



**BELLEVUE COMETS**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Tom Meyer  
Phone: 563.872.4001 ext. 260  
Fax: 563.872.3216

**OFFICERS**

Mike Reed  
President  
Penny Medinger  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Janet Sieverding Vice President  
Allysen Bonifas Member  
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1601 State St. | Bellevue, IA 52031 | 563.872.4001 | www.bellevue.k12.ia.us

**Comet Highlights - July 12, 2022**

**From the July 11, 2022 Bellevue CSD Board of Education Meeting**

July 24-31  
Association

Family Week - From the Iowa High School Athletic  
(we typically extend this to other areas, minus the FFA  
that has the Jackson County Fair at that time)

**Family Week**

Please remember the dates of Family Week are

Sunday, July 24 through Sunday, July 31.

During those 8 days, student-athletes and those

involved in fine arts (as per IHSMA and IHSSA)

are not to use school facilities for any activity

purpose and coaches/directors/moderators are to

have no contact with athletes and those involved

in fine arts.

August 1 & 2

School Registration - 10:00-7:00 each day

August 15

New Teacher Induction and Teacher Professional Learning

August 16-22

Teacher Professional Learning

August 18

Social for New Staff (see below)

August 23

1st Day of School for the 2022-2023 school year

To view a calendar of events see the following link:

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

## APPROVED - Consent Agenda

### Approve Recommendations to Hire

- Heather Wood - National Honor Society - Heather is the district's Teacher-Librarian and has expressed an interest to Mr. Recker about this position and its duties with recognizing students, selecting students as a team and volunteering for the group. *Kristen Wright held this position in the past.*
- Jill Roe - Musical Director - Jill is our new Vocal Music (6-12) for the upcoming school year, and has an interest in this position based on her experiences in the past. *Jake Huntley had this position in the past.*
- Evan Davies - Assistant Musical Director - Evan has assisted with the musical in the past (and has been a director). He is interested in this position and assisting the students and Mrs. Roe. *Kristen Wright had this position in the past.*
- Chase Junk - Assistant HS Football Coach - This position opened up when Steve Nemmers stepped down from this role. Chase is energetic and wants to be involved.
- Middle School Speech - Pam Van Vleck - Pam assists with the HS Speech with Natalie Torres currently, and would like to promote the program as the MS speech person as well. *Kristen Wright had this position in the past.*
- Cheerleading - Heather Merrick and Rebecca Lahey-Scott have shared the cheerleading position in the past at 50% each. At this time, Mrs. Lahey Scott is only interested in doing Wrestling Cheerleading, which means that Heather Merrick will do football and basketball. Based on dates and practices, the most logical split between the two for Cheerleading and as a Chaperone is for Heather to have 75% of the contract and Rebecca to have 25% of the contract.
- MS Girls Basketball - Rick Reeg - Rick will fill one of the two positions for MS girls basketball. Rick has vast experience with basketball and was the varsity coach for several years in the past. We also have another applicant for the other position and will be interviewing him soon about the position and ideally have it on the August agenda.

### Facilities Update

A few things were discussed in this agenda item

1. Safety Upgrades Update
2. Facilities Committee
3. Facilities Assessment
4. STEM/AG Building
5. Child Care

## 1. Safety

We have made contacts with groups about securing our main entrance better in the future. Meyer shared some information on safety steps.

Initially, Meyer sought a quote for the first set of doors. While we talked about getting out of the elements and coming into the second door, this is not overly common, there is an "overhang" over the doors to avoid rain, etc, and the doors there are already electronically set-up for this purpose with electric locks. The vendors also agreed with this overall, but Meyer did get a quote for the new hardware for the second set of doors and also for the security setup. **It was decided to install a buzzer system, intercom, and camera by the first set of doors entering the building.** This will be controlled by the HS office and an associate in the Commons area who will have it on their computer screen or an app on an iPad to remotely open the doors after seeing the person or communicating with the person on their device. This will be utilized during the regular school day. Additionally, Early Bird PE students will enter the school in the mornings via a card reader as the doors will be locked.

There will also be an "alarm" on our south doors that do not have electric card readers to keep them shut so that students and others do not open the door for students outside or others looking to seek entrance into the building. This will be a 120-decibel alarm sound that will be activated when the doors are opened (not connected to the fire system). The doors are also monitored by cameras so we will have the ability to see who exited through the doors. They can still be used in case of emergency (fire, etc.).

We will also be having an associate unlock the back door by the boiler room at the end of each class for students coming from the Industrial Tech area. We will not be opening the door by Mr. Casel's room as one entry area is all that is needed.

We will be having training with local law enforcement and emergency personnel on August 16 for ALL staff from 9:00-11:30. A colleague in another district also made the statement recently, and echoed by others, that "a school is not a fortress" and we must also recognize that in some manner. Additionally, our "push-button" door locks on doors in both buildings have been viewed as one of the most effective ways to lock doors and secure rooms. While it is not a "brace" of some sort, it is easy, quick, and efficient overall. This was a move made approximately 12 years ago likely when all handle devices were changed. Finally, no schools are instituting "clear backpacks" at this time around our area. Some had discussed this, but none are now. The reasoning is that someone could still hide something in a backpack "inside" a book, clothes, etc. if they chose.

Additionally, the following are some basic safety steps and improvements...which are still a work in progress and being edited at this time.

Safety Steps - 2022-2023

District-Wide

1. Entry Doors to the buildings are to remain locked during the school day at all times.
2. No doors are propped open for any reason.

#### MS/HS

1. Students from the Industrial Tech area will enter through the North Doors of the "HS Hallway" near Mrs. Michels' and Mrs. Meyer's rooms.
  - a. North Doors of the "HS Hallway" will be locked and unlocked by an associate each period. No timed entrance during the school day.
  - b. North Doors of the "MS Hallway" will be locked all day with no access by students. No timed entrance during the school day.
2. Students will not be allowed to enter/exit through the south hallway doors near Mrs. Gerlach's and Mrs. Weber's room, or in the area of the Library or Mrs. Lahey-Scott's Room.
  - a. An alarm will be placed on these doors.
3. Main entrance doors will be locked from 8:20-3:20 each day, with access only granted through the office or other staff electronically unlocking the door for entrance into the building.
4. All students will enter the building through the main entrance throughout the school day.

#### Elementary

1. All visitors will enter through the elementary office doors, and be granted access to the building by office staff through an electronic door system.
  - a. Preschool students may enter the building via the west entrance doors by the preschool classrooms and the gym.
2. Staff members will be at recess with students, along with being present before and after school.
  - a. One staff member will be solely monitoring the crosswalk area and the parent pick-up area along Third Street.
  - b. Two other staff members will be present on the playground before and after school.

The district has also updated the the Emergency Response Manual, which includes emergency procedures, floor plans, etc. These have all been shared with the local Bellevue PD (Bud Schroeder), Bellevue Fire Department (Kent Clasen), and the Jackson County Emergency Organization (Lyn Medinger). Additionally, the Critical Emergency Response Manual will be shared with all staff and will be in all offices.

## **2. Facilities Committee Planning**

The Board finalized a list of individuals for the core Facilities Committee. This meeting will be happening in mid- to late-August. The Board will be sending a letter to committee members, and then have a follow-up phone call. A larger district-wide Facilities Meeting and Open House will be held at a later date in September.

## **3. Facilities Assessment**

Meyer shared the final assessment for the MS/HS building, which is in addition to the Bellevue Elementary Assessment that was completed during the 2021-2022 school year.

The following are some summaries from these documents.

## Participants

### **BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Tom Meyer, PhD, Superintendent of Schools

Brett Ernst, Maintenance Director

Jeff Recker, MS/HS Principal

Curt Ernst, Dean of Students

### **OPN ARCHITECTS**

Roger Worrn, AIA, Principal

Vicki Hyland, ALEP, Associate, K12 Specialist

Matthew Stewart, AIA, Project Architect

Nick DeCarlo, AIA, Architect

### **MODUS ENGINEERING**

Mike Brocka, PE, Principal

Kevin Panczyk, PE, Mechanical Engineer

Lon Bromolson, PE, Electrical Engineer

### **FEHR GRAHAM CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Nathan Kass, PE, Principal

## Executive Summary

In April 2022, OPN Architects met with Superintendent Tom Meyer and Maintenance Director Bret Ernst and toured the existing High School and Middle School Facility to continue our physical assessments of the district facilities. OPN Architects, MODUS Engineering, and Fehr Graham Engineering performed detailed observation visits over the next several days in April. We documented deficiencies related to building code, ADA accessibility, building condition, mechanical and electrical systems, and building site and utilities and compiled into this report (June 2022).

A summary of our observations is outlined below with detailed assessments for each topic on subsequent pages.

### **Code Compliance and ADA Accessibility**

The original building and first outbuildings were built in 1967 with several subsequent additions over the following decades. Deficiencies varied in scope and concentration through the buildings. Door hardware and door swing compliance were the most common issue noted along with several restroom facilities out of compliance and casework not providing required clearances or installed at the correct height. We were not able to determine fire assembly locations and completeness of barrier construction during our review. Code required egress and egress distribution appears to meet minimum requirements.

### **Exterior Summary**

The majority of the building exterior appears to be in good condition with the exception of the arts wing. The precast concrete of the new gymnasium has some caulking that needs to be removed and reinstalled and some areas with visible rusting. The arts wing has issues with doors, windows, accessible egress compliance and condition of the siding and roofing. In addition, the older wings of the school still have single glazed windows.

### **Mechanical, Electric, and Plumbing Summary**

- Lack of proper ventilation air and/or control of ventilation airflow in the classrooms.
- Aging pneumatic controls in the 1967 and 1973 buildings.
- Aging steam equipment and piping in the 1967 building.
- Fire Alarm is addressable but there is NO voice notification. Current code for educational occupancies require voice notification.
- The electrical panels located in the Art/Music building are corroded and need replaced.
- Some of the original GE panels in the original high school are in poor condition with limited ampacity/breaker space and probably not grounded correctly. These should be replaced in the near future.
- The original high school is lacking emergency lighting in some areas.

### **Civil Summary**

- Overall, site is in good condition with no glaring issues; typical items such as pavement cracks and a few potholes in the older pavements but the main parking is well maintained and the site and building have very good drainage.
- ADA compliance is lacking but still better than many schools for which we have completed assessments; recommend developing a "transition plan" to systematically address ADA issues as part of other improvement projects to minimize disturbance and coordinate projects for maximum economy.
- Middle driveway is a safety concern, but it can remain if it functions well and does not cause confusion for inexperienced drivers.
- Parking for football is not convenient and current parking facilities are likely insufficient for volume needed for games.
- Visitors bleachers at football field are not ADA accessible.
- Softball field restrooms/concessions not ADA accessible.
- Some typical trip hazards from heaved/shifted sidewalks, gaps at joints
- Gas pipeline, floodplain/flood way to west, wetlands to northwest are significant challenges and should be avoided

# Cost Summary

## **Cost Summary**

A Summary of estimated costs to update the existing Middle and High school is provided on the adjacent page. The estimate consists of the baseline cost to meet the minimum building code requirements, update for ADA accessibility, and correct existing architectural, mechanical, and electrical deficiencies throughout the original building and later additions. This cost estimate does not include the cost to improve existing spaces beyond essential repair or replacement, and it does not include any additional programming space beyond what is required for code compliance. For example, this cost exercise for a typical classroom includes the cost to replace mechanical systems, ceilings, lighting, and windows in order to update systems to reduce energy consumption. It also provides the cost to repair damage and meet code and ADA requirements. However, it does not include the cost of complete replacement of flooring, repainting walls, providing new technology, or modifying spaces to meet current and future academic needs.

The numbers provided are estimates based on limited on-site observations. These numbers can vary based on hidden conditions such as deficiencies discovered in a wall or roof assembly once demolition has begun. These estimates are based upon current 2022 costs and do not include future escalation of unit prices or labor.



# Cost Summary

## SITework

Improvement	Location	Budgetary Construction Cost
ADA Accessibility	Campus-wide	\$150,000
North Pavement	North side of school, south side of CTE	\$150,000
Fine Arts Sidewalk	East side of fine arts building	\$10,000
Front Sidewalk	South side of school, east end	\$10,000
Remove Middle Driveway	South side of parking lot	\$10,000
Handicap Parking for Football	West side of home bleachers	\$2,000
Resurface Football Path	North of bus barn to home bleachers	\$40,000
Visitors ADA Bleachers	Football field visitors side	\$75,000
Softball Concessions	East of softball field	\$250,000
Football Parking Lot	East of football field	\$500,000
<b>CIVIL TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,197,000</b>

## BUILDING EXTERIOR

Replace doors	Arts Wing	\$7,500
Replace windows	Arts Wing	\$10,000
Remove and replace Caulking	Precast Panels at Gymnasium	\$6,000
Paint beams and deck	Classroom wing overhangs	\$8,400
Repair drain tiles	North Side	\$2,000
Clean metal panels	Arts Wing, Wrestling Room, Admin	\$5,000
Brick repair/replacement	Classroom Wing	\$20,000
Press Box	Site	\$100,000
Exterior SubTotal		\$158,900
	25% Escalation Contingency	\$39,725
<b>EXTERIOR TOTAL</b>		<b>\$198,625</b>

## BUILDING INTERIOR

Ceiling Replacment	Arts Wing and coord w/ MEP	\$40,000
Single user Restroom upgrades	7 total RR's	\$200,000
Multi-user Restroom upgrades	6 total RR's	\$75,000
Casework replacement	ADA additions where non-compliant	\$10,000
Door Hardware	Throughout	\$5,000
Interior SubTotal		\$330,000
	25% Escalation Contingency	\$82,500.00
<b>INTERIOR TOTAL</b>		<b>\$412,500</b>

## MECHANICAL

Boiler Room Equipment Replacement	\$540,000
Cooling	\$1,700,000
Ventilation	\$1,100,000
HVAC Controls	\$320,000
Plumbing	\$120,000
Fire Suppression (arts/music and wrestling)	\$40,500
<b>MECHANICAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,820,500</b>

## ELECTRICAL

New distribution panel	\$200,000
Branch panel 1:1 replacement	\$135,000
Lighting and controls	\$570,000
Em Egress lighting	\$75,000
Cameras	\$65,000
Access Control	\$70,000
Paging system	\$52,000
Clock system	\$48,000
Fire alarm	\$275,000
IT/AV	\$150,000
<b>ELECTRICAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,640,000</b>

**SUBTOTAL** **\$7,268,625**

ADD 8% FOR GENERAL CONDITIONS \$581,490

ADD 10% FOR CONTRACTOR MARKUP \$726,863

ADD 15% FOR PROJECT CONTINGENCY \$1,090,294

**CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE** **\$9,667,271**

ADD 5% FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY \$483,364

**Total Project Costs** **\$10,150,635**

## Participants

### **BELLEUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Tom Meyer, PhD, Superintendent of Schools

Brett Ernst, Maintenance Director

### **OPN ARCHITECTS**

Roger Worm, AIA, Principal

Vicki Hyland, ALEP, Associate, K12 Specialist

Susan Bowersox, AIA, Senior Project Architect

Nick DeCarlo, AIA, Architect

### **MODUS ENGINEERING**

Mike Brocka, PE, Principal

Matt Gumm, PE, Mechanical Engineer

Lon Bromolson, PE, Electrical Engineer

## Executive Summary

In August 2021, OPN Architects and MODUS Engineering met with Superintendent Tom Meyer and Maintenance Director Brett Ernst to tour the existing Bellevue Elementary School facility. Following this meeting, OPN and MODUS were selected by district leadership to perform a facility assessment. A kick-off meeting to initiate the process and discuss details of the assessment was held in September 2021. Detailed observation visits were performed in late October and early November 2021. Deficiencies related to code, ADA accessibility, building condition, and mechanical and electrical systems were recorded and are compiled in this report (December 2021).

A summary of our observations is outlined below, with detailed assessments for each topic on subsequent pages.

### **Code Compliance**

The original 1948 facility and the later additions were found to have a number of significant code and life safety challenges. No portion of the elementary school contains an automatic sprinkler system, which requires certain elements such as doors and walls at corridors to be a fire-rated construction. We observed only a handful of fire-rated assemblies. The 1948 building does not have any accessible means of egress out of the building, and many routes were found to be non-compliant and would require modification to the building layout, likely to the detriment of existing academic spaces. Certain exits such as the exterior fire stairs from the second floor of the 1948 building cannot be made compliant and would potentially require a new stair tower to be constructed.

Many corridors in the 1948 building are narrow and do not meet minimum exiting requirements. Many restrooms and toilet stalls throughout the building do not meet the minimum clearances required by current plumbing codes and would require significant reworking of these spaces to be brought into compliance. Most stairs in the original building or later additions were found to be non-compliant and would need significant modification or complete replacement.

### **ADA Accessibility**

All portions of the elementary school have ADA deficiencies, but the greatest number were found in the 1948 facility. Tight corridors create restrictive spaces at classroom doorways, many of which cannot be made ADA compliant without creating a new recessed doorway. None of the restrooms in the elementary facility were found to be fully ADA compliant. All restrooms have varying degrees of non-compliance, but several would require significant modifications or the construction of new accessible restrooms.

There are many instances where ramps have been installed to connect variations in floor elevation at both the interior and exterior, however most of these were found to be a non-compliant slope, requiring the construction of a new ramp. Many classroom sink casework, transaction counters, serving counters, and drinking fountains are not ADA accessible and would need to be replaced.

## **Exterior Conditions**

Generally, the envelope of the building masonry was found to be in fair condition. We found several areas where moisture is causing damage to the brick, usually at windows, that would need further investigation to determine the source and repair. Some roof materials are at the end of their life and would need replacement in the near future. The metal siding on the gym is also at the end of its life. There are several sections of the building that do not have gutters, which is causing moisture issues at the base of the building.

The existing walls at the cafeteria and gym are single-wythe concrete masonry and do not have insulation, which results in high heating and cooling loads. We also observed that the vast majority of existing windows are non-insulated single-pane glazing, which also result in high energy consumption versus modern double-pane glazing.

## **Mechanical**

The existing 25-year-old boiler room, serving all of the site, is located in the 1973 building on the first level. A new heating plant comprised of two condensing heating water boilers (one boiler for backup) should replace the existing steam boiler. All steam infrastructure should be removed. Steam is an obsolete and fuel inefficient source of heating for schools. The existing steam infrastructure is past its service life and should be removed.

The 1960 and 1973 wings and the 1848 building should be served by new dedicated outside air RTUs with energy recovery. A fan coil system using chilled water and heating water, or a VRF fan coil system, should be retrofitted to these areas.

Heating, cooling, and ventilation for the cafeteria / gym should be provided by RTUs with energy recovery. All three functions are integral to these RTUs.

## **Electrical**

Due to the age and condition of the existing electrical service, it should be replaced with a new 208/120V, 3Ø, 4-wire 800-amp distribution panel with a surge protection device and appropriate quantity and rating of breakers. Additional branch panels may need to be replaced one-for-one to update branch circuit grounding requirements and allow for additional breaker space.



In several classrooms there are charging stations for student laptops. More power and receptacles should be added in these areas to accommodate for charging station needs.

## **Lighting**

Fluorescent lighting should be replaced with new LED lighting and update lighting controls with occupancy sensors where code allows. Emergency lighting should be added where indicated on the electrical plans to meet the one foot-candle average per NFPA 101.

## **Telecommunications**

Due to the age of the existing access control system, an upgraded access control system would ensure exterior doors are monitored and secured. The security camera system should be upgraded to a modern IP based NVR (network video recorder) system. A synchronized clock system is also recommended. Exposed cabling should be cleaned up to minimize accidents.

## **Fire Alarm**

The current Simplex zoned system should be replaced with a new addressable system with voice capability to satisfy code requirements. Full detection would be required.

## Cost Summary

A summary of estimated costs to update the existing elementary school is provided on the adjacent page. This estimate consists of the baseline cost to meet the minimum building code requirements, update spaces for ADA accessibility, and correct existing architectural, mechanical, and electrical deficiencies throughout the original 1848 building and later additions. This cost estimate does not include the cost to improve existing spaces beyond essential repair or replacement, and it does not include any additional programmatic space beyond what is required for code compliance. For example, this cost exercise for a typical classroom includes the cost to replace mechanical systems, ceilings, lighting, and windows in order to update systems to reduce energy consumption. It also provides the cost to repair damage and meet code and ADA requirements. However, it does not include the cost of complete replacement of flooring, repainting walls, providing new technology, or modifying spaces to meet current and future academic needs.

The numbers provided are estimates based on limited on-site observations. These numbers can vary based on hidden conditions such as deficiencies discovered in a wall or roof assembly once demolition has begun.

These estimates are based upon current 2021 costs and do not include future escalation of unit prices or labor.

# Cost Summary

<b>SITWORK</b>			
Replace cracked asphalt pavement at entrances, playground	\$	29,201	
<b>BUILDING EXTERIOR</b>			
Replace windows	\$	302,175	
Replace doors / hardware	\$	52,000	
Cafeteria envelope modifications	\$	71,087	
Gym envelope modifications	\$	218,050	
Replace roof (shingles)	\$	92,250	
Replace roof (EPDM)	\$	127,310	
Add exterior ramps	\$	75,840	
Replace stairs	\$	33,437	
1848 entrance rework for accessibility	\$	27,000	
Envelope damage repair	\$	105,609	
Add code compliant egress stair tower	\$	108,162	
	\$	<b>1,212,920</b>	
<b>ADD 5% EXTERIOR CONTINGENCY</b>	\$	<b>60,646</b>	
			<b>EXTERIOR SUBTOTAL \$ 1,273,566</b>
<b>BUILDING INTERIOR</b>			
Replace ceilings	\$	148,977	
Replace damaged flooring	\$	20,153	
Repaint damaged walls	\$	3,035	
Replace casework for ADA	\$	44,638	
Replace doors / rework ADA clearances	\$	298,110	
Replace windows	\$	3,500	
Fire-rating requirements	\$	57,763	
Add new single-use restrooms	\$	152,000	
Modify existing restrooms	\$	313,400	
Replace stairs	\$	110,000	
Add / modify ramps	\$	9,888	
Cafeteria ADA modifications	\$	4,500	
	\$	<b>1,165,964</b>	
<b>ADD 10% INTERIOR CONTINGENCY</b>	\$	<b>116,596</b>	
			<b>INTERIOR SUBTOTAL \$ 1,282,561</b>
<b>MECHANICAL</b>			
Heating (New Hot Water Boiler Plant)	\$	400,000	
Cooling	\$	1,590,000	
Ventilation	\$	940,000	
HVAC Controls	\$	147,000	
Plumbing	\$	98,000	
Fire Suppression	\$	230,000	
	\$	<b>3,405,000</b>	
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>			
New Distribution Panel	\$	20,000	
Branch Panel 1:1 Replacement	\$	15,000	
Lighting & Controls	\$	518,400	
Emergency Egress Systems	\$	13,600	
Cameras	\$	36,000	
Access Control	\$	34,000	
Paging System	\$	8,000	
Clocks	\$	6,000	
Fire Alarm	\$	172,800	
Miscellaneous Code Items	\$	30,000	
Miscellaneous IT / AV Work	\$	2,000	
	\$	<b>855,800</b>	
			<b>SUBTOTAL \$ 6,846,128</b>
<b>ADD 8% FOR GENERAL CONDITIONS</b>	\$	<b>547,690</b>	
<b>ADD 10% FOR CONTRACTOR MARKUP</b>	\$	<b>684,613</b>	
<b>ADD 15% FOR PROJECT CONTINGENCY</b>	\$	<b>1,026,919</b>	
			<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS \$ 9,105,350</b>

#### 4. STEM/Ag Building

As we look to the future, Meyer asked the Board their thoughts on building a basic Ag building for student learning? This could also be combined with STEM for students as well. If we would do that it would save space...for the following:

- Eventually looking at the larger elementary classes coming to the middle school/high school building, therefore moving Ag to a different building.
- It would allow for more hands-on learning opportunities for students, and valuable learning experiences and opportunities.
- Would we consider moving 5th grade to the middle school section of the building for the upcoming year to make more room in the elementary building potentially? If so, we need to start making some plans for this. 5th grade could still be isolated in one section of the building in the "MS Hallway" if we would make that choice.

The Board will discuss this idea more at future meetings.

#### 5. Child Care

The city and the school have been approached by a community member about establishing a daycare in town. They have a lot they would like to utilize for this, and some discussions are happening.

Meyer and the Board shared some information on costs, staff, number of students, etc. The Board is hesitant to move forward with this at the current time based on a potential referendum for the elementary school, the building not being on school property, etc, but recognizes the need for this service in the community at the same time. Daycare is an important issue for the school, community, and the many parents who seek daycare in our community and we will work toward fulfilling this collaboratively in some manner in the future.

#### APPROVED - ACT for Students

Based on our discussion at the last board meeting, Meyer placed the ACT requirement for students on this month's agenda again. After some discussion with others in the district and the overall discussions from the Board last month, Meyer recommended that the **district still pay for the ACT for students interested in taking the ACT, but not requiring all students to take the assessment.** Some reasonings for this include the following:

- Many colleges and universities are not requiring the ACT for admission. Yet, it is still required for some colleges for scholarships and other rewards for students attending the college.
- We have a variety of manners of identifying the needs of students in addition to the ACT. While it is a good measure when students take it overall, we can also analyze student learning and the curriculum in other manners in our ever-changing world.

We will still encourage students to take the assessment to allow them to "see" where they are at and be thinking about college, but not requiring it is likely

very acceptable in our times of the importance of trade school and the acquisition of skills beyond the areas of the ACT.

### Programming Updates

The 2022-2023 school year is approaching obviously. A few things to be aware of:

1. Registration is on August 1 & 2 from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
2. Professional Learning for all staff is from August 16-22 (new staff arrives on August 15).
3. New Staff Social at River Ridge Brewery is on Thursday, August 18 from 7:15-8:30 for new staff, mentors, board members, and administrators
4. Do we want to make any changes to extracurricular programs for students? Meyer shared information on programs overall, and the participation of Bellevue CSD athletes in activities and having programs that attract students.

### APPROVED - Admission Rates - River Valley Conference

Meyer recommended we make the following changes based on the actions of the River Valley Conference ADs who approved the following admission updates:

- HS events - all admission will now be \$6
- MS Events - \$4 for adults and \$1 for students

*\*Note that District Football will remain at \$5...this is not part of our conference and is regulated by the district football schools.*

The reasoning for the Increase: The costs for equipment continue to rise, along with finding officials (and high-quality officials). We are paying more for officials to compete with other conferences, with some of them rising to \$6 last year or following suit this upcoming year.

This will start in August, and Board needed to decide to adjust (or not) our previously approved admission prices of \$5 to \$6 to the following activities:

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track\*
- Bowling\*
- JV Basketball with a Varsity Game
- Baseball
- Softball

*\*Not sanctioned by the conference, but allows for consistency in events overall and we have followed conference admission prices for these events in the past overall (bowling is new to charge to this year though).*

MS Sports - Also, the rates for MS sports will also increase from \$3 to \$4 for adults, including MS softball and baseball, with the rate for students remaining at \$1.

Passes - Finally, some other changes to activity passes are also necessary due to the increase in admission prices. They include the following:

- Family Passes - Good for all home athletic events for the current school year. Issued to parents and students (PK-12) enrolled in our school system. The cost is \$240 (was \$200, but with the increase, this is equivalent to the same benefit or discount overall).
- Student Pass - A pass for students (PK-12) enrolled in the school district. This entitles the student to attend all home athletic events at no charge with this pass for the current school year. The cost is \$75 (was \$65, but the increase is equivalent overall).
- Adult Pass - Good for all home athletic events for the current school year. Issued to any parent or adult. The cost is \$100 (was \$85, but the increase is equivalent overall to the overall number of events).
- Punch Card - This is valid for all home athletic events for the current school year. It will admit an adult to any ten (10) athletic events for a reduced price. This ticket will be punched each time that it is used. The cost is \$45 (was \$40 prior).

#### **APPROVED - Adult Meal Prices (and "second meal" prices**

In addition to admission prices, the district must also increase our adult meal price for lunch from \$4.00 to \$4.15 based on state/federal requirements (It has to be a minimum of \$4.13 based on their formula). This also applies to an additional full student meal...these are non-reimbursable meals.

#### **APPROVED - Board Policy Updates**

Each year the Board reviews a series of policies based on a continuous rotation. This year we are reviewing BOTH the 100 Series (District) and 600 (Education Program), along with some other select policies that need to be adapted/adopted (many in the 500 Series (Students) (Administration). I am placing this document on the Superintendent's Page on the website. The policy numbers are different in IASB in some cases, and I will change them to our policy numbers when they are added to our policy updates.

A direct link to the current policies for our district is the following: <http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us/board-policies> with updates located on the website on the Superintendent page.

This is the meeting to approve these changes. Some highlights include the following (noting our current policies in the handout are indicated with "Bellevue Community School District - 2000 on the bottom left corner):

- 410.1n- Substitute Teacher Pay - Increase to be fair to our substitute teachers; This is still not the highest around by any means but puts us more in line with other districts.
- 501.3 - Compulsory Attendance - 1080 hours



- 501.14 and 501.15 - **DELETE Changes...I will have updated policies for the August and September meeting indicating no deadline for open enrollment**
- 502.6 - Does not need to be changed, as the current policy was already revised in January 2022
- 505.6 - Graduation Requirements - Updated from the past
- 507.8 - No changes

### IASB Legislative Priorities

Meyer shared the IASB Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session from IASB. As they do each year, they would like us to choose 3-4 priorities. The Board will wait until August to do this activity. The previous three year's priorities from the Bellevue CSD are listed below:

August 2021

- Mental Health Support
- School Funding Policy
- Bond Issues
- Teacher Licensure and Recruitment

August 2020

- #3 Preschool Funding
- #7 Mental Health Support
- #8 Special Ed Funding
- #18 School Funding Policy

August 2019

- #7 Mental Health Support
- #8 Special Ed Funding
- #19 School Funding Policy
- #21 Bond Issues

Some information about this process from IASB:

*Every spring the government relations team asks school districts to submit legislative priorities and for any changes to the legislative platform for the upcoming legislative session. The feedback received helps the government relations team best position the organization on bills during the legislative session.*

*We hope that you set aside time during your May, June, July, or August board meetings to discuss and then submit your legislative priorities and any changes you would like to see to our legislative platform. As you decide, here are the most frequently asked questions about the process.*

#### **WHO DEVELOPS THE RESOLUTIONS?**

*The Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) receives feedback from school district submissions from the call for legislative priorities. The LRC reviews all the proposals and recommends legislative beliefs, resolutions, and the priorities for the upcoming legislative session.*

#### **WHAT IS THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

The LRC is made of up school board members and a board member from the Area Education Agencies (AEA) and the community colleges. Board members on the LRC represent school districts of all sizes from Schleswig to Sioux City.

The LRC meets twice a year during the summer to review and make recommendations on the proposed IASB legislative platform. Once the LRC finalizes its recommendations, it sends those recommendations to the IASB Board of Directors who then reviews and approves the platform. That platform is then sent to delegates to be debated at the IASB Delegate Assembly in November.

**WHAT IS THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY?**

Delegate Assembly occurs the day before the IASB annual convention. That is where delegates, appointed by their school district, AEA, and community college, debate and vote on the IASB legislative platform for the upcoming year.

**WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE RESOLUTIONS PROCESS?**

IASB sends out the "Call for Legislative Priorities" in early May. School boards should set aside time during their summer board meetings to review and discuss what priorities they would like to submit, as well as suggest a new or amend a current resolution to the platform. Once they have reviewed the platform boards should submit their list via the link that was sent to the board secretary in May. The deadline to submit legislative priorities is August 12, 2022.

**CAN MY DISTRICT SUBMIT OUR OWN RESOLUTION? HOW?**

You bet! The third page on the questionnaire allows a board to suggest a new resolution or amend a resolution we currently have in our platform. These amendments and new resolutions will then be presented at Delegate Assembly and voted on by the delegates. If you need help with wording or content for a new resolution or amendment, our government relations staff is happy to assist.

**I MISSED THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PRIORITIES, CAN I STILL SUBMIT BY DISTRICTS RESOLUTIONS AND PRIORITIES?**

Absolutely! We put a deadline on submissions so IASB staff have time to collect the information and present it to the LRC during their August meeting. The August meeting is where the LRC reviews district submissions and makes its final recommendations on the legislative platform. Last year we heard from over 85% of school districts. Let's get that number higher this year. Even if you miss the deadline, please submit your priorities. We want to hear from every IASB member district!

**OUR BOARD IS SET TO PICK OUR PRIORITIES, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE PLATFORM FOR THIS YEAR, HOW DO WE PICK PRIORITIES?**

Your board should review the current platform as a guide to select, amend or add legislative priorities to the 2023 platform.

**IS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO SUBMIT OUR PRIORITIES? WE ARE BUSY WITH THE OTHER THINGS GOING ON IN OUR DISTRICT.**

Yes! By submitting your legislative priorities, it helps our government relations team better advocate on your behalf. When our lobbyists can inform legislators that 90% of districts who submitted priorities made school funding, mental health, and teacher shortage a priority, that makes an impact with legislators.

**APPROVED - Board Secretary/Treasurer**

I strongly recommend we appoint Penny Medinger as Board Secretary/Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year. Penny is absolutely outstanding in her role with her knowledge, "common sense" approach, and overall efficiency in so many ways.

**APPROVED - Level I Investigators**

As a formality, we need to officially appoint the two principals as Level I Investigators for allegations of abuse of students by employees for the 2022-2023 school year.

**APPROVED - Level II Investigators**

As a formality, we need to officially appoint Dennis (Bud) Schroeder, Bellevue Police Department Chief as the district's Level II investigator for allegations of abuse of students by employees for the 2022-2023 school year.

**APPROVED - Equity Coordinator**

As a formality as well to a point, although I am changing the recommendation to the Superintendent based on recent Title IX training, I recommend we have Tom Meyer serve as Equity Coordinator for the district for the 2022-2023 school year.

**APPROVED - EICC Memorandum of Agreement**

I am attaching a document from EICC for college courses for our students for the 2022-2023 school year. There are no significant changes in requirements, but simply a continuation of our current agreements with EICC for our students. I recommend we approve this.

**Comet Curriculum**

Where are we at when we talk about "progressive schools"? Thoughts from Board members were shared at the meeting.

## A Dozen Questions for Progressive Schools

Because of what I've described as the undertow that progressive educators inevitably experience, it's possible for them to wake up one morning with the unsettling realization that their school has succumbed to a creeping traditionalism and drifted from the vision of its founders. Here are some pointed questions to spur collective reflection and, perhaps, corrective action.

1. Is our school committed to being *educationally* progressive, or is it content with an atmosphere that's progressive only in the political or cultural sense of the word?
2. Is a progressive vision being pursued unapologetically, or does a fear of alienating potential applicants lead to compromising that mission and trying to be all things to all people? ("We offer a nurturing environment . . . of *rigorous* college preparation.")
3. Is the education that the oldest students receive just as progressive as that offered to the youngest, or would a visitor conclude that those in the upper grades seem to attend a different school altogether?
4. Is the teaching organized around problems, projects, and questions? Is most of the instruction truly interdisciplinary, or is literature routinely separated from social studies – or even from spelling? Has acquiring skills (e.g., arithmetic, vocabulary) come to be over-emphasized rather than seen as a means to the end of understanding and communicating ideas?
5. To what extent are students involved in designing the curriculum? Is it a learner-centered environment, or are lessons presented to the children as *faits accomplis*? How much are students involved in other decisions, such as room decoration, classroom management, assessment, and so on? Are teachers maintaining control over children, even in subtle ways, so that the classrooms are less democratic than they could be?
6. Is assessment consistent with a progressive vision, or are students evaluated and rated with elaborate **rubrics** and thinly disguised grade substitutes ("exceeds expectations," "working toward expectations," etc.)? Do students end up, as in many traditional schools, spending so much time thinking about how well they're doing that they're no longer as engaged with *what* they're doing?

7. Do administrators respect teachers' professionalism and need for autonomy – or is there a style of top-down control that's inconsistent with how teachers are urged to treat students? Conversely, is it possible that teachers' insistence on being left alone has permitted them to drift from genuinely progressive practice in some areas?

8. Are educators acting like lifelong learners, always willing to question familiar ways – or do they sometimes fall back on tradition and justify practices on the grounds that something is just “the [name of school] way”? Are teachers encouraged to visit one another's classrooms and offered opportunities to talk about pedagogy on a regular basis?

9. Is cooperation emphasized throughout the school – or are there remnants of an adversarial approach? Do students typically make decisions by trying to reach consensus or do they simply vote? Do competitive games still dominate physical education and even show up in classrooms? Do most learning experiences take place in pairs and small groups, or does the default arrangement consist of having students do things on their own?

10. Is homework assigned only when it's absolutely necessary to extend and enrich a lesson, or is it assigned on a regular basis (as in a traditional school)? If homework is given, are the assignments predicated on – and justified by – a behaviorist model of “reinforcing” what they were taught – or do they truly deepen students' understanding of, and engagement with, ideas? How much of a role do the students play in making decisions about homework?

11. Does the question “How will this affect children's *interest* in learning (and in the topic at hand)?” inform all choices about curriculum, instruction, and scheduling – or has a focus on right answers and “rigor” led some students to become less curious about, and excited by, what they're doing?

12. Is the school as progressive and collaborative in nonacademic (social, behavioral) matters as it is in the academic realm, or are there remnants of “consequence”-based control such that the focus is sometimes more on order and compliance than on fostering moral reasoning, social skills, and democratic dispositions?

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### Superintendent Goals

With a new evaluation at the state system starting its second year, Meyer believed that the Board needed to have a brief conversation (or longer if needed) about my goals for the district for the 2022-2023 school year and focus areas. The **bold** areas are emphasis areas for next school year out of the 10 overall that are evaluated in a comprehensive manner.

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

### Information Items

Social for New Teachers - I am planning another social meeting gathering for all new teachers, their mentors, and board members who can attend at River Ridge Brewery on Thursday, August 18 from 7:15-8:30 (this is after student orientations and "Unpack the Backpack" that day).

Facilities Updates - Meyer shared an update about the pond that was shared in last week's notes with Board members:

*The Department of Natural Resources has continued to be involved with the pond discussion and potential development. On Thursday they were present with some others to do some soil sampling of where the pond may be (NW of the school in the field to the west of the middle/high school). Surprisingly to everyone involved in the sampling, they feel strongly that the samples show that this location is NOT a good area as the soil will not hold the water. Long story, but they did three samples and stopped after that as it was apparent that this was not going to work for a pond. It would work for wetlands very well potentially, but I am not sure if we want to pursue that at this time with other aspects going on with the elementary school conversation. At this time, the pond discussion is no longer valid.*

Meyer also provided an update on our boiler system and sprinkler system, including the following:

During our annual boiler system inspections in mid-June, it was noted that both have tubes that are quite possibly leaking based on some other indications in the boiler. Not the best news! As a result, we were required to have someone perform some "hydro-testing" with the boiler full to see where any possible leaks are, and then fix the leaks. This was also completed this week and led to some minor repairs. One tube was leaking, but it was easily fixed. There are some other aspects of corrosion on areas where the "float" is, etc, but nothing too major overall. This will be completed in the upcoming weeks parts arrive.

This inspection does give us an indication of the need to consider some other systems for the future at the MS/HS building and at the elementary (regardless of whether we stay in that building in the future or move to another type of building, etc.). To replace tubes when needed at the MS/HS building we will have to knock out the north wall of the building to get the tubes into the

boiler (not enough room in the boiler room...not sure of the thought process with boilers at the time!), and similarly at the elementary building (would also have to do that to replace a boiler). Just keeping you updated overall.

We also had sprinkler systems inspections the same week that went fine overall, with a couple of sprinkler heads needing an attachment to them (simple terms). We must also have a five-year "internal inspection" completed at some point and are working on scheduling this currently. The cost will be \$1900, and will include replacing some of the sprinkler head "guards" that are not present and was completed on Monday, July 11.

Family Week - From the Iowa High School Athletic Association...

## **Family Week**

Please remember the dates of Family Week are

Sunday, July 24 through Sunday, July 31.

During those 8 days, student-athletes and those

involved in fine arts (as per IHSMA and IHSSA)

are not to use school facilities for any activity

purpose and coaches/directors/moderators are to

have no contact with athletes and those involved

in fine arts.

### **Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members**

Meyer shared information on Open Enrollment, including the following information from RSAI on the new Open Enrollment regulations adopted by the legislature, and signed by the Governor this week:

- **Division V Eliminates the March 1 open enrollment deadline.** Requires school boards to act timely on the application. Receiving district may deny application due to insufficient classroom space. Requires DE to write emergency rules to implement this change. Effective on enactment (when the Governor signs it, although as of this writing, it is not yet enrolled in the form to be sent to the Governor). For purposes of Varsity Athletic Participation, the "good cause" standard must still be met to participate in varsity athletics prior to a 90-day waiting period. The good cause standards as written in this bill include exception for any of the following:
  - a change in a child's residence due to a change in family residence,



- a change in a child's residence from the residence of one parent or guardian to the residence of different parent or guardian,
- a change in the state in which the family residence is located,
- a change in a child's parents' marital status, a guardianship or custody proceeding, placement in foster care, adoption,
- participation in a foreign exchange program, initial placement of a prekindergarten student in a special education program requiring specially designed instruction, or participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program,
- a change in the status of a child's resident district such as removal of accreditation by the state board, surrender of accreditation, or permanent closure of a nonpublic school, revocation of a charter school contract as provided in section 256E.10 or 256F.8, the failure of negotiations for a whole grade sharing, reorganization, dissolution agreement, or the rejection of a current whole grade sharing agreement, or reorganization plan.
- resident and receiving district may mutually agree to allow athletic participation.

This bill was signed by Governor Reynolds on June 21. RSAI was registered as undecided on this bill but opposed the open enrollment deadline changes.

**Policy Note:** Here is some suggested language, however, we encourage districts to have their school attorney review policy changes. The income eligibility threshold for resident district transportation assistance was increased to 200% of the federal poverty level during the 2021 legislative session. The Iowa Code allows the resident district to deduct the transportation assistance from the tuition paid on behalf of the open enrolled student to the receiving district.

#### **Open Enrollment**

Students may request to enroll into another school district at any time during the school-year. The district to which the student wishes to open enroll may refuse the enrollment request based on insufficient space as defined in the receiving districts' school board policy.

Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend.

**Restrictions on participation in interscholastic athletic contests and competitions.** A pupil who transfers school districts under open enrollment in any of the grades 9 - 12 shall not be eligible to participate in varsity interscholastic contests and competitions during the first 90 school days of the transfer. This restriction also shall apply to transfers resulting from an approved petition filed by a parent or guardian to transfer to an alternative receiving district and when the pupil returns to the district of residence using the process outlined in DE Administrative Rules. The 90-school-day restriction does not prohibit the pupil from practicing with an athletic team during the 90 school days

of ineligibility. The 90-school-day restriction is not applicable to a pupil who:

- participates in an athletic activity in the receiving district that is not available in the district of residence.
- participates in an athletic activity for which the resident district and receiving district have a "cooperative student participation agreement" in place as provided by rule 281-36.20(280).
- is requesting open enrollment due to a change in circumstances that meet the definition of good cause exemption from the 90-day waiting period in Iowa Code 282.18, subsection 11, paragraph 1, subparagraph 8, including:
  - o change in child's residence due to a change in family residence.
  - o change in child's residence from the residence of one parent or guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian.
  - o change in the state in which the family residence is located.
  - o change in a child's parents' marital status, a guardianship or custody proceeding, placement in foster care, adoption, participation in a foreign exchange program.
  - o participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program.
  - o change in the status of a child's resident district such as removal of accreditation by the state board, surrender of accreditation, or permanent closure of a nonpublic school, revocation of a charter school contract, the failure of negotiations for a whole grade sharing, reorganization agreement, or the rejection of a current whole grade sharing agreement or reorganization plan.

\*This does NOT include busing...I have been asked this by families in the past and a family last week.