



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

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January 9, 2024 Comet Highlights
(From the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting)

January 15	No School for Students; Teacher Professional Learning
February 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
February 19	No School - MLK Jr. Day
March 6 & 7	Parent-Teacher Conferences - 2-Hour Early Dismissal; Conferences Times: 6th-3:30-8:00; 7th-1:30-6:00
March 8	No School
March 20	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
March 29-April 2	No School for Students
April 2	Teacher Professional Learning

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

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

APPROVED - Consent Agenda

Approve Open Enrollment Requests

- None at this time.

Approve Resignations

- Isabel Krabbenhoft - Color Guard - Isabel is returning to school and will not be able to continue in this position in the future. She has held this position for the last two years, and has worked well with the "flags" in the Comet Marching Band.

Approve Recommendations to Hire

- None at this time.

Recognize any Visitors

Matt Cook, MS/HS Teacher was present for the presentation on "Comet Curriculum".

Comet Curriculum

Matt Cook shared some of the activities and learning he has started this year with a new exploratory for 8th-grade students in Industrial Technology. Matt has a Science degree and vast experience in construction and related topics. With the importance of CTE overall, it was determined that we needed to add an "exploratory" for all 8th-grade students to expose them to the Industrial Tech building where Mr. Marshall offers courses in his full schedule of students. Matt shared the work students participate in from reading a tape measure, working with the the chop saw and band saw, CNC, and much more. He also shared a project they completed with a cup holder and cell phone holder in "one".

Facilities Update

Some general updates on the construction of the Bellevue Elementary 3-5 building

Key dates:

- Bid Day- **February 8**, 2:00 PM Board Room (**Accept Final Bids and Opening of Bids**)
- Board Accept Bids at **February 12** Board meeting, Notice to proceed following.
(**Make sure bids are acceptable - not over price, question about the bids and if it meets requirements, etc.**)
- Accept Contracts - **March 11** Board Meeting
- Substantial Completion - **June 15, 2025 (15 months for completion)**
- Final Completion - **June 30, 2025**

Working back from Bid:

- Issue Documents - **January 11**
- Pre-Bid meeting on site - **January 29** -at 10:00 AM. Board Room

Legal requirements:

- Notice to Bidders - Issue in conjunction with bid docs. 13 days minimum, 45 days maximum before receiving bids.
- OPN will post to 3 of the required locations.
- District will post on their website and provide notice to the local paper.
(**District Website and Bellevue Herald-Leader**)
- Public Hearing - **February 12.**
 - Need notice posted not before January 24th.
 - Plan to approve documents at February 11 Board meeting.

Furniture Review

The following furniture will be included for the following rooms from the OPN bid:

1. Office Area
2. Nurse's Office (some additions we will have to purchase are in the next section)
3. Principal's Office

4. Conference Room
5. Counseling Office
6. AEA Office
7. Mental Health Counseling Room
8. Art Room
9. Band Room (includes band instrument storage area)
10. Commons (lunch tables, garbage area)
11. Serving Area
12. Project Room
13. Library
14. Collaboration Areas (2nd floor) - Shown with a red box on this diagram

It is important to recognize that we will need to provide furniture and some other things for some other areas. These areas include the following with estimate prices in ():

1. Technology aspects for rooms (installing will be a part of the bid):
 - a. Art - A TV monitor will be mounted in the room. (\$500)
 - b. Music - A Promethean panel will be mounted. (\$5500)
 - c. Teacher Work Room (also for staff meetings) - A TV monitor will be mounted. (\$500)
 - d. Office/Reception Area - A TV monitor will be mounted for announcements, camera access, and related items. (\$500)
 - e. Gym and Commons Area- A large mobile TV monitor will be shared between the Commons area and the gym as needed. (\$1000)
 - f. Library - A TV monitor will be mounted. (\$500)
 - g. Project Room - A Promethean panel will be mounted. (\$5500)
 - h. Title Room - A TV monitor will be mounted (\$500)
2. Special Education room furniture (2 rooms) (\$2500 X 2 = \$5000)
3. Teacher Workroom furniture - I suggest possibly having Industrial Tech make tables for this area, but we will still need to purchase chairs. (\$1500)
4. Title Room furniture (\$2500)
5. Shelving in some storage areas, equipment rooms, etc.
 - a. Including band room, PE storage room, etc. (\$5000)
6. *Playground equipment (TBD)*
7. *Cement area on the playground for basketball, etc., along with 4-Square and similar areas.*
8. Soccer goals or other types of "goals" or "standards" for recess. (\$2000)
9. Bike Rack(s) for 16 bikes (\$1000)
10. Fridge for nurse's office (space designed in the plans) (\$200)
11. Washer/Dryer for the nurse's office (stackable...electrical will be installed in the area) (\$1500)
12. Paper Towel Dispensers - 26 (\$2500)
13. Soap Dispensers - 34 (\$3500)
14. Toilet Tissue Dispensers - 21 (\$2600)
15. Graphics on Gym Wall (I suggest we have graphics placed on the wall vs painting as included initially in the bid plan) - We can decide what we want after the building is completed and possibly work together with a company to do/keep a consistent theme in all buildings. (\$7500)
16. More TBD

Bonding

Matt Gillespie contacted Abbey and I earlier this week in regards to our future GO Bonds attainment. A few key components of his message include the following as we pursue the remaining \$3.2 million for our bond.

1. Our taxable valuation had good growth.
2. With our current growth, though, it does not lend itself to issuing the remaining GO bonds until after FY25.
3. We could go through the process and get some of the estimated \$3 million during FY25, or wait and do all of it July 2025 approximately.
4. We will have enough funds in our accounts (PPEL and SAVE) to cover the costs until we issue our next set of bonds after FY25.
5. The issue with doing two more processes for the bonds is that it costs each time we do this...it would be less expensive to do one more bond sale. Although, we do invest money when we get it and make interest on the funds (approximately \$300,000+ from our recent bond funds)
6. At this time the recommendation is to wait until we can get the full amount. This is not a major issue at all.

APPROVED - Public Hearing

In order to meet legal requirements we need to set a public hearing for the Bellevue Elementary School. This will be held on the night of our Regular Board Meeting on February 12, 2024. The language is the following:

Set a public hearing as provided under Section 26.12 of the Code of Iowa for the purpose of hearing or receiving any objections to the adoption of the proposed drawings, specifications and form of contract, and the proposed cost for the furnishing cost for the furnishing of all necessary labor, material, and equipment for the new Elementary School for the Bellevue Community School District.

2024-2025 School Year Planning and Preparation

Sections for Grade Levels

The district will need to consider "sections" for the next school year in the upcoming month or two. Some basic information:

Projected Class Sizes for 24-25 (based on current enrollments)

- 5th - 61
- 4th - 63
- 3rd - 62
- 2nd - 53
- 1st - ~~42~~41 (two students are planning on leaving next school year, therefore dropping this number to 39)
- K - 51 (total estimate based on 4PK, TK, and potential new students)

Based on these numbers, adding a teacher for 5th grade is realistic - 61 students. Based on space and overall numbers, this may also mean dropping 1st grade to two sections. Kindergarten this year has three sections, based on multiple conversations with the board and others last school year. But, this will also mean moving some staff around accordingly or doing some other creative things.

Based on our "Master Handbook," which is a Board document, I developed the following summary of potential actions and some other things with the Labor Management Committee:

Reduction of Sections/Increase of Sections

In the case of a reduction of a section in a specific grade for the next year, while also increasing a section of another grade level, the following information is important to recognize from Bellevue CSD Master Handbook on *Reduction in Staff (Article I)* and *Transfers (Article III)*:

1. A "job posting" would be placed in both buildings in the district with the available opening(s) for the next school year. This would only be an "internal" posting and not advertised in newspapers, the district website, or the state jobs website (www.Iowaworks.gov).
2. Employees who are interested in the position would submit a letter to the superintendent/office expressing their interest (*Voluntary Transfer*).
3. The district will interview the interested candidate for the position, and if qualified and suitable for the position (factors considered will be seniority, endorsements, experience, and demonstrated skills), the individual will be granted the position in the grade level where a position is open. If more than one employee expresses interest in the position, the district will interview the candidates and choose the most suitable candidate with the same criteria as mentioned earlier.
 - a. This action may lead to another opening in a grade level where the number of sections will remain the same for the following school year, and if so the same steps will be taken in filling the newly opened position. This process may continue until positions are filled.
4. If no one expresses interest in the open position that needs to be filled, the individual with the lowest seniority *in the district* who is also qualified, will be moved to the open position (*Involuntary Transfer*).

The position in 5th grade for the 24-25 school year would be considered a new position.

Some other information and thoughts:

- I anticipate this section for 5th grade to continue for the next several years based on enrollment numbers in the upcoming grades (shared earlier in this section).
- I would also anticipate the "small section" to be two sections for some upcoming years...unless we see an increase in enrollment.

- This is not a "reduction" in staff, and I want to make sure that everyone understands this. The plan is NOT to reduce staff.
- Learning of kindergarten students will also be analyzed in the upcoming month(s) with input from teachers and some reading assessments from the state that can also guide our decision in some way. There is a very limited number of special education students in kindergarten at this time.

Staffing

There is likely going to be a need to add some special education staffing at the elementary level as numbers have increased, along with the needs of students identified specifically with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). This could be with co-teaching in classrooms, which also assists regular education students. At the same time, this would also allow for a "transition plan" for staffing the special education rooms at the new elementary school that will open up the following year (25-26 school year). It will be unrealistic, in my opinion, to have our two special education teachers travel between the two buildings with their student loads.

Additionally, the district is advertising for an associate at this time that is needed at the elementary school, plus the district is likely going to hire a certified "substitute" teacher to assist with some special education programming for the rest of the school year.

At the middle/high school level, there will also be an eventual need for staffing changes. This is based on incoming class sizes to that building that exceeds the normal two sections, plus students attending Bellevue from the Andrew CSD in the whole-grade sharing agreement. I believe that we can make things work for this upcoming school year, but the following school years will be challenging. Mr. Recker and I are working on this collaboratively and are developing some plans and scenarios.

APPROVED - Supplemental Amount for Dropout Prevention for 2023-2024 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 **\$176,020** (it was \$173,738 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 this 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 amounts 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 \$173,778 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 = \$7,657/student (was \$7,435 last school year)

Certified Enrollment of students in K-12 = 621.7 (was 631.7 last school year)

Maximum modified supplemental amount possible = \$176,020 (0.037 X 7657 X 621.3)

2024-2025 School Calendar

This is not an action item this month, but the following is a DRAFT of a calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. On the left of the calendar are some basics that we must consider. A summary of some of these notes are the following:

- Right now, the calendar does not include any early dismissal dates...that is only because we must decide how often to have these. Similar to this year (about one/month) or increase some (about two/month)?
- It only includes 177 student days...we have had 178 days in the past few years (it used to be 179), but the state bases our school year on hours - a minimum of 1080 hours. Also, teaching contracts with student days and professional learning days are contracted for 188 days.
 - The hours are based on 6.5 hours/day for a full day of school, and when students are with teachers overall.
- This calendar is based on ending before Memorial Day for students.
- The last time this happened was in the 2019-2020 school year when we were scheduled to have our final student day on Wednesday, May 27 - after Memorial Day (2024 is a Leap Year, which explains the one-day difference in dates for the end of May). But, we did not finish school that year due to COVID and the statewide school closure.

Overall, just some things to think about. Meyer is leading a District Leadership Team meeting on Thursday, January 11 where this will be a part of the agenda. I am not in a hurry to adopt a calendar (like some other districts have been). There has been some discussion in our area about the potential actions of the legislature changing the first official start date from August 23 to the first Monday or Tuesday after the Iowa State Fair - this would help for our student days count and other aspects. But, this is not a strong probability at this time (time will tell).

Bellevue Community School District - 2024-2025 School Calendar – Draft 3

Summary of Calendar:

Days/Hrs. in classroom:
 First Semester82/529
 Second Semester95/613.5
TOTAL DAYS/HRS 177/1142.5

Notes for Discussion:

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

2.Does not include Early Dismissal Professional Development days/hours.

- The number of days must be determined. Should they stay similar to this school year, or is a change needed?
- 2023-2024 – 8 Early-Dismissal Professional Learning Days for Teachers = 16 Hours

3.Full Day Professional Development Days

- 2023-2024 – 8 Full Day Professional Learning Days; 2024-2025 has 8 days included in this calendar

4.Teacher Contracts state “188 days” - With these changes, this leaves teacher contracts short by 3 days.

- The 2023-2024 calendar was for 187 teacher days, with ONE required day for staff to use at their determination during the school year from August 2023-May 2024 to meet the contracted 188 days.

5.What do we need to do in order to get to 188 days overall, and/or 178 days for students?

Holidays:

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

August 2024					Student	
M	T	W	Th	F	Days	Hours
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23	1	6.5
26	27	28	29	30	6	39
September 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	10	65
9	10	11	12	13	15	97.5
16	17	18	19	20	20	130
23	24	25	26	27	25	162.5
30					26	169
October 2024						
	1	2	3	4	30	195
7	8	9	10	11	35	227.5
14	15	16	17	18	40	256
21	22	23	24	25	45	288.5
28	29	30	31		49	314.5
November 2024						
				1	50	321
4	5	6	7	8	55	353.5
11	12	13	14	15	60	386
18	19	20	21	22	65	418.5
25	26	27	28	29	67	431.5
December 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	72	464
9	10	11	12	13	77	496.5
16	17	18	19	20	82	529
23	24	25	26	27	82	529
30	31				82	529
January 2025						
		1	2	3	82	529
6	7	8	9	10	87	561.5
13	14	15	16	17	92	594
20	21	22	23	24	96	620
27	28	29	30	31	101	652.5
February 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	106	685
10	11	12	13	14	111	717.5
17	18	19	20	21	115	743.5
24	25	26	27	28	120	776
March 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	125	804.5
10	11	12	13	14	130	837
17	18	19	20	21	135	869.5
24	25	26	27	28	140	902
31					141	908.5
April 2025						
	1	2	3	4	145	934.5
7	8	9	10	11	150	967
14	15	16	17	18	154	993
21	22	23	24	25	157	1012.5
28	29	30			160	1032
May 2025						
			1	2	162	1045
5	6	7	8	9	167	1077.5
12	13	14	15	16	172	1110
19	20	21	22	23	177	1142.5
26	27	28	29	30		
June 2025						
2	3	4	5	6		

188 Days Teacher Days

1080 Student Hours Calendar (Minimum)

Aug. 16 Teacher Professional Learning; All Returning and New Teachers
Aug. 19-22 Teacher Professional Learning – All Staff Welcome on August 19
Aug. 23 Begin 1st Semester

Sept. 2 Labor Day (No School)

Oct. 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 17 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 18 No School
Oct. 25 End 1st Qtr. (45 days)

Nov. 27-29 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Dec. 20 End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
Dec. 23-Jan. 5 Winter Break (No School)

Jan. 3 Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 6 Begin 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester
Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Day (No School)
Jan. 20. Teacher Professional Learning

Feb. 17 President’s Day (No School)

Mar. 5 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mar. 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mar. 7 No School
Mar. 14 End 3rd Qtr. (48 days)

Apr. 18-22 Spring Break – No School
Apr. 22. Teacher Professional Learning

May 23 End 4th Qtr (47 days)
May 23 End 2nd Semester (88 days/.)
May 26 Memorial Day
May 27 Teacher Professional Learning

Meyer is also contacting Marquette with a draft of this calendar, along with seeking input on the number of early dismissal professional learning days for staff for the 2024-2025 school year.

Some discussion was made about having staff return on January 2, and then students on Friday, January 3. This would add one more day on the calendar for staff and students to make our final day up a day and allowing for a make-up day possibly prior to Memorial Day.

More discussion will take place at the future monthly board meetings.

APPROVED - Jackson County Conference Board

Each year the Bellevue CSD has a board member as a part of the Jackson County Conference Board. Mike Reed has done this recently. Each school district in the county has a representative that is on this board that is led by the supervisors and the county assessor's office. The role is to be a member who approves and recommends any salary increases, etc., for county officials. Mike has knowledge of this first-hand and can explain it more in-depth at the meeting. Mike was recommended for this.

Curricular Updates & Comet Reading and Reflection

Meyer shared some curricular updates with books that the district has followed in regard to the state law, along with the following graphic that will be in the Bellevue Herald-Leader on January 17.

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."

Enrollment

- 16.3** Percent Increase in Bellevue CSD enrollment since 2010-2011
- 32.8** Percent Increase in Bellevue Elementary enrollment since 2010-2011. A 13.7 percent increase since 2020-2021
- 18.2** Percent Increase in Bellevue Preschool enrollment since 2010-2011

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
- 325+** 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

- 950+** College course credits completed annually by Bellevue High School Students
- 350+** College courses completed annually

College Courses

- 22.5** Average College Credits earned by 2023 Bellevue High School Graduates
- 75.9** Percentage of Bellevue High School students receiving an "A" or "B" in college courses in the last 5 years
- 3.08** GPA in College Courses by Bellevue High School Students in the 2022-2023 school year
- \$0** Costs for students to take online courses while a student at the Bellevue CSD.

Graduation Rate

- 95+** Percent of students who graduate from high school in four years at the Bellevue CSD.
- 89** Statewide Graduation Average Percent

ACT Scores

- \$0** Cost for students and families to take the ACT (The Bellevue Community School District pays for all fees for BHS students)
- 21.9** Average ACT score over the last 5 years in relation to the state average number of students taking the ACT
- 21.4** Average State ACT Score

Miles Traveled

- 115,000** Miles traveled by school transportation annually for bus routes and student activities

Meals Served

- 108,000+** Meals served annually to student



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

"We believe real-world learning opportunities build passionate and engaging experiences for student success in life."

Books - In regard to books, while the process developed for our district have been followed, at the same time, a federal judge ruled last week that the state does not have the legal authority to do this!

Regardless, we have removed some books based on the potential need. It also allowed us to reflect on what we offer to our students and review books from multiple perspectives.

Below is an article from the Des Moines Register on this decision (which was also national news):

Federal judge blocks enforcement of Iowa law banning school books, gender identity instruction
Katie Akin Bill Steiden - Des Moines Register

An Iowa law requiring schools to remove books depicting sex acts and prohibiting instruction about gender identity or sexual orientation in kindergarten through sixth grades cannot be enforced while a legal challenge continues, a federal judge ruled Friday.

U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Locher, however, declined to grant an injunction against the part of the law requiring school districts to notify parents if a student requests "an accommodation related to gender identity" - such as asking to be addressed by a different name or pronouns.

The ruling comes in separate injunction requests, one brought by the GLBT Youth In Iowa Task Force and the other by Penguin Random House Books and the Iowa State Education Association, just days before penalties for violating the law had been scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

Gov. Kim Reynolds said in a statement she was "extremely disappointed" by the decision.

"Instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation has no place in kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms," Reynolds said. "And there should be no question that books containing sexually explicit content - as clearly defined in Iowa law - do not belong in a school library for children.

"The fact that we're even arguing these issues is ridiculous. The real debate should be about why society is so intent on over-sexualizing our young children. It's wrong, and I will continue to do my part to protect their innocence."

Attorney General Brenna Bird echoed Reynolds' concerns.

"I am deeply disappointed in the district court's decision today," she said in a statement. "Sexually explicit books do not belong in our elementary-school libraries or classrooms. Not only is it common sense, it's the law. As attorney general, I will keep on fighting to protect families, enforce the law and keep inappropriate books out of the hands of children in school."

Friday's ruling temporarily blocks enforcement of the school book restrictions and the prohibition on teaching about LGBTQ concepts in elementary schools, but the legal battle is far from over. The two lawsuits, which argue the law is not constitutional, will continue to advance through the courts until a final ruling is reached.

What is Senate File 496? What does it do, and why was it challenged?

Approved in the 2023 Iowa legislative session, Senate File 496 bans school books with descriptions or depictions of sex acts as outlined in state law; prohibits instruction on gender identity or sexual orientation before seventh grade; requires schools to notify parents if a student requests to use new pronouns; and enshrines the "constitutionally protected right" for parents to make decisions for their children.

Schools struggled to interpret the law. Librarians and teachers sought guidance from the state about how to sort through expansive libraries. Schools removed controversial books, like Maia Kobabe's "Gender Queer," but also classic works of literature, like George Orwell's "1984."

On Nov. 28, the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa and Lambda Legal sued in the U.S. Southern District of Iowa on behalf of the GLBT Youth In Iowa Task Force and eight Iowa students and their families. They sought to block the law on the grounds that it discriminates against LGBTQ students and violates their rights to free speech, free association, equal protection and due process.

On Nov. 30, Penguin Random House, the largest U.S. publisher, the largest Iowa teachers union and four bestselling authors joined in with a separate suits challenging to book removal provisions.

Why did the federal judge block Iowa's book ban law?

Senate File 496 required schools to remove any books with a description or visual depiction of a "sex act."

In his ruling, Locher wrote that requirement is "incredibly broad" and "unlikely to satisfy the First Amendment under any standard of scrutiny." He noted that schools have removed history books, Pulitzer Prize-winning novels and books about sexual assault survivors because of the restriction.

"Indeed, the court has been unable to locate a single case upholding the constitutionality of a school library restriction even remotely similar to Senate File 496," Locher wrote.

Why did the federal judge block enforcement of the LGBTQ instruction restrictions?

Senate File 496 also barred any program, promotion or instruction about "gender identity" or "sexual orientation" in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Supporters of the law argued that elementary school was too early for kids to learn about transgender identities or homosexuality.

However, Locher wrote in his ruling, the law goes farther than that. He argued it prohibits discussion of all gender identities, including cisgender male or female, and all sexual orientations, including heterosexuality.

"(O)n its face, the law prohibits any programs, promotion or instruction recognizing that anyone is male or female or in a relationship of any sort (gay or straight)," he wrote. "The

statute is therefore content neutral but so wildly overbroad that every school district and elementary school teacher in the state has likely been violating it since the day the school year started."

Therefore, Locher said, the law could not be applied fairly, as it would be "all but impossible for a reasonable person to know what will and will not lead to punishment."

Parents must still be notified of student pronoun changes

The law also requires school districts to notify a student's parents if the student requests to use new pronouns in school.

Locher did not block this part of the law, so it will remain in effect as legal challenges continue.

He said no plaintiffs had standing to challenge that portion of the law, as even the LGBTQ students involved in the suit had already come out to their parents. Therefore, he said, they are "not affected in a concrete way by this requirement."

How did Iowa education leaders react to the injunction?

In a statement, Des Moines teacher Mike Beranek, president of the Iowa State Education Association, called the ruling "a big win" for the teachers his union represents, as well as for students and their parents.

"The First Amendment is alive and well in Iowa and our public schools," Beranek said.

When teachers return next week after the schools' holiday break, he said, "They can do what they do best: take great care of all their students without fear of reprisal."

Do you have any specific thoughts about this topic?

Information Items

Legislative Update

I will provide any legislative updates that I hear prior to the meeting. One common theme I have heard numerous times in-person and in the media is the continued emphasis on lowering taxes - continuing the work of the legislature from their 2023 session.

Extracurricular Updates

Meyer shared brief updates on our current winter sports activities, along with the decision by Marquette to share softball with the Easton Valley CSD program instead of the offer from the Bellevue CSD to share their program with Marquette (recognizing that we send baseball players to Marquette's program). The district still believes this would be a good approach for the district and community, and is still open to sharing the softball program with Marquette.

EICC Concurrent Credit Courses

Below is some information on college credit courses over the years, but also prior to the summary is information from the 1st semester of the 2023-2024 school year:

Total Online College Credit Courses 1st Semester 2023-2024 School Year

130 online courses (# of grades, followed by percent of all courses taken

Grades: A - 88 67.8% B - 26 20% C - 11 8.5% D/F - 5 3.8%

Some data from these courses for Bellevue CSD students includes the following:

The average Bellevue HS Graduate earned 22 college credits prior to graduation.

★ Specific Grades	Fall		Spring		Total	
	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23
○ "A"	49	74	73	90	122	164
○ "B"	29	25	41	48	70	73
○ "C"	12	17	31	29	43	46
○ "D"	3	15	10	10	13	25
○ "F"	4	8	9	6	13	14
Total Courses Overall	97	121	164*	183	261*	322

★ *Includes grades from Welding for both 1st and 2nd Semesters (total program includes various courses)*

★ *Average GPA in college courses: 3.08 (22-23)*

★ Specific Grades Total courses taken	2021-2022	2022-2023
○ Percent of Grades as "A" or "B":	73.5%	73.6%
○ Percent of Grades as "A":	46.7%	50.9%
○ Percent of Grades as "B":	26.8%	22.7%

○ Percent of Grades as "C":	16.4%	14.3%
○ Percent of Grades as "D":	4.9%	7.8%
○ Percent of Grades as "F":	4.9%	4.3%

★ Grades of "A" or "B" in college courses by students

- 2022-2023 School Year - 73.6%
- 2021-2022 School Year - 73.5%
- 2020-2021 School Year - 74.2%
- 2019-2020 School Year - 82.1%
- 2018-2019 School Year - 76.1%
- 5-year Average - 75.9%

★ The amount of credits for courses in the 2022-2023 school year is over 950 college credits earned by high school students in this academic year

An Overview/Comparison:

Class of 2023 Graduates

- Earned an average of 22.5 credits
- 77% Enrolled in 3+ college courses
- 16% earned 40-50+ credits
- 20% earned 30-39 credits
- 5% earned 20-29 credits
- 43% earned 6-19 credits
- 16% earned 5 or fewer credits

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Meyer shared some information on repairs and general maintenance from over break, including the following:

- Painting the elementary school cafeteria
- Fixing some drywall (and painting) in various areas (entry area by west gym, commons, and a few other places)
- Cleaning hallways and gym floors
- Cleaning bleachers
- Welding of the west gym bleachers (completed by Clark Boats with their welding equipment)
- Snow removal (Thursday)
- And more...

Closed Session for Mid-Year Review of Superintendent for the 23-24 School Year

This time was designed to provide input to the superintendent on their role and performance. This also based on the following 10 Standards from IASB. I appreciate the input as we move on through the school year and the formal evaluation in June 2024.

Superintendent Performance Review

January 2024

**Indicates goal area for the 2023-2024 school year*

Standard 1: Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Educational leaders develop, advocate, and enact a shared mission, vision, and core values of high-quality education and academic success and well-being of each student.

Standard 2: Ethics and Professional Norms

Educational leaders act ethically and according to professional norms to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Standard 3: Equity and Cultural Responsiveness

Educational leaders strive for equity of educational opportunity and culturally responsive practices to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Standard 4: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Educational leaders develop and support intellectually rigorous and coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

***Standard 5: Community of Care and Support for Students**

Educational leaders cultivate an inclusive, caring, and supportive school community that promotes the academic success and well-being of each student.

***Standard 6: Professional Capacity of School Personnel**

Educational leaders develop the professional capacity and practice of school personnel to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

***Standard 7: Professional Community for Teachers and Staff**

Educational leaders foster a professional community of teachers and other professional staff to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Standard 8: Meaningful Engagement of Families and Community

Educational leaders engage families and the community in meaningful, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial ways to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Standard 9: Operations and Management

Educational leaders manage school operations and resources to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Standard 10: School Improvement

Educational leaders act as agents of continuous improvement to promote each student's academic success and well-being.

Meyer shared some thoughts on his role for the future, along with board input.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on Monday, February 12, 2024.

Piper Sandler Financial Update

I received this from our financial advisors (Matt Gillespie and the company he works for) in regard to the economy.