



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

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Comet Highlights - January 11, 2022

Notes from the Board Meeting on January 10, 2022

January 17	No School for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
February 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal - Teacher Professional Learning
February 14	Board Meeting - 6:30
February 21	No School - President's Day
March 2 & 3	Parent-Teacher Conferences - 2-Hour Early Dismissal
March 4	No School

To have a calendar of events see the following link:

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

Consent Agenda

- Accepted the resignation of Jake Schaefer as Assistant HS Baseball Coach - Jake has accepted a coaching position at the school where he works.

Recognize any Visitors

No visitors were present.

Public Hearing

The Board conducted a public hearing on the proposed expansion of the Whole-Grade Sharing Agreement with the Andrew Community School District from grades 9-12 to grades 7-12 starting in the 2022-2023 school year. This was the time for visitors to speak.

Expansion of Whole-Grade Sharing

APPROVED - Act upon the recommendation to expand the Whole-Grade Sharing Agreement with the Andrew Community School District from grades 9-12 to grades 7-12 starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

Some details on this are the following:

Mike Reed and Janet Sieverding (President and Vice-President of the current board respectively) attended a meeting with me in Andrew last month (December) about Andrew potentially whole-grade sharing grades 7 & 8 in addition to the current 9-12 agreement. This needs to be an amendment to our sharing agreement, as it was approved by the Andrew CSD board in December at their regular meeting.

Enrollment Trends at Andrew are below

Year	Grade	6	7	8
o 2000-01		30	21	31
o 2010-11		16	19	16
o Current		5	10	7

Additionally, Andrew also has 21 students in MS open-enrolled "out" of Andrew at this time (10 students are in Bellevue); We also have a total of 48 students PK-12 open-enrolled to our district from Andrew. This does impact their enrollment numbers obviously, and is likely part of the reason for the conversation.

Additionally, see the following information on "boundaries" that the Andrew CSD must develop according to state code:

Bellevue - Andrew Whole Grade Sharing Agreement
Updated - January 2022

There is a state requirement for the Andrew CSD to develop a boundary map for their district. In regards to the development of a boundary map, the Andrew CSD plans to begin work on this and approve it at their February board meeting. They plan to simply divide the district in half. In this process, they will look at current attendance patterns to determine if there is a natural division within their boundaries based on these patterns. Prior to approval, they will share the map with Maquoketa and Bellevue superintendents who may review them with their boards to review. If additional conversations are needed the Andrew CSD is happy to meet again if needed.

At the time of the boundary map adoption, this is the language that the Andrew CSD attorney drafted that they will pass as a resolution:

Board Resolution for Boundaries. Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 282.7(1), the Andrew Community School District is required to establish boundaries for students who attend Maquoketa Community School District or the Bellevue Community School District under the Whole Grade Sharing Program. Students may request to enroll or transfer outside of their boundary attendance area and such requests shall require administrative approval by the Superintendent or his or her designee. Students will be allowed to remain enrolled school they are presently attending although they may be located in a different attendance area upon the adoption of boundaries and will not be required to apply for a transfer. Once enrollment or transfer is approved, it will remain in place for each succeeding year. Enrollment or transfers may be requested at any time, but may be limited to one transfer request per year. If a student moves from one attendance area, the student will be allowed to remain in his or her current school. Enrollment or transfers outside of a designated attendance area may be denied if it would

result in exceeding the school capacity under the applicable Whole Grade Sharing Agreement or other good cause. Appeals may be taken to the Board.

Ultimately, students will not have to complete Open Enrollment forms, and the decision to attend either Maquoketa or Bellevue CSD for grades 7-12 will be based on parent/student choice.

Comet Curriculum - COVID-19 Updates

(Things are continually changing, but there is not a requirement by the state of Iowa to adopt a vaccination policy for masking and testing).

Information from Attorneys in the state of Iowa

**LYNCH DALLAS CLIENT UPDATE
FEDERAL VACCINE MANDATE
JANUARY 8, 2022**

Yesterday, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments challenging the legality of the emergency temporary standards OSHA has issued stating that employers with 100 or more employees must require their employees to either be vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit weekly COVID-19 test results. At this time, the Supreme Court has not issued a decision or stayed enforcement of the mandate.

However, late yesterday, the Iowa Division of Labor issued the following statement: "As a state plan state, the Iowa Division of Labor is charged with protecting the health and safety of those in the workplace and has the authority to enforce workplace safety and health standards for Iowa businesses. Iowa doesn't have a standard requiring the COVID-19 vaccine or testing. But after closely reviewing the federal OSHA vaccine mandate, Iowa has determined it will not adopt the federal standard. Iowa had concluded that it is not necessary because Iowa's existing standards are at least as effective as the federal standard change."

Based upon these developments, Iowa school districts that would have been subject to the federal mandate are not required to take any action to comply with the requirements set out in the federal mandate. This is based upon the fact that the Iowa Division of Labor has stated Iowa employers and their employees are not required to comply with the federal mandate, which means the Iowa Department of Labor will not be enforcing the mandate. Additionally, it would be highly unlikely that the federal government would have authority and jurisdiction over Iowa school districts to enforce the requirements in the federal mandate. Therefore, it is our recommendation that regardless of where your school district is in the process of complying with the federal mandate, you are not required to take any further action to comply with the requirements set out in the federal mandate.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let us know.

Vaccination

Some more guidance was released last week in relation to COVID-19 that was shared with staff. This includes the information below in regard to quarantine and isolation for different scenarios:

CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

- The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.
- Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for those [exposed to COVID-19](#).

- For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.
- Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person [wear a well-fitting mask](#) at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure.
- Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following exposure but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure.
- For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure.
- If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

In addition to the information shared with staff last week in regard to vaccination requirements and options, I am also sharing a summary of legally-required policies and the sample policies from IASB toward the end of the notes. We will need to act on these policies on January 10 at our meeting.



Jackson County- Public Health Report

01/04/21

09/28/21 the state of Iowa will now be updating their data information on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at

<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>

12/28/21- Blue color , 01/04/22- Red Color

Jackson County: 138, 159 new cases in last 14 days, 49, 104 new cases in the last 7 days, 21, 34 new cases in the last 3 days.

Hospitalizations: Regional 5 -157, 171 hospitalized, Regional 6- 210, 200 Hospitalized, Genesis 38, 42 Mercy Clinton 06, 05

Positivity rate: 14-day rate-12.4%, 17.9% 7-day rate is 12.9%, 23.1%

Vaccine update 52.39%, 52.79% of Jackson Co residents have started or completed their vaccine series.

date	JC#	Hospitalized -Jackson CO	Hospitalized -Region 5	State hospital not vaccine -%
11/30/21	3229	4	248	75%
12/07/21	3412	1	186	72%
12/13/21	3506	2	191	75%
12/21/21	3612	0	186	78%
12/28/21	3684	2	157	79%
01/04/2022	3789	2	171	77%

December Board Policies

APPROVED - I recommend we approve the following policies from our December Board meeting. In regard to Policy 107, I would recommend that we do NOT add "Emotional Support Animals and Therapy Animals". My reasoning for this is that it can become a distraction to learning in the classrooms, impact on those allergic to animals, and it can be judged on an individual basis if needed and revisited by the Board if needed.

The policy for Employee Complaints (Policy 401.5) had the number of days added to it based on past practices and some practices that were recommended. The same is for Student Complaints and Grievances (Policy 502.6). Insufficient Classroom Space (Policy 606.9) is to deal with open-enrollment, but can also be shared for other issues (such as our current building issue).

I have placed a summary of the policies that were also shared in December below:

As I mentioned at our last meeting, I am going to present board policy updates during the year to assist with the process in the summer in being so conglomerated with multiple policies. I am attaching several policies for review in December, that would then ideally be approved in January. A synopsis is the following:

IASB Sample Policy Updates

107 - Assistance Animals (Question as to Service Animals)

The Iowa Civil Rights Act (ICRA) was updated in order to better align with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The ICRA now uses the same terminology of service animals and limits service animals to dogs and in qualifying instances, miniature horses. This policy language has been updated to reflect this alignment and to clarify the species of acceptable service animals to those permitted by law.

200.2 - Organization of the Board of Directors

Following changes made to the law during the 2021 legislative session boards now have flexibility to hold their organizational meeting either at or before the first regular meeting following the canvass of votes. This additional flexibility has been updated in the policy language.

213 - Closed Sessions

This policy has been updated to clarify language on when to utilize closed sessions. Language related to exempt meetings has also been removed from this policy. Exempt meetings are separate from open meetings, and the topic should be separated into a distinct board policy.

New 213.1 - Exempt Meetings

Exempt meeting language from policy 212 has been moved to create this distinct policy. Language has been updated to clarify the use of exempt meetings.

214.1 - Board Meeting Agenda

The language update to this policy is not a legal requirement. This update is recommended as a best practice for districts to facilitate the voice of the board to be heard during meetings. This updated language provides an opportunity for the majority of the board to place an item on the meeting agenda. Boards still maintain the ability to call a special meeting if a majority of the board wishes to have one.

Rescinded 309—Communication Channels

This policy has been rescinded because it overlaps board policies on Public Complaints, Employee Complaints, and Student Complaints and Grievances. It is important for board policies to be written in clear language, so they are accessible and understandable to the entire school district community. Because board policy has the force and effect of law for the school district it is important to remove overlapping policy language wherever possible. This way there is less chance that a slight difference between two similar statements creates ambiguity among policies.

401.5 - Employee Complaints

This policy has been updated to utilize the same process for handling employee complaints as is used for student complaints. By utilizing the same procedures this builds clarity for the district and for employees.

502.6 - Student Complaints and Grievances

This policy language has been updated to build clarity of purpose and to clarify the process for handling student complaints.

606.9 - Insufficient Classroom Space

This policy language has been updated to provide additional information on the purpose of the policy and the parameters for assessing when insufficient classroom space exists for districts.

Early Graduation

APPROVED - Andrew Johnson has also requested Early Graduation. He was not on the list that was approved at the December meeting, but I recommend we grant this to him since he has completed the required credits and is working currently. FYI - Nick Lange is not going to graduate early, although he did have the needed credits.

Special Education Contracts

APPROVED - We have two more district contracts for special education services being provided by another district to students who live within our school borders. I recommend we approve this for the services provided by the Dubuque CSD and the Andrew CSD.

Facilities Update

We will have a work session on January 19 at 6:30 where Modus Engineering and OPN Architects will share their assessment of the elementary school. Meyer shared a draft of this report with board members and the administration.

In the meantime, we also need to analyze what we are going to do for next school year with the elementary class sections. Some things are below:

1. Do we need an extra section for 4th grade?
 - a. If so..
 - i. Is this a portable or "Wick-Type" building?
 - ii. Make space in our current building?
 - iii. Where is this located? Is it at the elementary school or the middle/high school building and moving a grade to the middle/high school and placing Ag in a building instead of a classroom (this is a future need regardless).
 - iv. Other

Or, do we "make it work" for another year?

Some things to consider:

- Do we make our current situation work for another year and move the Makerspace room to the teacher's workroom (that also is the Art Room, partially the library, and a general meeting room)?
- Do we look to move a classroom into the lunchroom area and eat in the gym? There are issues with this also.
- What do we do with snow removal and parking if we place any type of building on the two lots we are discussing?
- Do we want/need to invest in this to make space? How "short-term" or "long-term" is a building?
- What is best for the students and their learning and the learning environments within the current building? In our current set-up when do we move forward and simply move forward with another building to accommodate for needs?
- What about the need for an Ag building in the future? STEM building? Other updates?

The Board will discuss this further in the near future.

Comet Reading and Reflection
Teacher Retention, Burnout, and Resignations

Any thoughts about any of this...???

NBC News Article/Story

As I have said before, our positions are filled while many neighboring districts have openings they could not fill and had to fill the positions with substitute teachers or other substitutes when possible, share with another district, or in some cases combine areas or not offer the areas (if not required by state code). Below is a brief synopsis from NBC News...

'Great Resignation' hits schools across all positions

WASHINGTON – The holiday break is here for K-12 students, and for many schools the pause in instruction means it's time for serious questions about how they will go forward in 2022. A return to normal (or closer-to-normal) schooling this fall has led to parent-teacher tensions, combative school board meetings and big staff shortages across the country.

Much of the anxiety centers on how to handle Covid-19, and in some districts the staff shortages have become so pronounced that there is a fear that some teachers and other staff members may not return when schools are back in session next month.

That's a problem, because most schools were already starting in a tough spot this fall.

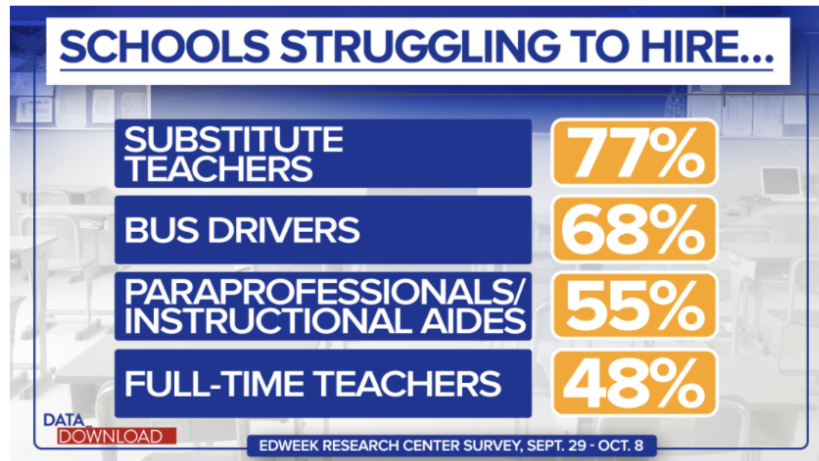
In October, Education Week released a survey of principals and district administrators that found deep shortages in staffing.



Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed said staffing shortages were "moderate," while 25 percent said the problems were "severe" and 15 percent more said they were "very severe."

Add it up and that's 77 percent of those surveyed who said staffing shortages were creating notable impacts, which shows how deep the problems were this fall.

Where were the problems being felt? Pretty much across the board, according to the Education Week survey.



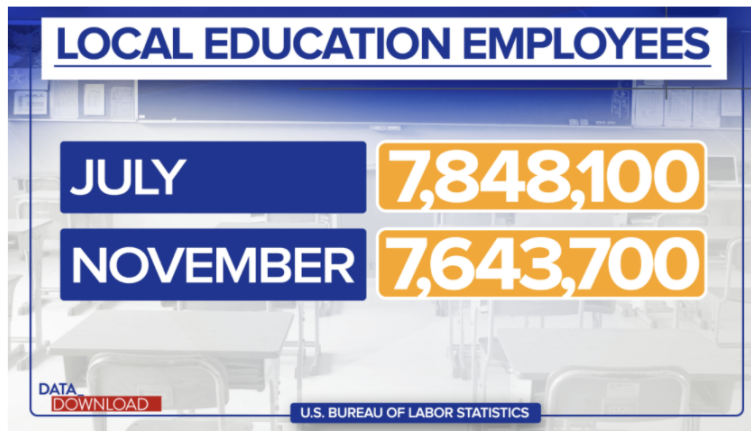
The shortages were most acute among substitute teachers – 77 percent of districts or schools said they had struggled to hire enough to fill their needs. That's probably not a surprise; Covid and Covid testing mean there are likely to be more days than normal when regular teachers can't do their jobs.

And substitute teachers are one area in which schools could be hit twice as hard – by an increased need for more substitutes and by increased difficulty finding people to do the job as others have been reluctant to rejoin the labor force.

In other staffing areas, 68 percent of those surveyed said their schools or districts had struggled to find enough bus drivers. More than half of those surveyed, 55 percent, said they were having difficulty finding teacher aides.

And nearly half, 48 percent, said their schools or districts were having difficulty finding enough full-time teachers.

In short, the "Great Resignation" seems to have hit schools across all positions, as seen in data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or BLS.



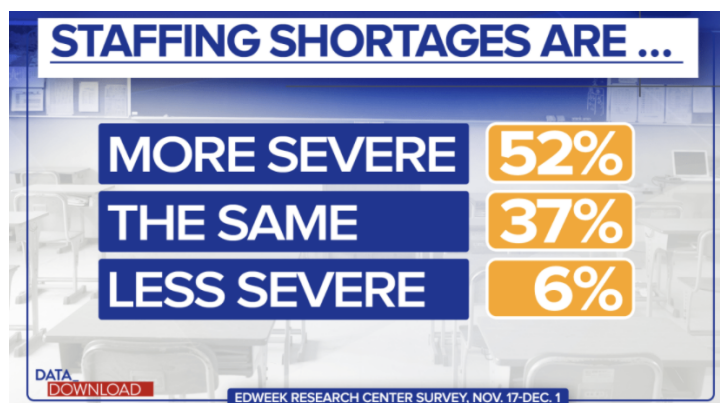
Since July, the number of people employed in education in local governments has declined by more than 200,000. Over the last year, peak employment in education at the local level came in July. That's the middle of the summer, as schools are figuring out staffing for the next year. The number has dropped every month since then, during the school year.

And the July peak number, 7.8 million, was still 200,000 below the figure in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit. If the February 2020 number, 8 million, was the true measure for where local school employment should be, the figure last month is off by 400,000 employees.

Perhaps more concerning, all those shortages mean the work at schools is harder, as well. Regardless of how many teachers there are in each school, the number of students to be taught doesn't change. Classes must be bigger, or teacher class loads have to grow. Bus routes don't disappear just because there's a pandemic. Drivers must simply drive more.

There are a lot of increased pressures in schools, and they may be discouraging people from seeking jobs as teachers, aides and bus drivers, which in turn makes pressures worse, creating a kind of negative feedback loop in education employment.

An Education Week poll last month found that districts are feeling the pinch, maybe even more dramatically than shown in the BLS data.



The poll found that more than half of those surveyed, 52 percent, said staffing shortages had gotten more severe in their schools or districts since the school year began. Only 6 percent said the problem had improved.

All those surveys, of course, were conducted before the arrival of the omicron variant of the coronavirus, which is upending what we know about Covid just as the holidays hit. What we learn about the omicron variant in the next few weeks could change when students return to school and what classes look like when they do.

But the bigger message is more sobering. The Great Resignation isn't hitting all industries in the same way. The numbers suggest that a deep and fundamental disruption is rippling through the education system and that regardless of what we learn about Covid and the omicron variant in the next few weeks and months, getting things back on track is probably going to take some time.

Des Moines Register Article

I am sharing an article from the Des Moines Register from Tuesday. It deals with the shortage of teachers, pay of teachers, issues in schools encouraging teachers to leave, and other basic things occurring. It is one person's perspective that I have also heard in our own district about things (more pay is not necessarily the answer either as it points out for substitute teachers, etc.).

As Iowa teachers burn out, schools are recruiting, paying more for substitutes – but there aren't enough

Phillip Sitter
Des Moines Register
December 28

When substitute teacher Laura Kincaid reports for duty at an Ames public school, she's met by exhausted teachers.

They're stressed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, students' growing needs and acts of or threats of violence, she said. Sometimes, Kincaid said, they cry in hallways.

"You can see physically exhausted teachers pouring their hearts out daily and seeing the best in our students – and being asked to do more and more," Kincaid told the Ames school board at a recent meeting.

Increased teacher burnout is leading to an unprecedented demand for substitute teachers across Iowa, school officials say. For example, Iowa recorded 39 long-term subs last school year, which was more than the average of 12 over the four preceding school years.

And qualified substitutes are in short supply.

While the state is home to nearly 9,000 people with a substitute license, the Iowa Board of Education Examiners has issued fewer licenses each year since 2019. This year, they awarded just 1,009 licenses, 400 fewer than in 2019, the state agency said.

The situation is forcing school leaders to put more demands on the teachers who show up to work, asking them to cover classrooms rather than plan or grade papers.

To attract more substitutes to run classrooms, school districts in central Iowa are raising daily pay. But teacher advocates and substitutes themselves have said that money is not enough. They say more needs to be done to support full-time teachers to keep them in classrooms rather than rely on substitutes and administrators to fill in.

Iowa teachers are increasingly absent

School leaders across the state say they are dealing with higher levels of teacher absences, which is causing a chain reaction across buildings as other educators and administrators scramble to cover classrooms if a substitute is unavailable. In some instances, central administrators are being asked to step into classrooms.

"Our teachers are very worn out right now," said Steve Gray, Nevada's superintendent.

While the state does not track the number of active substitute teachers over multiple years, school officials from Ames to Waukee report a steady level of substitute teachers. Full-time teachers, however, are calling out sick in higher numbers. In Ames, for example, teachers are using sick days 50% more than they did in 2018, said Kristin Johnson, the district's human resource director.

In addition to more sick leave, Johnson also said there's been more parental leave being taken this year – including an increase in unpaid leave. The number of maternity leave days being taken in the district has more than doubled since 2018, driven by a huge increase since 2020.

Days off for bereavement are also up, she said.

Taken together, for just one week in October, 20% of the district's teaching staff was out at least one day.

And stress is a leading cause of absenteeism and a potential tidal wave of teachers retiring, education observers say.

A nonprofit RAND Corp. survey of almost 1,000 former public school teachers who had quit their jobs found stress was cited twice as often as a reason for quitting compared to low pay, and most former teachers were willing to take jobs with similar or less pay and fewer benefits.

Almost half of the teachers who decided to leave their career early since March 2020 did so mainly because of the pandemic, which has "elevated stress by forcing teachers to work more hours and navigate an unfamiliar remote environment, made worse by frequent technical problems," RAND found in its February report.

Offering more money may not help with staffing

In a bid to attract more substitutes, school districts are raising daily pay.

As of Dec. 27, Des Moines Public Schools' daily rate was \$150 or \$165 a day, depending on subs' exact status.

Outside of Des Moines – according to data collected by the Ames district this fall – Ankeny and West Des Moines had been the top payers at \$145 a day, but others are catching up or surpassing that rate.

Urbandale increased its pay rate for subs from \$135 a day to \$165 just before Thanksgiving. And once subs in Urbandale have worked for 50 days within a school year, they receive a loyalty bonus to bump their pay for the rest of the year to \$185 a day.

The Nevada Community School District – which has fewer than 1,500 students – bumped daily pay for substitutes to \$140 in early December, outpacing many larger school districts.

The Ames school district also bumped its pay to \$135 per day just before Thanksgiving.

The raises, while welcomed and helpful, won't be enough to either attract more subs or keep teachers in the classroom, said Iowa State Education Association President Mike Beranek.

"Chronic underfunding, overcrowded classrooms and disrespect for the professionals who work with our children every day have driven what we are seeing today," Beranek said.

Beranek said school leaders and policymakers should also address systemic issues facing teachers, including a perceived increase in hostility from parents and students.

"Speak up and stand in support of our local public schools and all the employees who make the buses run on time, the meals get served, the classrooms stay clean and healthy, and the educators who teach and help our children grow and thrive," Beranek said.

Marvin Wood, a 45-year education veteran who now subs in the Southeast Polk school district, said pay is not a factor for him. Rather, he and his colleagues are looking for a positive school environment.

"As one veteran sub said to me, 'If I could have classes that were well-behaved I would not care at all about more money,'" Wood said.

Phillip Sitter covers education for the Ames Tribune, including Iowa State University and PreK-12 schools in Ames and elsewhere in Story County. Phillip can be reached via email at psitter@gannett.com. He is on Twitter @pslifeisabeauty.

Iowa Vaccine Requirements - Des Moines Register - 12.28.21 - Ian Richardson

Iowa Republicans are pushing back against COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Will they take on the measles too?

Iowa is among a group of about a dozen states that took action in 2021 to ban employer mandates or require exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Republicans, who control both chambers of the Iowa Legislature, have indicated that a push for more legislation to push back against potential coronavirus vaccine requirements is likely. But Republican leaders don't appear as eager to revisit other requirements, such as immunization requirements for students.

Some groups in Iowa that are pushing back against COVID-19 vaccine requirements have also pushed for broader exemptions for childhood vaccinations and gathering more information on childhood vaccines.

Across the U.S., Republicans are likely to take more steps to oppose mandates while Democrats could try to strengthen vaccine requirements. Some national political observers say they don't expect to see it translate into a significant push to alter other vaccination requirements like childhood immunization rules.

"I don't expect it to spill over into childhood immunizations and vaccinations for school," said Tim Storey, CEO of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

State Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, who chairs the House State Government Committee, said he's looking to keep the focus on vaccine mandates narrow.

"I've not had a single human being approach me otherwise," Kaufmann said.

And Informed Choice Iowa vice president Brei Johnson, who has helped lead the fight against COVID-19 vaccine mandates, also said she sees COVID-19 vaccine mandates as the more pressing issue.

"I feel like people first need to be alleviated (of) that," she said. "You know, secure their job, keep their job, apply for a job without the medical discrimination that we're seeing happening, and exposure to their personal health information."

That doesn't mean legislation couldn't appear like it has in years past. Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver, R-Ankeny, didn't rule out additional proposals. However, he also didn't indicate it is a high priority for Senate Republicans.

"I would say that the COVID vaccine ... shined a light on all the vaccine policy," Whitver told the Des Moines Register in mid-December. "We'll certainly take a look at that as people file different bills. But I don't have a bill in particular that I'm looking at."

Information Items

College Course Success

Below is some information from the Fall semester (2021-2022) in regard to our college courses.

Total courses taken	109
Percent of Grades as "A":	51.4%
Percent of Grades as "B":	31.2%
Percent of Grades as "C":	11.0%
Percent of Grades as "D":	2.7%
Percent of Grades as "F":	3.7%

Percent of Grades as "A" or "B" 1st Semester 2021-2022: 82.6%

Past Year Results Summary of Grades of "A" or "B":

- 2020-2021 School Year - 74.2%
- 2019-2020 School Year - 82.1%
- 2018-2019 School Year - 76.1%
- 2017-2018 School Year - 74.4%

Legislative Update

Meyer provided an update on legislative news, including the "Day on the Hill" for board members on February 1. Meyer shared he was in contact with a variety of legislators at a River Valley Conference meeting on December 17, 2021 via Zoom. Senator Koelker and Representative Bradley were in attendance, along with about 5 or 6 other legislators. The message was that a lot of areas want funding, including education, and they will do their best to accomplish appropriate funding.

Based on a follow-up conversation with Senator Koelker on email I would strongly encourage you to contact her and Representative Bradley about school funding to provide the needed services for PUBLIC school students. She mentioned she has not heard much from our school (I do email her fairly regularly during the session, which I do not always get a response from, plus left her voicemails as well).

Extracurricular Updates

Meyer provided an update on extracurricular activities, along with later in the meeting an update on future Booster Club activities, etc. Additionally, the shot clock plan for the district and high school basketball is below:

The state is requiring us to have shot clocks for varsity basketball games starting next season (2022-2023). The time will be 35-seconds on the shot clock. We will only have to have them for varsity games, but I tend to believe that we should have them in both of our gyms in the MS/HS building. This approach allows us to utilize them for JV games (not middle school), as if we are playing with it at the varsity level we need to have our athletes accustomed to it at the JV level as well. Some of our conference schools are going to do the same from my understanding, while some will not have it in a separate gym for JV games (some also only play in one gym). The agreement in the conference at this time, according to athletic directors, is that if you have it in your gym you will utilize it, but if not then you obviously will not use it during a game. The preference is to have for all high school games though regardless.

The Board agreed to place them in both gyms (practice with a shot-clock is useful, JV games with Varsity players, replacement clock if one in the main gym would break down during a game or before a game, etc. as some reasons). The cost will be approximately \$6400.

Survey Information

Meyer provided a summary of student, staff, and parent surveys for review and discussion at our next meeting.

2022-2023 Calendar

Meyer will be meeting with the District Leadership Team on January 11 (Tuesday) in regard to thoughts on the calendar. Some area districts are looking seriously at having professional learning every Wednesday. I have not been in

favor of that overall but could support every other week or some more full-days. But, there are issues with all of these as well. Early dismissals and no-school places a hardship on parents for daycare, and they also both mean that there is less contact with students. But, teachers also need time to work and collaborate for their effective teaching with students. Meyer will share discussions with staff, along with potentially survey parents (at minimum talk to several about their thoughts) and let them know of the use of the time.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder discussed the Principal Advisory Council at Bellevue Elementary and plans they are coordinating for special events for each grade level.

Jeff Recker shared information on an upcoming speaker, Chris Herron, on Tuesday, January 18, student clubs, and the FFA group working at the Beef Banquet on Saturday night and earning about \$500.

Meyer shared the "Bellevue Community Schools by the Numbers"...

BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

by the

NUMBERS

"The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to assist them to do well in their lives outside of school."

13.3 Enrollment Percent Increase in Bellevue CSD enrollment since 2015

23.6 Percent Increase in Bellevue Elementary enrollment since 2015

49.0 Percent Increase in Bellevue Preschool enrollment since 2015

Technology

700+ The amount of student devices for students in Bellevue Elementary and Bellevue Middle/High School

380+ Chromebooks and Macbooks sent home with students each day for their learning

300+ Student Chromebooks and iPads at Bellevue Elementary School

Course Offerings

70+ Number of college courses and programs available to students during an average school year for both high school and college credit.

140+ High School Courses offered at Bellevue High School, including: Art, Business Education/Computer Science, Driver's Education, English/Language Arts, Family and Consumer Science, Foreign Language, Health and Physical Education, Industrial Technology, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Studies, Special Education, and Vocational Agriculture

College Courses

1300+ College course credits completed annually by Bellevue High School Students

400+ College courses completed annually

19 Average College Credits earned by Bellevue High School Graduates

82.6 Percentage of Bellevue High School students receiving an "A" or "B" in college courses

3.24 GPA in College Courses by Bellevue High School Students

0 Dollars it costs students to take online courses while a student at the Bellevue CSD.

Graduation Rate

98+ Percent of students who graduate from high school in four years at the Bellevue CSD.

91 Statewide Graduation Average Percent

ACT Scores

100 Percent of students required to take the ACT at Bellevue High School

\$0 Cost for students and families to take the ACT (The Bellevue Community School District pays for all fees)

22.4 Average ACT score over the last 5 years in relation to the state average number of students taking the ACT

21.1 Average State ACT Score

Miles Traveled

105,000 Miles traveled by school transportation annually for bus routes and student activities

Meals Served

100,000 Lunches served to students each year

17,000 Breakfast meals served annually to students



Believe in the Blue! Believe in Learning! Believe in Bellevue!

Closed Session - Superintendent Mid-Year Informal Evaluation

The Board entered into a closed session to share thoughts on the performance of the superintendent as they regularly do each January. The evaluation is based on the following areas with a new evaluation process at the state level for this school year emphasizing the 10 goals below. The three-goal areas in bold were decided in June/July as areas of emphasis.

The 10 areas include the following (see attachment as well):

- 1. Mission, Vision, and Core Values**
2. Ethics and Professional Norms
3. Equity and Cultural Responsiveness
4. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- 5. Community of Care and Support for Students**
6. Professional Capacity of School Personnel
7. Professional Community for Teachers and Staff
8. Meaningful Engagement of Families and Community
9. Operations and Management
- 10. School Improvement**

Adjourn

The next meeting is on February 14, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Other

Lodging

The State of Iowa is now requiring any organization using public money to pay for hotel rooms must stay at hotels that are certified by the Iowa Office to Combat Human Trafficking. Below is the link to see what hotels have been certified thus far. We will be unable to stay at any hotel that is not on the list. It is anticipated that most hotels will eventually be certified, and the list will be updated. But this is an awareness we will be sharing with staff (Dave Wright shared with coaches earlier this week).

<https://stopthiowa.org/certified-locations>