# of Students	Flat Charge Per Student	EICC Tuition	30% of Tuition	Cr. Hrs.	Total Tuition per Student	Total Cost Per Student
FY23	300	\$ 2,000	\$ 186	\$ 56	8	\$ 446	\$ 2,446
FY24	300	2,000	192	57	8	460	2,460
FY25	300	2,000	197	59	8	474	2,474
FY26	300	2,100	203	61	8	488	2,588
FY27	300	2,205	209	63	8	502	2,707
FY28	300	2,315	216	65	8	517	2,833
FY29	300	2,431	222	67	8	533	2,964
FY30	300	2,553	229	69	8	549	3,102
FY31	300	2,680	236	71	8	565	3,246
FY32	300	\$ 2,814	\$ 243	\$ 73	8	\$ 582	\$ 3,397

	# of Students	Flat Charge Per Student	EICC Tuition	30% of Tuition	Cr. Hrs.	Total Tuition per Student	Total Cost Per Student
FY23	300	\$ 2,000	\$ 186	\$ 56	12	\$ 670	\$ 2,670
FY24	300	2,000	192	57	12	690	2,690
FY25	300	2,000	197	59	12	710	2,710
FY26	300	2,100	203	61	12	732	2,832
FY27	300	2,205	209	63	12	754	2,959
FY28	300	2,315	216	65	12	776	3,091
FY29	300	2,431	222	67	12	800	3,231
FY30	300	2,553	229	69	12	824	3,376
FY31	300	2,680	236	71	12	848	3,528
FY32	300	\$ 2,814	\$ 243	\$ 73	12	\$ 874	\$ 3,688

	# of Students	Flat Charge Per Student	EICC Tuition	30% of Tuition	Cr. Hrs.	Total Tuition per Student	Total Cost Per Student
FY23	300	\$ 2,000	\$ 186	\$ 56	16	\$ 893	\$ 2,893
FY24	300	2,000	192	57	16	920	2,920
FY25	300	2,000	197	59	16	947	2,947
FY26	300	2,100	203	61	16	976	3,076
FY27	300	2,205	209	63	16	1,005	3,210
FY28	300	2,315	216	65	16	1,035	3,350
FY29	300	2,431	222	67	16	1,066	3,497
FY30	300	2,553	229	69	16	1,098	3,651
FY31	300	2,680	236	71	16	1,131	3,811
FY32	300	\$ 2,814	\$ 243	\$ 73	16	\$ 1,165	\$ 3,979

Below are estimates I submitted to EICC a few weeks ago...recognizing these are completely estimates and that some program numbers included the same students as districts were not made aware of what programs would be offered in specific areas/locations:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bellevue							
Program	CCC Campus	DeWitt	Maquoketa				
Agriculture	--		1-2				
Automotive Technology	--	1-2	2-3				
Business	--		--	We offer a lot of this at our own school at this time.			
CNC (Machining)	--	1-2	1-2				
Construction Technology	--	1-2	2-3				
Culinary/Hospitality	--		--				
Education	--		--	Looking to offer this on our own at Bellevue CSD			
Engineering Technology	--		1-2				
Health	--		2-3				
Information Technology	--		1-2				
Welding	--		4-5	We are already a part of this in Maquoketa			
Maquoketa Notes							
Some of the students listed in Auto Tech, Construction Technology, and Welding may be the same students.....But, obviously they could not do both. Therefore, our current amount of students would likely be 3-5 students in these areas total.							
DeWitt Notes							
It would likely be 2 students total for any of these programs.							

I am pleased they have said they are going to provide some funding for Maquoketa, but I am not sure how much this will be. I am also unsure how many of our students would take advantage of these college preparation programs based on driving to Maquoketa (or elsewhere). Also, the number of students we would commit would not mean they could only attend Maquoketa, but could also attend the area in DeWitt and at the EICC campus in Clinton.

If we do not agree we may still be able to get into the programs, but it would only if there is space left and the cost may be higher. Plus, if we do not use our seats we could "sell" them to other districts possibly at the rate we are paying.

A concern I have with this is that the district is taking on a financial risk for the college...but I also believe this programming is needed. The 28E agreement would be for 10 years.

As you have seen from my comments in the media, I have been concerned about the distance and travel time. The Maquoketa option is good for Bellevue...if it is funded accordingly. The distance to EICC in Clinton is about 51 miles (roughly one-hour) on roads that are not ideal. The distance to DeWitt is about 46 miles (about 50 minutes), and on better roads overall. Our district is the furthest away of any district for the location in Clinton and for any district in the AEA North Region.

APPROVED - Meyer recommended we approve a 28E Agreement with EICC and other district for up to 5 students (or 5% of students in grades 11 & 12) at this time to "guarantee" our student involvement and a specific amount of funds at about \$2500/student.

Separately, but important....Information on the Education Academy and Welding/Electrical Academy Certification

See the plans below for the Welding/Electrical Academy (already in process in many ways) and the Education Academy (based on student interest in the future ideally) - We need to develop all of these careers for our students (they all benefit the school in the long run with new teachers and workers).

**Bellevue Community School District
Welding & Electrical Academies**

2020-2021 School Year

Spring 2021 (WELDING)
MFG-186 Plant Safety
MAT-104 Applied Math
WEL-123 Welding Symbols

Spring 2021 (ELECTRICAL)
MFG-186 Plant Safety
MAT-104 Applied Math
ELE-216 DC Circuits

2021-2022 School Year

FALL 2021
MFG-186 Plant Safety
Electricity

Spring 2022 (WELDING)
MAT-104 Applied Math
WEL-123 Welding Symbols

Spring 2022 (ELECTRICAL)
MAT-104 Applied Math
ELE-216 DC Circuits

MFG-186 Plant Safety (taught at BHS)
MAT-104 Applied Math (taught online through EICC)
WEL-123 Welding Symbols (taught at BHS)
ELE-216 DC Circuits (taught at BHS)
Electricity (taught at BHS 1st semester)

Bellevue Community School District Education Academy Framework
for 2021-2022 and Beyond

2021-2022 School Year

Fall

SDV 130 Career Exploration(Jrs/Srs)
EDU 213 Intro to Education (Seniors)
PSY 111 Intro to Psychology (Jrs & Srs.)
ENG 105 Composition 1 (Srs.)

Spring

EDU 255 Technology in the Classroom
PSY 121 Developmental Psychology (Jrs & Srs)
SPC 112 Public Speaking (Jrs. & Srs.)

*PSY 111 and PSY 121 are often taken by our students online through EICC, and we would continue this for our students

2022-2023 School Year (and future years)

Fall

SDV 130 (Jrs.)
EDU 213 (Srs.)
PSY 111 (Jrs. & Srs.)
ENG 105 (Srs.)

Spring

EDU 255 (Srs.)
PSY 121 (Jrs. & Srs)
SPC 112 (Jrs & Srs.)

SDV 130 - Career Exploration (taught at BHS)
EDU 213 - Intro to Education (taught at BHS)
EDU 255 - Technology in the Classroom (taught at BHS)
PSY 111 - Intro Psychology (taught online through EICC)
PSY 121 - Developmental Psychology (taught online through EICC)
*PSY 281/EDU 240 - Education Psychology
ENG 105 - Composition I
SPC 112 - Public Speaking
*MAT 117 - Math for Elementary Teacher (Only for Elementary Ed. Majors)

APPROVED - Early Graduation

I recommend we approve these students for early graduation, pending they complete their graduation requirements. Mr. Recker has proposed this list after talking with the students and checking their academic progress.

- Emma Daniel
- Kaitlyn Heiar
- Kylee Putman
- Jordan Wenzel
- Austin Holdgrafer

These students will still be allowed to participate in Graduation ceremonies and prom, but cannot participate in extracurricular activities and other activities through the school year.

APPROVED - Supplemental Amount for Dropout Prevention for 2020-2021 School Year

Each year we ask for spending authority/funding to assist in programming for our students, and it is used for teacher compensation and resources for students. This year we qualify for **\$154,849** (it was \$153,805 last year). This is a part of our annual budget that will be approved in the spring, but we have to submit a request with Board approval by no later than January 15 each year. These funds help to fund both staffing and programs overall in our district.

Below is the typical declaration that needs to be approved. I strongly recommend this, based on the following reasons:

- Modified Supplemental Amount (MSA) is spending authority only (no cash)
- Doesn't bind your district to tax for the authority
 - Could use cash reserves already on hand
 - Could choose to just not tax for it.
- Might need it in the future - once you've given up the opportunity and not applied, there's no way to ever get it back.
- Spending authority never goes bad

Whereas Iowa Code allows school districts to request modified supplemental amount for services provided to dropout prevention and at-risk eligible students, and Whereas the goal of the Bellevue CSD is to graduate students prepared for career or postsecondary experience, and Whereas failure to adequately prepare students at risk of not finishing high school is a burdensome cost, not only to the student's future opportunity but to our community and state,

Be it therefore resolved. . .

The Board of Directors of the Bellevue CSD directs our district to submit this request to the school budget review committee for all modified supplemental amount to which the district has demonstrated need, estimated to be \$154,849 for dropout prevention and at-risk program services for students.

The Board of Directors further directs our school board secretary to submit a copy of this resolution and the board minutes of this action to the SBRC with the application or as soon after as is possible.

The Board of Directors further directs our superintendent to notify the board if the maximum modified supplemental amount granted through the application process differs from this estimated amount in order to keep the board, our taxpayers and stakeholders apprised of any changes.

The amount is determined by the following formula from the Iowa Department of Education....

District Cost Per Pupil = \$7,085/student

Certified Enrollment of students in K-12 = 590.7

Maximum modified supplemental amount possible = \$154,849 (0.037 X 7085 X 590.7)

APPROVED - Student Teaching























I recommend we approve a student teaching agreement with Loras College. This is a formality, and is specifically for a counselor to work with Scott Jess at the MS/HS building at this time.

Comet Reading and Reflection

Schooling vs Learning

I found this interesting as we continue to evaluate education, and where we want school to lead our students (and ourselves) ultimately.

School vs Learning

School	Learning
 Promotes starting by looking for answers	 Promotes starting with questions
 Is about consuming	 Is about creating
 Is about finding information on something that is prescribed for you	 Is about exploring your passions and interests
 Is about teaching compliance	 Is about challenging perceived norms
 Is scheduled at certain times	 Can happen anytime, all of the time
 Often is dates	 Often is social
 Is standardized	 Is personal
 Teaches us to obtain information from certain people	 Promotes that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner
 Is about giving you information	 Is about making your own connections
 Is sequential	 Is random and non-linear
 Promotes surface-level thinking	 Is about deep exploration



George Couros

I truly believe we must look at where we are going with education, and looking at the "learning" aspect in multiple ways. We must have students who are creating in the classrooms and beyond, exploring their passions in a personalized manner, seeking to learn in an in-depth manner, asking questions, and many other things.

Another aspect of learning, and changing as needed, is to recognize why change must happen. Many dislike change, but we have to analyze where we are at, where we are going, and where we want to be as a result.

"So instead of you trying to convince them why change is necessary, why not give them a chance to assure you that standing still is crucial? If they are set on it, there must be some reasoning, so let them talk."

-George Couros

The Innovator's Mindset Podcast:
Listening to Move Forward



Information Items

Extracurricular Activities

We hosted our home games on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday last week. Things went well overall with a limited capacity and significant sanitizing during and after each game.

The state has opened up spectators now to cheerleaders, dance team members (if performing), band (if performing), and others performing in general. This became effective on Thursday based on Governor Reynolds issuing the proclamation revision on Wednesday at her press conference. Masks are still required by everyone in attendance...this includes practices, games, etc. Depending on the situations at the time, the district will not plan on unlimited seating and attendance in the near future based on our space in the gym regardless of the governor's proclamation and social distancing needs.

She has also allowed organized youth sports to begin. The district will not plan on having youth teams start until January 5 at this time.

Below is the statement from the IHSAA and IGHS AU:



IGHSAU/IHSAA Information - December 9 Governor's Proclamation

Dear Superintendents and High School Principals and Athletic Directors,

Governor Reynolds' Public Health Proclamation on December 9, 2020 included the following measures for junior high and high school sports, effective Thursday, Dec. 10 at 12:01 a.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 11:59 p.m:

- Junior High Sports may begin December 10, 2020.
- School districts may allow youth sports to use district facilities provided spectator limits, social distancing and mask requirements are followed.
- Two spectators are permitted for each athlete, performer, competitor or staff member participating in the gathering.
- Coaches are allowed two tickets.
- Cheerleaders, pep band and dance teams performing are allowed two tickets.
- Student managers and videographers are not allowed tickets.
- Timers, scorekeepers, ticket takers are not allowed tickets.
- Spectators may only be present during the time that student or the student's team is participating in a game, meet or competition. **(See Section D2 of proclamation.)**



WATCH COMET ATHLETICS ALL YEAR LONG

**Watch the Bellevue Comets on the NFHS Network!
The NFHS Network is your home for LIVE
Bellevue athletics.**

Get unlimited access to watch all Comet events this year on the NFHS Network. We've invested in new technology that will bring you every game from our field and gym LIVE.

Full access to ALL content for your school on the Network
- All of your school's live and on-demand sports broadcasts

Friends and family members who can't make the game will never miss a play again!



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Create An Account

Visit: www.nfhsnetwork.com/users/sign_up

Once account has been created:
Search for Bellevue and "Follow"

Graduation Update

Just a Quick Reminder: Some people have recently inquired about Graduation for 2021. At our March 2020 Board meeting (which seems forever ago!) we approved to have it on **Saturday, May 29 @ 4:00 PM**. This is a trial to see how this goes, and allows for celebrations to be both before and after the graduation on that day.

Weather-Related Closure and Remote Learning

As we discussed in past meetings, we will be holding off on having "virtual learning" on weather-related school closure dates. The article in the TH shared my thoughts on this, which hopefully resembled our discussion in the past, and some other districts.

In a school year that has brought plenty of changes for educators and students, the snow day seems to be emerging largely unscathed locally.

Despite flexibility given to schools to offer virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, officials from most local districts said they still plan to close schools on bad weather days without requiring students to attend remotely – at least for the first few occurrences.

School leaders said though they have plans for virtual instruction during the pandemic, they still prefer in-person learning, and the logistics of deploying remote instruction for a snow day would prove challenging.

"Initially, it sounds like a great idea, until you start going through some of the other little things with it that aren't so little," said Tom Meyer, superintendent of Bellevue (Iowa) Community School District.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local school districts have some added flexibility to offer remote learning on days when they normally would cancel school for bad weather.

Iowa schools were given that option for the current school year.

Illinois schools can use remote learning days at their discretion under the state's disaster proclamation, though the state already had a provision allowing districts to develop plans for electronic-learning days in lieu of cancelations. Wisconsin allows schools to use virtual learning because of inclement weather.

However, out of 32 local school districts that responded to an inquiry from the Telegraph Herald, most said they planned to use traditional snow days as needed unless they see a large number of weather cancelations. A few district officials said their plans would depend on the situation.

Meyer said implementing virtual learning on snow days would be challenging in part because students in kindergarten through fifth grade do not take computers home with them each night, which would prove challenging if officials didn't have advance warning of a storm.

Additionally, students' parents might still need to go to work, and those children could end up having to go to day care or be left in the care of an older student.

"If we go to remote learning as an equivalent of a day, I think we have to look at, 'Are we shortchanging the whole aspect of the quality of education?'" Meyer said.

Western Dubuque Community School District officials likewise are planning on traditional snow days.

While the logistics would have been challenging, a large part of that decision boiled down to giving students and staff a break during a stretch of an already-extended school year in which they don't have many days off, Superintendent Rick Colpitts said.

"We have a pretty rigorous schedule all year, so we thought if we only have a few snow days in there, that a break probably would be a good thing for our kids," he said.

In the West Delaware County Community School District, officials built three weather make-up days into the school calendar, so the first three snow days will be treated as usual. If the district has to use any more snow days, however, officials have developed a plan to switch to remote learning.

"Remote learning is something that all districts are getting better and better at, but we still prefer face-to-face learning as much as we can provide that," Superintendent Kristen Rickey said.

In Dubuque Community Schools, officials plan to have traditional snow days if they happen before the winter break. However, they will examine the results of this week, during which all students are learning virtually as officials seek to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 following the Thanksgiving holiday. District leaders then will discuss whether they could replicate that model on bad weather days in early 2021.

"The answer is, maybe," Superintendent Stan Rheingans said. "We really don't know yet. We're going to take some of the things we learn this week and see, does that lend it to having an expectation that we do this on snow days or not."

While most local districts plan to offer at least a few snow days as needed this fall, a few local officials said they plan to pivot to virtual learning if the weather turns bad.

Officials in Scales Mound, Ill., were approved last year – ahead of the pandemic – to use two electronic-learning days in lieu of weather cancellations. Superintendent Bill Caron said he plans to use those if needed. If the district needs more than two snow days, officials would decide whether to hold remote learning days or to cancel classes.

"It gives an opportunity to kids to continue with their learning," Caron said. "They have an opportunity to not have a disconnect in their learning, and now with the remote learning, it's even better."

Economic Outlook

Meyer shared some updated economic predictions from experts in the state and beyond. Below is some information from the Revenue Estimating Committee for the State of Iowa, and the weekly publication of The Kiplinger Letter.

Revenue Estimating Committee Information

State of State Revenues: Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) met on Dec. 11, 2020. Members of the REC commented on the state of the economy:

- Revenue projections are difficult with unknown factors, including the timing and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, whether or not additional federal stimulus/relief will be forthcoming (and when), and most difficult to predict, how consumer spending habits and work, both of which impact state general fund revenues, may have changed beyond the pandemic.
- A strong agricultural sector and good manufacturing, financial and insurance sector growth in Iowa are helping to offset the decline in the service sector economy.
- Continued workforce shortage, with more Iowans leaving the ranks of work and Iowa's very low unemployment rate compared to the rest of the nation.
- **REC Revised Estimate:** the REC unanimously raised both the FY 2021 and FY 2022 estimates. They increased the estimated FY 2021 net General Fund receipts projection by \$57.6 million compared to the FY 2021 REC October estimate. The revised estimate anticipates positive revenue growth of 0.5% for the current fiscal year. The REC also increased the FY 2022 estimate by \$34.9 million compared to the FY 2021 October estimate. **The new FY 2022 estimate is an increase of \$296.4 million compared to estimated FY 2021, which is a 3.7% increase.**
- The FY 2022 estimate is binding on the Legislature's Budget, unless a lower estimate follows later. They are scheduled to meet again in March.

JOB

Nov.'s jobs report was weaker than expected but not a shock. The virus surge is clearly weighing on what had been a strong recovery for the labor market. While strong job growth continued in sectors tied to e-commerce, like warehousing... Job gains halted in food service and hospitality, leaving those sectors down by about 3 million jobs vs. pre-crisis levels. Total employment...still down 9.8 million. Still, if the vaccines work, expect the labor market to heal rapidly in 2021.

STEEL

Thanks to growing demand in end-use sectors like autos and construction... U.S. steel production is ticking up after the pandemic battered the industry earlier this year. Domestic raw steel output reached 1.6 million net tons in the week ending Nov. 28, vs. 1.2 million at the end of May. Mill capacity utilization hit 70.6%, up from 51.1% in May, the lowest level for the U.S. steel industry in many years.

Better demand is boosting prices, too. The cost of hot-rolled band steel is up to \$716 per net ton, a roughly 45% increase from its April trough of \$493.

Expect continued but slow recovery for the industry as multiple vaccines for COVID-19 gradually corral the pandemic, even if the latest surge hurts demand. There's also talk...just talk, for now...of a big infrastructure spending bill next year.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

World trade is nearing its pre-pandemic level. A potent combination of aid from central banks and governments around the world has let consumers resume their spending on goods, even as they forgo services like travel and dining out.

The rebound appears to be proceeding faster than after previous recessions. After the financial crisis and Great Recession a decade ago, global trade volumes took two years to recover lost ground. Now, they are already almost fully recovered.

Barring virus-related shutdowns hitting factories in the U.S. and Europe... World trade should keep chugging along in the coming months. Exports from emerging-market Asian countries are already soaring, thanks to strong demand.

Things are finally looking up for Latin America's virus-ravaged economies. Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Chile will likely begin immunizations in Jan. 2021, with other countries in the region following soon after. COVID-19 has been a disaster for Latin America, given its reliance on tourism and its weak public health sectors.

Recoveries are already taking hold in Brazil and Chile, partly as a result of improving global demand for the two countries' exports of industrial metals.

But regionwide healing will be slow. Storing and distributing vaccines that require very cold temperatures will be a challenge in much of Latin America.

China's state-owned companies are showing signs of financial strain. China's economy is the only major one to return to solid growth so far. However, corporate bond defaults have jumped recently. Nov. saw the second-highest level of defaults in any month. Several prominent state-linked firms have missed payments. One, Yongcheng Coal, had carried a AAA credit rating, thanks to its state backing.

Expect Beijing to let the defaults continue, but carefully. It's likely healthy to weed out weak firms, but too many defaults could roil the financial system.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, Board Members

Adjourn

Next meeting is on Monday, January 11 2021.

Professional Development Notes from Mentor Meeting and Professional Learning Time with All Teachers

How do you take care of yourself away from work?

- Exercise everyday
- Listen to something to relax - Music, Podcasts, etc.
- Talk with co-workers or other people about school or non-school topics
- Get up early to "get your day started" without a rush
- Maintain healthy boundaries - Be careful about how much "yes" you agree to do
- Put away the phone and the stress it leads to
- Schedule time/appointments for yourself
- Attend school sporting events (if you can get a ticket!)

What do you do when something unexpected happens? (Your approach impacts students)

- Find humor in it...laugh at yourself and the situation
- Tell yourself and others "It's going to be okay"
- Shift focus of what going to do...adjust plans
- Move to "Plan B" as an option for the class
- Focus on the future
- Be flexible

What has changed in education since you started teaching?

- Homework - time to complete it
- Parents/Guardians/Grandparents
- Eraser Cleaning
- Daily Oral Language Activities
- Discipline
- Teaching Reading
- Special Education Classrooms
- Remote Learning (this year!)
- Technology Implementation
- Technology Availability and Uses (students and staff)
- Lecture - Student Cooperative Work
- Curriculum
- Textbook connections
- Patience - societal norms

