



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

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Comet Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting on March 14, 2022

March 30	2-Hour Early Dismissal - Teacher Professional Learning
April 14-19	No School for Students - Spring Break (Teachers have Professional Learning on April 19)
May 27	Last day of the 2021-2022 School Year - Tentative based on board approval - Includes two make-up days for students.

To view a calendar of events see the following link:

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

Board Notes for the March 14 Board of Education Meeting

APPROVED Open Enrollments

- Oliver McCutcheon - Grade 8 - Maquoketa to Bellevue
- Emery McCutcheon - Grade 9 - Maquoketa to Bellevue
- Sophia Gorton - Grade 12 - Bellevue to Dubuque (from Warren, Illinois)
- MacKenzie Millman - Grade 3 - Dubuque to Bellevue
- Knox Jones - Grade PK - Easton Valley to Bellevue
- Lydia Jones - Grade 5 - Easton Valley to Bellevue
- Indiana Jones - Grade Kindergarten - Easton Valley to Bellevue
- Jonathan Bahl - 3PK - Andrew to Bellevue
- Rachel Brandenburg - Grade 3 - Dubuque to Bellevue
- Harper Bahl - Grade 3 - Andrew to Bellevue
- Hudson Bahl - Grade 2 - Andrew to Bellevue

*Also adding three students next school year from Delwood who will be changing residence to the Bellevue CSD.

APPROVED Resignations

- Makenna Christensen - 5th Grade - Accepting a job in the DeWitt Central CSD as a 7th/8th grade ELA Teacher
- Jamie Deering - Head HS Softball Coach - Moving out of the area for other employment and career opportunities.

Recognize any Visitors

No one from the public was in attendance.

Comet Curriculum Presentation

Note the recent graduation rates from the Iowa Department of Education. Note that these are deceptive as some students with IEP's who remain in school are listed as "non-graduates" even though it is part of their educational plan. As a whole, statewide averages decreased, with most reasons for this being pandemic-related.

The goal, regardless, should be to have 100% of our general students earn a diploma in 4-years (while still allowing our students who are extending their education with an IEP, etc to continue with needed training).

Graduation Rates

	<u>Bellevue</u>	<u>State</u>
2005	93.44%	90.7%
2006	89.06	90.8%
2007	94.9%	90.5%
2008	100%	88.7%
2009	93.5%	87.2%
2010	100%	88.8%
2011	95.8%	88.3%
2012	100%	92.1%
2013	96.0%	89.7%
2014	98.2%	90.5%
2015	96.5%	90.8%
2016	98.04%	91.3%
2017	93.75%	91.0%
2018	97.78%	91.4%
2019	98.33%	91.6%
2020	92.3%	91.8%
2021	92.31% (91.1%)	90.2%

Bellevue CSD Average over the last 5 years: 94.89%; State Average: 91.42

Bellevue CSD Average over the last 16 years: 95.88%; State Average: 90.325

Dropout Rate

	<u>Bellevue</u>	<u>State</u>
2005	0.88%	2.14%
2006	2.28%	2.14%
2007	0.94%	2.31%
2008	0.48%	2.85%
2009	0.33%	2.16%
2010	0.31%	2.34%
2011	0.63%	2.32%
2012	0.31%	2.18%
2013	0.90%	2.83%
2014	0.31%	2.70%
2015	1.20%	2.48%
2016	0.32%	2.8%
2017	0.31%	2.8%

2018	0.90%	2.67%
2019	0.57	2.7% (est.)
2020	0.6	2.2%
2021	0.64	2.9%

Area School Rates (%)

Alburnett	88.7
Anamosa	91.4
Bellevue	91.1
Cal-Wheat	94.7
Camanche	91.1
Clayton Ridge	88.6
Clinton	85.9
DeWitt Central	95.0
Dubuque	81.9
Durant	91.1
Easton Valley	91.4
Lisbon	93.3
Maquoketa	90.9
Midland	94.1
Monticello	94.8
Northeast	97.0
North Cedar	88.5
Tipton	87.3
West Branch	89.6
West Liberty	89.9
Western Dubuque	99.6
Wilton	88.9

School Calendar Public Hearing

and

Approve the School Calendar

The Board was given the following two drafts of proposed calendars for the 2022-2023 school year. Some key points:

1. The start date is on Tuesday, August 23.
2. Both calendars end the 1st semester before winter break.
3. Early Dismissal Dates
 - a. Draft 9 has 12 early dismissal dates for teacher professional learning;
 - b. Draft 10 has 8 early dismissal days for teacher professional learning
 - c. Other districts as a whole near us are having early dismissal every Wednesday.

- d. Most in the DLT meeting preferred draft #9 with 12 professional learning dismissal times. I explained the concern about the impact on afternoon preschool, daycare, and scheduling in general for parents. Teachers understood this as well, but did feel that the 12 were better-suited for their professional learning needs at the building and district level to assist students. In the case of the 12 days, we would have one day designed for building/district professional learning and some individual/grade level/curricular area time, plus one day of the month for the collaborative time mentioned and individual preparation time. We would also do something similar with the 8 days in the other calendar draft. Ultimately, the professional learning time gives teachers the time to discuss student interventions in a timely manner.
4. This would include 178 school days for students according to "state-counting" of days with conferences. We have been at 180 and 179 days in previous years. This amount is impacted by the number of teacher full-day professional development days.
5. Students would have over the 1080 required hours (6.5 hours on a normal day are counted as school-contact hours). Draft 9 has 1125 hours, while Draft 10 has 1133 hours. This still provides for 8 days beyond the required hours for Draft 10, with nearly 7 days for Draft 9.

The Board APPROVED Draft 10 with 8 early-dismissal dates.

Bellevue Community School District 2022–2023 (Draft #9)

CALENDAR LEGEND

Quarter/Semester End	
Vacation Day	
Professional Learning Day	
New Teacher Day	
Early Dismissal	

Summary of Calendar

First Semester	519.0
Second Semester	<u>606.0</u>
Total Student Hours	1125.0

Labor Day: Sept. 5
 Thanksgiving Day: Nov. 24
 New Year's Day: Jan. 1
 Presidents Day: Feb. 20
 Memorial Day: May 29

- This calendar ends the semester before Winter Break.
- This has early dismissal dates that align with a proposed calendar from Maquoketa (which Andrew and EV will likely emulate).
 - Yet, the other districts are looking at having every Wednesday be an early-dismissal.
- This calendar has early dismissals scheduled for every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in most cases.
- 2021-2022 had 5 early dismissals for Teacher Professional Learning during the school year; This calendar has 12 during the 2022-2023 school year. Full-Day Professional Learning Days for 2022-2023 are equivalent to the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Parent-Teacher Conference Early Dismissals are not Professional Learning Days.
- What impact does our schedule have on Teachers? Families? Student Learning?

August					Student Days	Student Hours
M	T	W	R	F		
1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26	4	26
29	30	31			7	45.5
September						
			1	2	9	58.5
5	6	7	8	9	13	84.5
12	13	14	15	16	18	115
19	20	21	22	23	23	147.5
26	27	28	29	30	28	178
October						
3	4	5	6	7	33	210.5
10	11	12	13	14	38	239
17	18	19	20	21	43	271.5
24	25	26	27	28	48	302
31					48	302
November						
	1	2	3	4	52	328
7	8	9	10	11	57	358.5
14	15	16	17	18	62	391
21	22	23	24	25	64	404
28	29	30			67	423.5
December						
			1	2	69	436.5
5	6	7	8	9	74	469
12	13	14	15	16	79	499.5
19	20	21	22	23	82	519
26	27	28	29	30		519
January						
2	3	4	5	6	84	532
9	10	11	12	13	89	562.5
16	17	18	19	20	93	588.5
23	24	25	26	27	98	619
30	31				100	632
February						
		1	2	3	103	651.5
6	7	8	9	10	108	682
13	14	15	16	17	113	714.5
20	21	22	23	24	117	738.5
27	28				119	751.5
March						
		1	2	3	122	771
6	7	8	9	10	127	799.5
13	14	15	16	17	132	832
20	21	22	23	24	137	862.5
27	28	29	30	31	142	895
April						
3	4	5	6	7	146	921
10	11	12	13	14	149	940.5
17	18	19	20	21	154	973
24	25	26	27	28	159	1003.5
May						
1	2	3	4	5	164	1036
8	9	10	11	12	169	1066.5
15	16	17	18	19	174	1099
22	23	24	25	26	178	1125
29	30	31				
June						
		1	2			
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

Date	Event
Aug. 15	New Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 16-19	Professional Learning
Aug. 22	Teacher Work Day
Aug. 23	Student First Day – 1 st Semester Starts
Sept. 5	No School: Labor Day
Sept. 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Sept. 28	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Oct. 12	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 13	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 14	No School
Oct. 21	End of 1 st Quarter (43 days)
Oct. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Oct. 31	No School – Teacher Professional Learning
Nov. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Nov. 23-25	No School: Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Dec. 21	End of 2 nd Quarter/1 st Semester (39 days/82 days)
Dec. 22-30	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 2-3	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 4	Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 5	2 nd Semester Starts
Jan. 11	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 16	No School- MLK Day – Teacher Professional Learning
Jan. 25	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Feb. 8	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Feb. 20	No School- President's Day
Feb. 22	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Mar. 8	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mar. 9	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mar. 10	No School
Mar. 17	End of 3 rd Quarter (50days)
Mar. 22	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
Apr. 7-11	No School – Spring Break
Apr. 11	Teacher Professional Learning
Apr. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
May 10	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
May 25	End of 4 th Quarter/2 nd Semester (46/96 days)
May 27	High School Graduation
May 29	Memorial Day
May 30	Teacher Professional Learning

Bellevue Community School District 2022–2023 (Draft #10)

CALENDAR LEGEND

Quarter/Semester End	
Vacation Day	
Professional Learning Day	
New Teacher Day	
Early Dismissal	

Summary of Calendar

First Semester	523.0
Second Semester	610.0
Total Student Hours	1133.0

HOLIDAYS:

Labor Day: Sept. 5
 Thanksgiving Day: Nov. 24
 New Year's Day: Jan. 1
 Presidents Day: Feb. 20
 Memorial Day: May 29

- This calendar ends the semester before Winter Break.
- This has early dismissal dates that align with a proposed calendar from Maquoketa (which Andrew and EV will likely emulate).
 - Yet, the other districts are looking at having every Wednesday be an early-dismissal.
- This calendar has early dismissals scheduled for a variety of times on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday (recognizing when the week or nearby weeks have an altered schedule in some manner).
- 2021-2022 had 5 early dismissals for Teacher Professional Learning during the school year; This calendar has 8 during the 2022-2023 school year. Full-Day Professional Learning Days for 2022-2023 are equivalent to the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Parent-Teacher Conference Early Dismissals are not Professional Learning Days.
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M	T	W	R	F		
1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26	4	26
29	30	31			7	45.5
September						
			1	2	9	58.5
5	6	7	8	9	13	84.5
12	13	14	15	16	18	115
19	20	21	22	23	23	147.5
26	27	28	29	30	28	180
October						
3	4	5	6	7	33	212.5
10	11	12	13	14	38	241
17	18	19	20	21	43	273.5
24	25	26	27	28	48	306
31					48	306
November						
	1	2	3	4	52	332
7	8	9	10	11	57	362.5
14	15	16	17	18	62	395
21	22	23	24	25	64	408
28	29	30			67	427.5
December						
			1	2	69	440.5
5	6	7	8	9	74	473
12	13	14	15	16	79	503.5
19	20	21	22	23	82	523
26	27	28	29	30		523
January						
2	3	4	5	6	84	536
9	10	11	12	13	89	568.5
16	17	18	19	20	93	594.5
23	24	25	26	27	98	625
30	31				100	638
February						
		1	2	3	103	657.5
6	7	8	9	10	108	688
13	14	15	16	17	113	720.5
20	21	22	23	24	117	746.5
27	28				119	759.5
March						
		1	2	3	122	779
6	7	8	9	10	127	807.5
13	14	15	16	17	132	840
20	21	22	23	24	137	870.5
27	28	29	30	31	142	903
April						
3	4	5	6	7	146	929
10	11	12	13	14	149	948.5
17	18	19	20	21	154	981
24	25	26	27	28	159	1011.5
May						
1	2	3	4	5	164	1044
8	9	10	11	12	169	1074.5
15	16	17	18	19	174	1107
22	23	24	25	26	178	1133
29	30	31				
June						
			1	2		
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

Date	Event
Aug. 15	New Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 16-22	Professional Learning
Aug. 22	Teacher Work Day – No Meetings
Aug. 23	Student First Day – 1 st Semester Starts
Sept. 5	No School: Labor Day
Sept. 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
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Apr. 7-11	No School – Spring Break
Apr. 11	Teacher Professional Learning
Apr. 26	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
May 10	2-Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Professional Learning
May 25	End of 4 th Quarter/2 nd Semester (46/96 days)
May 27	High School Graduation
May 29	Memorial Day
May 30	Teacher Professional Learning

Comet Finance Information

Penny and Meyer shared some information in regard to our budget for FY23 at the meeting and looking at property taxes for the budget.

The Board reviewed some proposed budgets for the 22-23 school year (FY23). At this point, the range of decrease in taxes (once again this year) will be somewhere between .16621 to .33708. There is also another scenario we discussed that impacted the Income Surtax as well which could be beneficial specifically if the district moves forward with a referendum at some point in the future. The Board needed to make a decision at this meeting in order for the proposed budget to be published prior to our next meeting. Last year's rate was 10.87334. The proposals for this year are the following:

- 10.70713
- 10.53626
- 10.69928

The Board also was presented with information on "Cash Reserve Levy" and "Management" funds.

The Board APPROVED to have the budget published with the tax rate of 10.53626, which is a DECREASE of 0.33708 for the FY23. There will be a public hearing on April 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM to discuss and approve a budget.

Tax Rates of Local School Districts - 2021

The following is information in regard to tax rates in our area (nearby schools, conference schools, and those of our general size in a 90-minute drive or so. **Bold school districts** are those that neighbor our district directly (Remember a General Obligation Bond is an increase of \$2.70).

Alburnett	15.17224
Anamosa	15.78226
Andrew	11.61124
BELLEVUE	10.87334
Bettendorf	12.87278
Cal-Wheat	11.99043
Camanche	12.61466
Central DeWitt	14.09356
Clayton Ridge	11.88490
Clinton	16.73437
Delwood	11.87320
Dubuque	14.66255
Durant	11.49470
Easton Valley	14.72135
Lisbon	18.24483
Maquoketa	13.13110
Midland	14.00866
Monticello	14.16469
North Cedar	13.38614
Northeast	14.86920

Springville	15.47625
Tipton	11.60354
West Branch	15.35028
West Liberty	14.28197
Western Dubuque	11.23215
Wilton	14.78094

Some general information in regard to our finances at this time...

State Supplemental Aid

- With our increase in enrollment we will be benefited by the 2.5%, but also recognize that this is limited to this year and a decrease in enrollment (as I predict for next year) will have an impact. It is important to recognize this as we plan for next year and beyond with potentially less money being granted to us based on enrollment next year, etc. But...still a positive for us, as you can see from the following information.
 - *We are technically getting 7.88% new money based on our significant enrollment increase, but this does not take into account the potential drop next year (which I will be very surprised if we do not have a drop of 10 students or so next year based on the graduating class of upper 50's and an incoming kindergarten of mid-upper 40's). But, I can also not predict that with accuracy.*



Impact on New Money, Budget Guarantee, and Funding

Select District From Dropdown

Bellevue

0585

Projections - Cells shaded in green can be changed

Bellevue

Data For:

FY22: SSA for FY 2022 has been set at 2.40%.

FY22: Also, the legislature added \$10 to the state cost per pupil for FY 2022.

FY23: HF 2316 establishes the FY 2023 SSA rate at 2.5% and provides \$5 in per pupil equity.

Fiscal Year	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Est. FY 2023**	Est. FY 2024**
Budget Enrollment	574.2	581.2	595.3	600.1	590.7	623.1	636.0
Supplemental State Aid (Allowable Growth)	1.10%	1.00%	2.06%	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%	1.00%
Dollar Change Cost Per Student	73	67	139	158	169	181	74
State Cost Per Student Before Equity Legislation	6,664	6,731	6,875	7,038	7,217	7,408	7,487
Equity Legislation: Additional Amount to the State Cost Per Pupil==>	0	5	10	10	10	5	0
Adjusted State Cost Per Pupil Amount==>	6,664	6,736	6,880	7,048	7,227	7,413	7,487

Supplemental State Aid (SSA) and Equity Growth Impact on the District Cost Per Pupil***

Equity Impact on District's Cost Per Pupil Amount==>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District Cost Per Pupil Growth Due to SSA Rate==>	139	158	169	169	169	181	74
Total Increase in the District Cost Per Pupil==>	139	158	169	158	169	181	74
Districts Cost Per Pupil with Impact==>	6,927	7,085	7,254	7,254	7,254	7,435	7,509

Area	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Est. FY 2023**	Est. FY 2024**
District Cost Per Student	6,721	6,788	6,927	7,085	7,254	7,435	7,509
Regular Program Cost/W-O Budget Guarantee	3,859,198	3,945,186	4,123,643	4,251,709	4,284,938	4,632,749	4,775,724
Budget Guarantee	0	0	0	0	9,288	0	0
Regular Program Cost/With Budget Guarantee	3,859,198	3,945,186	4,123,643	4,251,709	4,294,226	4,632,749	4,775,724
Prior Year Regular Program Cost/With Budget Guarantee	3,745,748	3,859,198	3,945,186	4,123,643	4,251,709	4,294,226	4,632,749
"New Money"	113,450	85,988	178,457	128,066	42,517	338,523	142,976
Percent New Money	3.03%	2.23%	4.52%	3.11%	1.00%	7.88%	3.09%

**Prepopulated enrollment projections for FY 2023 through FY 2027 are based on Department of Education enrollment projections.

***Provision implemented in FY 2019 through FY 2022 increased the state cost per pupil reducing the range in the difference in the district cost per pupil amounts. This provision may continue for future fiscal years, but is requires legislative action. Depending on the situation, this provision may not increase the new money amount, but instead increase the regular program amount and reduce the budget guarantee amount.

Data displayed is based on 327 districts beginning in FY 2022.

Updated December 2021

Source of data includes Department of Education, Department of Management, and IASB calculations.

Weather-Related Information and No-School Days...
Plus Last Day of the 21-22 School Year

Below are days we have had "no-school" and partial days:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Amount of Hours Missed</u>
January 5	No School	6.5 hours
January 7	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
January 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal	2 hours
January 25	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
January 26	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
February 22	No School	6.5 hours
February 25	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
March 7	No School (<i>State Basketball</i>)	<u>6.5 hours</u> 29.5 hours

Remember a few things in regard to requirements:

1. **Hours** - We must attend with students for a total of 1080 hours. At the start of the year, we were scheduled for 1146 hours. As of now, we have 1116.5 hours (this includes March 7).
2. **Ending the School Year** - In the last few years, if my memory and notes serve me correctly, we have looked to end school with students if needed in the same week that we were scheduled to end it. For example, this year we were to end it on Wednesday, May 25. This would mean that we would now end it on May 27, and would not make up the state tournament day with our students.
3. **Teacher Contracts** - Teachers are on a 188-day contract. Teachers will still make-up this contracted day to meet requirements, but will have some flexibility in making up this time for the state tournament day (there may be more than one day...hopefully!). Additionally, when we have ended the year for students and teachers have left-over days on their contract we have used it for some type of professional learning (personalized, small groups, or large groups). This also provides some time for custodial staff to clean rooms/move rooms, do projects around the buildings, etc.

APPROVED - Meyer recommended to make up two days for students, but not extend the school year beyond May 27 for students. Teachers will need to make up all contractual days.

The following is a letter I sent to teachers on Tuesday, and their requirements to make up their 6.5 hours that is typically with students on a daily basis:



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BELLEVUE COMETS
 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Bellevue Certified Teaching Staff
 From: Tom Meyer, Superintendent
 Date: March 1, 2022
 Re: Teaching Contract Days - State Tournament Game on March 7, 2022

The last day of school for students as planned by the Bellevue CSD at this time will be on Friday, May 27. This is two extended days from the scheduled original last day of May 25 and corresponds with the two weather-related days when we did not have school. A desire a few years ago expressed by the school board was to not extend the last day of school into June or after Memorial Day, and this aligns with that plan. Additionally, the required hours for students are still being met, as we are required to have 1080 hours with students. We were scheduled to have 1146 hours, but after Monday we will still have 1116.5 hours with students, increasing to 1129.5 after two make-up days with students.

While we do not have school on Monday, March 7 as a result of the Bellevue Comet boy's basketball game in Des Moines, it also means a contract day for teachers when they will not be with students. At this time, the plan is to allow teachers the flexibility to make up this day of 6.5 teaching hours based on their schedules and their own personalized needs for their role as a teacher.

As professionals, teachers will have the professional obligation and responsibility to make up this contractual time on their own by May 1 before or after school, on a non-school day, or some other time (including on March 7 if a teacher decides to not attend the game and wishes to work that day). If this time is not completed by a teacher by May 1, then the final contractual day will be added to the end of the calendar (June 1 at this time, since the last teacher day will be on Tuesday, May 31) for the teacher. When time is completed by the teacher, they will need to email their building principal to let them know they have fulfilled their contractual obligation.

If anyone has questions about this plan, please contact me. I encourage you to attend the game in Des Moines on March 7 (along with future games that week ideally). Thanks for all you do.

Below are days we have had "no-school" and partial days that were not scheduled:

Date	Action	Number of Hours Missed
January 5	No School	6.5 hours
January 7	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
January 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal	2 hours
January 25	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
January 26	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
February 22	No School	6.5 hours
February 25	2-Hour Late Start	2 hours
*March 7	No School (State Basketball)	<u>6.5 hours</u>
		29.5 hours

*Upcoming no-school date.

BELIEVE IN THE BLUE

It is the policy of the Bellevue Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender identity, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, services, or employment practices.

Below is the letter for non-certified staff that will not be paid for Monday of the State Tournament (recognize they also are not paid for time during early dismissals or late starts if they are not working).



SUPERINTENDENT

Tom Meyer
Phone: 563.872.4001 ext. 260
Fax: 563.872.3216

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BELLEVUE COMETS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Bellevue Non-Certified Staff
From: Tom Meyer, Superintendent
Date: March 2, 2022
Re: Last Day of School and State Tournament Game on March 7, 2022

The last day of school for students as planned by the Bellevue CSD at this time will be on Friday, May 27. This is two extended days from the scheduled original last day of May 25 and corresponds with the two weather-related days when we did not have school. A desire a few years ago expressed by the school board was to not extend the last day of school into June or after Memorial Day, and this aligns with that plan. Additionally, the required hours for students are still being met, as we are required to have 1080 hours with students. We were scheduled to have 1146 hours, but after Monday we will still have 1116.5 hours with students, increasing to 1129.5 after two make-up days with students.

As a result of not having school on Monday, March 7 staff will not be working that day. I also recognize this impacts your pay as an hourly employee of the Bellevue CSD (as do dates when we have late-starts or early-dismissals), and I understand some of your disappointment with this action. Your work is appreciated, and the district attempts to balance all aspects as much as possible when decisions are made. Once again, your work is appreciated and you are a vital aspect of our school and the lives and learning of students. You make a difference!

If anyone has questions about this, please contact me. I encourage you to attend the game in Des Moines on March 7 (along with future games that week ideally). Thanks for all you do.

FYI - Below are days we have had "no-school" and partial days that were not scheduled:

Date	Action	Number of Hours Missed
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Sections, Space, and Facilities

Meyer focused on two areas below with the Board:

1. Sections and Space (including modulars and other buildings)
2. Master Plan

THE BOARD MADE THE DECISION TO HAVE THREE SECTIONS OF 4TH GRADE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, AND TO MOVE STEM AND SOME OTHER AREAS TO NEW LOCATIONS IN THE BUILDING TO ALLOW THIS TO WORK FOR ONE MORE YEAR (This is far from ideal for the STEM room and other areas (Library, Art, Music, etc, but we will make this work for one more year). ADDITIONALLY, THE BOARD CHOSE TO NOT HAVE A MODULAR OR OTHER TYPE OF BUILDING. BUT WILL LOOK AT SOME RESTRUCTURING POTENTIALLY FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR WITH GRADE LEVELS ROOMS, ETC. MORE INFORMATION TO COME, AFTER A MASTER FACILITIES PLAN IS DEVELOPED/REFINED FOR THE DISTRICT (SEE BELOW).

Information Shared:

1. Sections - We have talked about this many times, but some basic information:
 - Time is becoming limited for a portable or building. Regardless of the cost of the building, there is still roughly \$40,000-75,000 in cost to get the building established on our grounds. Would we be better off to make it work one more year and develop a plan for the 2023-2024 school year?

While we discussed this to a point at our last meeting, it is important to note that what we do with this upcoming year's 4th grade will have an impact potentially on future years. For example, the next three years after next year's 4th grade will be as large (in fact larger). At some point, we will be forced to go to three sections in most likely scenarios. Does that mean that we should start this next year? What about 5th grade in the 2023-2024 school year? Are kids likely more mature at that age? The rooms are larger, and that may have some impact on the decision-making as well. With less than 60, will they likely be two sections at the MS/HS eventually? What about having the 4th grade move to the 5th grade rooms for this upcoming year to give them more space (and move 5th to 4th grade rooms)? The square footage comparison is the following:

- Current 5th Grade Rooms - 950 square feet and 865 square feet
- Current 4th Grade Rooms - 800 Square feet (both the same size)

Some things to consider:

- What is best for the students and their learning and the learning environments within the current building? In our current set-up when do we move forward and simply move forward with another building to accommodate for needs?
- Do we want/need to invest in this to make space? How "short-term" or "long-term" is a building? This is an ongoing issue...when do we do something different with another building of some type?
- Do we make our current situation work for another year and move the Makerspace room to the teacher's workroom (that also is the Art Room, partially the library, and a general meeting room)?
- What about the need for an Ag building in the future? STEM building? Other updates? Do we put a building up at the ms/hs campus for 5th grade and then eventually utilize it for STEM/Ag?

- Do we look to move a classroom into the lunchroom area and eat in the gym? There are issues with this also.
- What do we do with snow removal and parking if we place any type of building on the two lots we are discussing?

Below is some information historically in our district, and guidelines in other districts that I recently compiled and will share with teachers next week.

Grade Level Sections Summary

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
2010-2011	34	35	50	39
2011-2012	46	34	53	52
2012-2013	34	49	36	55
2013-2014	43	38	35	41
2014-2015	36	39	37	43
2015-2016	42	35	49	39
2016-2017	37	44	38	53
2017-2018	37	38	49	40
2018-2019	48	41	42	48
2019-2020	54*	52*	44	44
2020-2021	57*	54*	41	44
2021-2022	64*	59*	42	41

*Indicates three sections

Other Districts Guidelines

<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Pleasant Valley</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>	<u>Maquoketa</u>	<u>North Cedar</u>
K-2 24	K 22	K-1 20	K <20	K <20
3-5 27	1-3 24	2-3 22	1-2 <25	1-2 <25
	4-6 25	4-6 24	3-5 <28	3-5 <28
				*Look at Sp.Ed. #s also
<u>Cal-Wheat</u>	<u>West Branch</u>	<u>Durant & Wilton</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	
K-2 25	K-2 <25	Try to keep	Currently	
3-5 TBD	3-5 25? (TBD)	at 22-24, but	sections of 51	
		do go around	and 53 that	
		25-30	are 3 sections	
<u>Andrew/EV/ Delwood</u>	<u>Monticello</u>	<u>DeWitt Central</u>		
K-2 20	K 19	K 22		
3-5 <25	1-2 low 20's	1-3 24		
	3-6 upper 20's	4-6 25		

Keys:

All classes are different
Recognize the needs of students for section sizes

2. Master Plan - Meyer expressed his belief that the district needs to have a "master plan" for our district facilities and campuses. OPN submitted a proposal that was accepted by the Bellevue CSD Board of Education.

*This does not include support for any elementary pre-bond support (narratives, graphics, models, mailers, community meetings, etc.) as this is yet to be determined as a pathway to follow for the future.

Capital Improvement Projects - 2022 Projects and Purchases:
"Working List" from this year and previous years

APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF CHROMEBOOKS ONLY (having them arrive prior to summer to set up is a good option if possible). THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS OTHER ITEMS AT THE APRIL BOARD MEETING.

Below is information on work for this summer. I have placed an "*" beside those I view as priorities (with more to potentially be added after conversation at the Board meeting and other times).

- **Cameras - End of this section** **Estimated Total: \$30,000**

- ***Gym Floors (normal scheduled maintenance) - ~~\$6000 (estimate)~~ \$5,767**

This would be our annual refinishing for the MS/HS floors. We will not do the elementary gym floor this year as it is on a rotational "as needed" schedule and it was completed last summer.

- ***Vinyl Tiles in Elementary Classroom Restrooms** **Estimated Total: TBD**

The tile needs to be replaced in the restrooms between some elementary classrooms. We would replace this on our own. We will do this on our own, and cost is minimal overall.

- **Paint Classrooms (as time permits and needed)** **Estimated Total: \$150/room**

If we are moving classrooms this year in the summer it would make sense to paint the classrooms as well.

- ***Commons Area Carpet** **Estimated Total: TBD**

This is a relatively small area overall, so I would not expect the price to be significant. But, it is needed. This area has been used for about 12 years now every day during the school year, plus during extracurricular activities.

- ***Locker Room Duct Work** **Estimated Total: TBD**

The locker room "duct coverings" are becoming very tattered in the boys high school locker room. This is partly (if not solely) due to student abuse toward it. We are investigating a more durable covering on the duct work.

Athletic Areas

- ***Football Field/Track Area** **Estimated Price: Our own labor and rental of equipment**

Basic annual care; Fertilizer, etc.

- ***North Shed** **Estimated Price: \$500-1000**

This area is being cleaned out of old items (chairs, etc.) that are not needed. It would be used for a halftime area for visiting teams.

- **Press Box** **Estimated Price:TBD**

The building is aging (1st and 2nd floor are from 1972 approximately, and the top floor is from an addition built on to it in the mid-1980s). We are once again going to be examining the flooring on the upper levels to make sure it is still solid and able to hold the appropriate weight of the number of people in the area (we have also done this in the past). Additionally, we will be looking at the stability of the building overall. This will be a future project, to build a new press box, the question is if it is this year or a later year. Also, is the current location the right location for a future parking lot by a new elementary potentially in the future.

- **Football Scoreboard** **Estimated Price: \$20,000-\$125,000**

- *New Scoreboard: This could include a fundraising drive in some manner with the community, especially if we would want to do a larger board or have athletics pay for this solely. This may also be connected with upgrading further in the future after a referendum, etc.*

- **Play Clock for Football (included with new scoreboard systems)**

Facilities/Vehicles (February 2022)

(this may not be all-inclusive)

- **Bus (2022-2023 purchase)** **Estimated Total: \$110,000 (diesel)**
Estimate Total: \$275,000 (electric)*
**Something to think about for the future.*
- **Suburban (2022-2023 or 2023-2024 purchase)** **Estimated Total: ~~\$65,000~~ \$43,336 (special school rate)**
All-Wheel Drive - TBD
 - Currently
 - 2001 - 175,000 miles; OK mechanically, but rust holes (student trips)
 - 2001 - 195,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (student trips)
 - 2007 - 163,000 miles; OK mechanically, but starting to rust (PK/SE)
 - 2007 - 191,000 miles; OK mechanically, but a little rust (Student trips)
 - 2008 - 98,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body (PK/SE)

- 2009 - 203,000 miles; OK condition mechanically and body (Student Trips)
- 2015 - 106,000 miles in good condition (Student Trips)
- **Cars/Etc.**
 - 1992 Snow Truck - Fair condition at best (not used much)
 - 1994 Truck - 80,000 miles; OK...at best; Maintenance Truck
 - 1-Ton Pickup set up for a snow plow- **\$36,509 (special school rate)**
 - Combining these two vehicles above into one vehicle will be a future endeavor; Additionally a trailer to transport equipment (lifts, etc.) would be useful (Trailer estimate \$7000)
 - The truck is 28 years old...usual rotation at the time of purchase was every 20 years)
 - 2000 Buick - 138,000 miles; OK mechanically and some rust (lunch)
 - 2002 Buick - 185,000 miles; OK mechanically, and rust-gravel (PK/SE)
 - 2005 Van - 110,000 miles; OK mechanically, some rust starting (lunch)
 - 2006 Impala - 181,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)
 - 2015 Impala - 93,000 miles; OK mechanically and body (Staff/Students)

Future Potential Projects

- **Windows in MS/HS Building** **Estimated Total: TBD (few are giving "hard" estimates at this time)**

This would entail making the windows larger and more operable to allow for improved air flow and natural ventilation. It would be a purchase of a window, plus expanding the size where the window is located. The windows in the original rooms are small to say the least in the MS Hallway area.

- **Flooring in MS/HS Hallways** **Estimated Total: From January 2020**

"Trowel stained" floor like Hall of Pride is likely around \$12,000;
"Stained" cement (if possible), would likely be around \$10,000;
A tile floor is about \$9500;
An epoxy floor is around \$9000.

Benefits to any over other? The floor that takes the most work and chemicals to clean, etc is the tile floor; The floor that is most long-lasting and less labor and no chemicals (besides basic soap) is the stained or "troweled" floor; The epoxy floor is also less chemicals, but will show scratches and scrapes more often

- **HS Restroom Renovation** **Estimated Total: \$5,000**

These are our main restrooms during activities, and the appearance and usefulness need some potential updating. Possibly putting some type of partition up between new urinals would be a benefit for privacy; This is the low number and would need some more exploration on costs overall but it is in this range overall

- **Transportation: Bus Barn Hoist (used?)** **Estimated Total: \$2500-\$7500**
Ease/capability of doing repairs

- **Future Roof Needs**

- MS/HS Main Gym Roof - We had some repairs completed on this last summer, and believe it is going to last for 4-5 more years ideally. evaluated by someone who specializes in roofs and works with the district when some of the snow leaves (hopefully sooner than later).
- Aluminum Buildings - Some work will eventually need to be done in these areas.
- HS Hallway/Classroom Areas - No issues at this time, but this will be something to address in the next 5-10 years likely.

Other (Buildings/Facilities)

- **PK-12 Innovation Center (AG, Industrial Tech, and STEM) Estimated Total: \$250,000-\$400,000 (?)**

Ideally this would be utilized by students in all grade levels to replace the current Voc. Ag building which is not used by students at this time due to safety and learning concerns. Additionally, the Industrial Tech building is working okay at this time, but an investment may be good to combine the Ag and Industrial Tech/Manufacturing in one building (thereby also saving space as well). If an elementary school is built close to the MS/HS it would also be utilized for elementary students. This may be a potential "Wick-type" building in the future. This is a future aspect to seriously consider, as the ages of the building are starting to show.

Some specifics on ages include the following:

- Ag Building 1980
- Industrial Tech Building 1978
- Fine Arts Building 1978
- Bus Barn 1972

Does this project fit in with a long-term plan for facilities in the district? Locating the elementary school for the future on the MS/HS campus, so that we can plan where other buildings will be?

- **Bellevue Elementary School - \$16,000,000 Estimate**

This would impact work on an Ag/Stem/Industrial Tech Building, Music Room, Art Room, Athletic/Recreation Fields, and many other things depending on its location potentially on the campus of the Bellevue MS/HS Campus.

Technology & Instructional Items

Instructional Items

- ***Chromebooks: Estimated Total: \$300 X 100 = \$30,000**
 - This includes the computer, plus an "Education" upgrade/management for the devices.

Buying annually for 3rd grade & 6th Grade at this time. Likely look for approval on this in March of 2022 to order and get ready for the next school year.

Elementary Needs

(Likely wait on these until decisions about building made)

- Elementary Cafeteria Updates \$50,000-\$75,000
(Windows/Tables) Depends on future of building
- Elementary Playground Equipment
- Green Space
- Windows
- Boiler?

Cameras and Bus Behaviors

One idea to assist with bus issues when they occur (or to limit the number) is to put cameras on the buses. That has been discussed in the past. The issue with this is that it only serves as information "after the fact" of the behavior...but can show what happened to deal with those involved accurately based on video (and audio in some systems). We also must work to have expectations for our students on the buses as both school staff and parents. Below is some information on other districts and their uses of cameras...which would also mean dedicating time to watch the recordings as necessary. You will notice that all districts utilize cameras...we are the only one that does not have cameras, but that is not necessarily wrong either. We do not have a lot of issues with bus behavior, and most schools tell me that the cameras do NOT deter the behaviors necessarily.

<u>School District</u>	<u>Camera Use</u>	<u>Other Information</u>
Anamosa	Yes	Also on Stop Arm
Andrew	Yes	
Delwood	Yes	
DeWitt Central	Yes	Also on Stop Arm
Easton Valley	Yes	
Maquoketa	Yes	Also on Stop Arm
Monticello	Yes	
North Cedar	Yes	
Northeast	Yes	
Tipton	Yes	
West Branch	Yes	

There is a recording of these kept on a system that the transportation staff would look at when there are issues. An aspect that was mentioned to me by several districts was the need to recognize the time that will be necessary for staff to review recordings (and there will be requests from parents/students) for this.

I still believe we must have expectations of students on buses obviously...and deal with issues as they occur. No one would argue that from my perspective. How much are cameras needed? What about the cost?

I am working on quotes for cameras, but the one I have is from a system that some other districts utilize and it is around \$30,000. The camera systems over the last several years provide much better coverage as cameras are now

typically located in the front and back of the bus, along with along the sides to cover all areas. It is no longer a camera in front of the bus solely (that can easily be blocked unintentionally, or intentionally), as coverage needs to be more advanced if you are using cameras.

Girls Wrestling

APPROVED - As I shared recently, the IGHSAU approved Girls Wrestling for the 2022-2023 school year.

I met with Jeff Recker, Dave Wright, and Dave Ripperger about the planning for this a couple of weeks ago. Some things to consider with this are the following:

Needs:

- Additional coach in charge of the Girl's program, although they would still work with the current boy's coach (Dave Ripperger). This would allow them to attend girl's meets if they are not the same locations as boy's meets, as girls can NOT wrestle boys in the future at meets (although they can still practice together).
- Uniforms may be necessary for the girl's team.

Things already in place:

- Facilities - The wrestling room is big enough at this time for both teams; Looking at 4-5 girls potentially next year
- Material - Mats are already being utilized (although regardless, one will need to be reconditioned this summer likely)
- Team - We already have a boy's wrestling team.

I recommend the Board approve starting a girls wrestling program for the 2022-2023 school year.

While I have shared this before, the following is some "tentative" information in a FAQ format provided this week:



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union

5000 Westown Parkway * Suite 150 * West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Phone: (515) 288-9741

www.ighsau.org

Girls Wrestling FAQ

Q. Will girls wrestling be Folkstyle or Freestyle?

A. Folkstyle. This follows NFHS guidelines and current practice of IHSAA wrestling.

Q. How many girls does my school need to have a program?

A. One. We will be rolling this season out with a focus on wrestling as an individual sport. If programs can support numbers for full teams, they may compete in dual events. There will not be a state team dual postseason competition at this time.

Q. How many classes will there be for girls wrestling?

A. One. Currently, the number of participants in the sport allows for a single classification set-up. This will be re-evaluated annually as the sport grows.

Q. When and how does a school indicate that it will be offering a girl's wrestling program for the 2022-2023 school year?

A. There is already a process in place for schools to declare their intent to host programs each year, during membership registration. This is due by July 31st before each school year begins.

Q. Can schools set up cooperative sharing agreements in girls wrestling?

A. Yes, and because there is single classification, the host school will not have to take on enrollment numbers of the sharing schools.

Q. When do cooperative sharing agreements need to be declared?

A. Cooperative share agreements do not need to be officially decided until approximately one week after season starts. November 7th will be the deadline for the 2022-2023 season.

Q. If a school is in a current co-op for boys wrestling, will girls wrestling fall under that same cooperative agreement?

A. No. Each cooperative agreement specifically lists the sports that are included. Therefore, any girls co-op would require new paperwork.

Q. Can a school have one coach that coaches both the boys and the girls?

A. Yes. It will be similar to cross country where a school may have the same coach for the boys and the girls even though they are separate teams.

Q. Can the girls and the boys practice together?

A. Yes. Boys and girls are allowed to practice with each other at this time. Discretion for this matter will fall to local control.

Q. Can a female wrestler compete against boys?

A. No. Now that the IGHSAU has sanctioned girls wrestling, females will compete against females only.

Q. Do the sanctioning guidelines for High School girls wrestling also apply to Junior High girls wrestling?

A. Yes, separate programs are necessary for junior high programs to promote girls vs. girls only in competition. Local control still dictates JH length of season, start/end dates, etc. Girls may still practice with boys. Sharing a coach is also local control. An event may consist of a girls' division and a boys' division at the same location.

Q. Can junior high wrestlers practice with high school girls?

A. Yes. Practice for JH/HS wrestlers is under the discretion of local control. Junior high is considered 7th and 8th grade. Not 6th grade.

Q. Can junior high wrestlers compete with/against high school girls?

A. No. Junior high wrestlers may not compete for/against HS girls teams during the sanctioned season.

Q. When will the girls wrestling season start?

A. Anticipated date of first practice for girls wrestling will be Week 18 of the Unified Calendar. For the 2022-2023 season, this will be Monday, Oct. 31st, 2022.

Q. When will the first date of competition begin for the girls' season?

A. The first date of competition will be November 14, 2022.

Q. When will the IGHSAU State Wrestling Tournament take place?

A. Anticipated date for the first IGHSAU state tournament will be Thursday, Feb. 2nd- Friday, Feb. 3rd, 2023.

Q. Where will the IGHSAU State Tournament be held?

A. That site has not yet been determined. The IGHSAU is currently taking bids from venues and will make that announcement in spring of 2022.

Q. Will there be a qualifying meet for the state tournament?

A. Framework for this event is still being decided.

Q. How many competition dates will be allowed?

A. Same competition dates as IHSAA. This can be in the format of duals, scrambles, or tournaments.

Q. Can a girls event coincide with a boys event?

A. Yes. As long as they are in the system as different events (Trackwrestling IHSAA vs. IGHSAU) they can run together (but separate).

Q. What weight classes will be used for the 2021-22 season?

A. That has not yet been determined. Here are NFHS options for consideration:

- 1. NFHS 12 Wt Classes 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235
 - 2. NFHS 13 Wt Classes 100, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 148, 155, 170, 190, 235
 - 3. NFHS 14 Wt Classes 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 155, 170, 190, 235
- **Heavyweight class (TBD) may be added in if data supports **

Projected Timeline 2022-2023

January 2022:	IGHSAU Sanctioning Announcement
February 2022:	Communication to membership regarding updated information, advisory committee, and listing for commissioner of official's position
February 2022:	In person communication available at IHSAA state wrestling tournament, release of FAQ sheet
March 2022:	Advisory committee appointed, conducts initial meeting
March 2022:	Updates available at IHSADA convention
April 2022:	Season proposal finalized by the IGHSAU Board of Directors
April 2022:	Final plans communicated to member schools
August 2022:	IGHSAU girls wrestling sport manual mailed to schools
September 2022:	All preseason information available
October 31, 2022:	FIRST DATE OF GIRLS PRACTICE
November 7, 2022:	Last date to declare cooperative sharing for girls wrestling
November 14, 2022:	FIRST DATE OF GIRLS COMPETITION
December 2022:	Regional site location/assignments released
January 28, 2023:	*Possible* Regional state qualifier
February 2 & 3:	Individual state tournament

Student-Teaching Agreement

APPROVED - Meyer recommended the district approve student-teaching agreements with the University of Northern Iowa and Morningside College for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a formality, and it provides our current teachers with exposure to new teachers and some of their new ideas from their teacher preparation. This may also be a recruiting tool for new teachers.

Timberline Services - Medicaid

APPROVED - The district works with Timberline Billing Service for Medicaid reimbursement. This has been going on for about the last 6 years. Our contract is expiring, and I recommend we approve the continuation of our work with Timberline for the next three years in a new agreement. This is helpful as we submit Medicaid reimbursement, which the district gets about \$150,000 each year.

Comet Reading and Reflection - Editorial - Involvement in Schools

I found the following opinion piece in the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press interesting as we discuss "involvement" in schools...

OPINIONS AND COLUMNS

Iowa school debate needs a lesson in civics

A seat at the table.
Iowa Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver provided that succinct explanation last week of what his fellow Republicans are looking to provide to Iowa parents as the state's K-12 school districts wrestle with a host of controversies.

His colleague, Iowa Senate President Jake Chapman, set the tone a few weeks ago for addressing these controversies in this year's session of the Iowa Legislature. Chapman accused some teachers of having a "sinister agenda" toward their students and vowed to push for a law that would make it a felony for teachers and school librarians to provide students with books that Chapman and some parents believe are obscene.

During an appearance Friday on Iowa PBS's "Iowa Press" program, Whitver did not talk about the content of those books. Instead, he bluntly said he does not support criminalizing teachers' actions.

But Whitver did say senators are hearing from many parents who are troubled by the way local schools are being run, and lawmakers are looking at steps the Legislature could take. Their concerns deal with schools' responses to the pandemic, school curriculum, and now, about some books used in classes and available in school libraries.

"We are hearing concerns from parents, and our job is to listen to those concerns and try to address them," he said. "I think



RANDY EVANS

Freedom of Information Council

adding transparency is a really good way to do that — making sure our parents have a seat at the table in their kids' education, to give them a process to address any concerns they have."

He went on: "We really want to have this conversation about putting parents back in control of their kids' education."

Setting aside the content of some books and the question of whether they are appropriate for various ages of students, Whitver's analysis does not square with the reality in Iowa's K-12 school districts. He misleads people who may have forgotten what they learned in American government classes when they were in school.

Parents already do "have a seat at the table" to shape the education offered in their communities. Those seats are called the school board.

Parents already do run for these seats. Parents already do have a say in who will serve on that board — which is decided in odd-numbered years when voters go to the polls.

That board has the power to hire, and fire, administrators and teachers. That board sets policies on everything from the cost of school records to masks, curriculum and the cost of school lunches.

Parents do have a say in their children's education — during parent-teacher conferences, during meetings with school principals, during after-school discussions with their children's teachers, during the public forum at school board meetings, in letters to their local newspapers.

Every school district already has procedures in place for parents, or anyone else, to object to the content in certain books used during classes or available in school libraries. Those complaints trigger discussions and decisions by committees of educators and community members on whether to restrict or remove certain books.

Every school district has procedures in place for parents to object to their child having to take part in certain class assignments. In those instances, teachers will provide alternate lessons for the child.

If parents do not think school officials are responding properly to the concerns they and other parents raise, those parents already have the option of running for a school board seat or supporting another can-

didate who shares their views.

Parents who are so dissatisfied with the way their local schools are operating have another powerful option: They can transfer their child to another school district or to a private school. They and like-minded parents can form a charter school in their community. Or, the ultimate example of parental authority over the education of their children comes when mom and dad decide to begin teaching their kids at home.

Whitver failed to acknowledge another fact of life that is present every day in the public's dealings with their elected leaders — whether that involves local school boards or city councils, county boards, state legislatures or Congress.

That fact of life is this: Just because one group of people want elected officials to take certain action, it still takes a majority of the members of a government body voting "yes" for that to occur. Just because one set of parents may be especially vocal does not automatically mean their wishes will, or should, supersede what other parents may want.

And if the vocal group is on the losing end of a vote, that just means the other side was more persuasive or had more supporters aligned with them.

See Joe Biden for a fuller explanation of this fact of life.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMREvans2810@gmail.com.

Information Items

- Student Activities and Academic Highlights - Meyer shared a few things, specifically about the Boy's Basketball Team at the State Tournament. The Athletic Department fundraiser raised approximately \$1800 from state t-shirts, and then another \$6250 from the auction of basketballs at the send-off/pep rally. Bills are still being calculated, but roughly \$3500 of this will be placed into a state tournament account for future use by basketball teams.
 - Some specific expenses included rooms for players & coaches (2 nights), and cheerleaders (1 night); meals (each player received \$40 in meal allowance, with some meals being bought from a separate \$1000 donation; Cheerleaders received \$24 each based on their shorter stay); The breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn was included in the room price of \$119/room.

Meyer also shared the outstanding support from the community, along with the exemplary behavior of our players and coaches after a very close game. It showed outstanding character.

Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of buying equipment to provide free livestreaming of our games via Youtube, etc in the future. Any thoughts?

- Legislative Update - Meyer shared updates on vouchers and curriculum bills.
- Teacher Retention - Iowa Department of Education - There has been a lot of discussion in school districts about "teacher retention" pay. This pay is designed to "keep" teachers in the district the rest of the school year...this has not been a concern for our district or most around us. Administrators in our area assumed this pay would be to "keep teachers" in our district (or in the profession at minimum) for the upcoming school year. That is not the case.

A statement from the Iowa Department of Education is the following:



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE

February 24, 2022

Use of State and Federal Funds to Promote Teacher Retention

Introduction

In her Condition of the State address on January 11, 2022, Governor Kim Reynolds announced that full-time classroom teachers in Iowa would receive a retention payment for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of this work, and as a means of providing premium pay to our educators, the State of Iowa (State) will offer \$1,000 to each full-time pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (PK-12) in-person classroom teacher who stayed on the job through the pandemic and continues teaching to the end of this school year.

Additional Clarification on Teacher Eligibility Criteria

The individual must:

- Hold a valid practitioner's license under Iowa Code chapter 272;
- Be a full-time (1.0 FTE as their teaching contract), in-person classroom teacher;
 - 0.9 teacher + 0.1 bus driver = 1.0 FTE as an actual teaching contract
- Complete the remainder of this current school year's teaching assignment;
- Have been hired as a full time, in-person classroom teacher by October 1, 2021;
- Work for a district, the Iowa School for the Deaf, the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a state accredited nonpublic school, a specially accredited nonpublic school, or an independently accredited nonpublic school; and
- Not be on administrative leave for disciplinary reasons, unless disciplinary reasons are resolved by June 30, 2022.
 - Examples of non-disciplinary leaves include maternity, medical, disability, jury duty, and bereavement.

What staff are considered classroom teachers:

- Grade-level teachers;
- Content area teachers;
- Title teachers;
- English learner teachers;
- Special education teachers.
- Physical education teachers;
- Music teachers; and
- Art teachers.

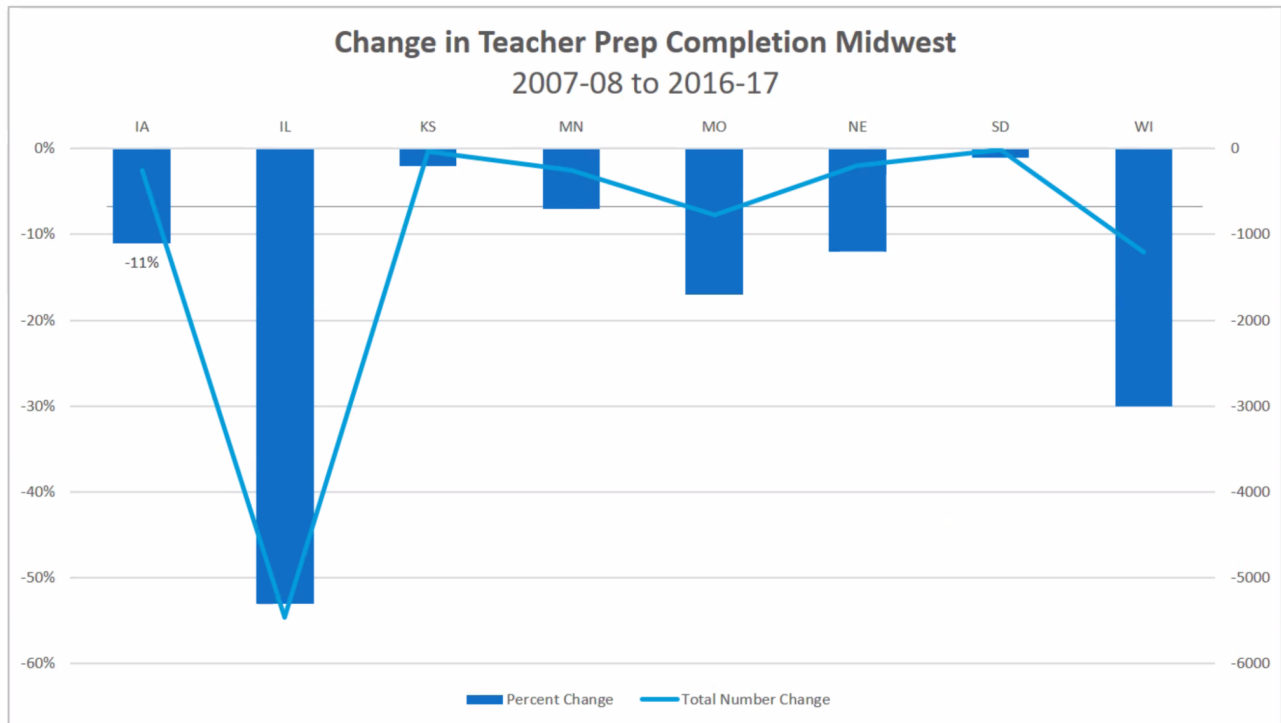
While there are many individuals within our school communities who provide critical support and services to students, the parameters for the teacher retention payments are specific to full-time, in-person classroom teachers. The parameters were set based on the finite amount of federal and state funding available to cover the retention payments. The Iowa Department of Education's role is to work with our district and school partners to distribute the funds to eligible teachers as quickly as possible.

The payments to teachers will happen later this month, and the district will be reimbursed based on our certification of qualified teachers.

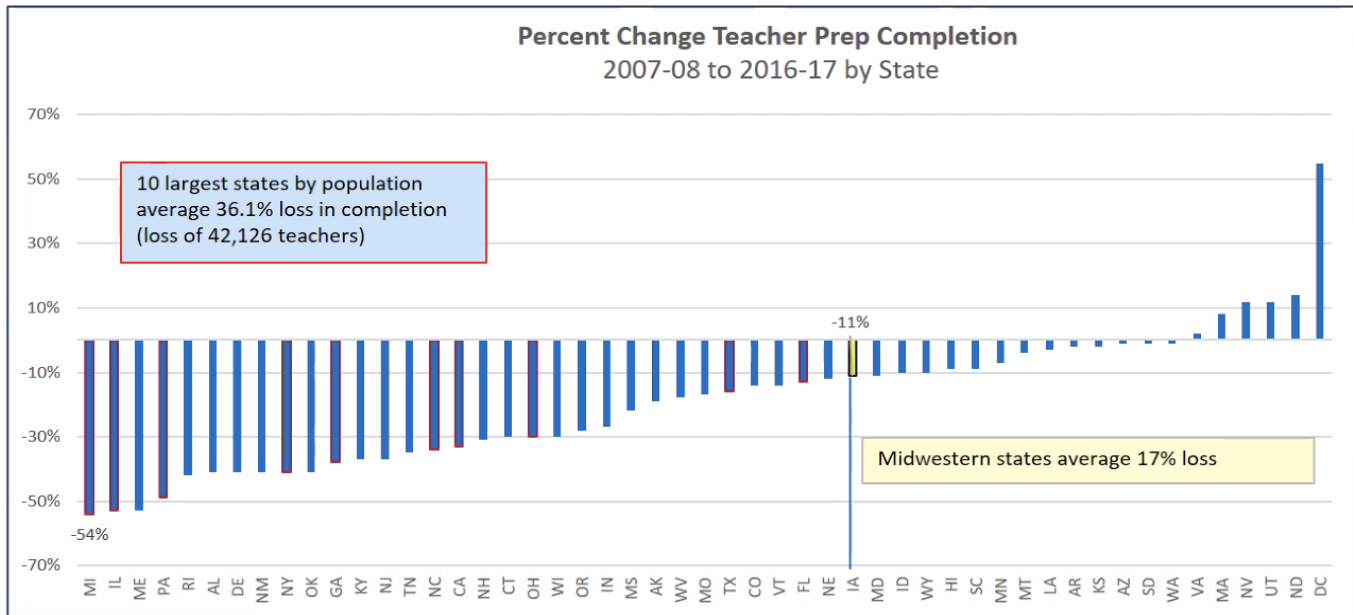
Nine teachers (TLC instructors, Teacher-Librarians, Counselors, School Nurse, and those who are not with students in a classroom all day) will not be included in this payment. Additionally, no payments are being directed toward associates, food service, custodial staff, administrators, bus drivers, and others in the district. Talking with neighboring and area districts they are all perplexed about this process. School districts could pay the teachers from another fund if they choose, but only a few districts that I know of are planning on doing this at this time. It does set up some future precedent for

other things that could/may happen in the future for payments to some staff but not others.

Below is some information on teacher retention and preparation in Iowa and other states, showing a reduction in teacher preparation graduates in the midwest (note that Illinois has decreased by over 50%, and Wisconsin by 30%...worse than Iowa by far where we have dropped by 11% - which is also past data of students enrolling in programs).



- Midwest total reduction in teacher prep completions was 8,183 over 10-year period (average loss of 17%.)
- Public School Enrollment increased by 1.5 million students during this time.
- Assuming 25 students average class size, the nation required 60,000 more teachers to educate these students.



Direct impact: states with growing enrollment are producing significantly less teachers. Iowa is producing slightly less teachers while demand increases (other-state recruiting strategies are competing for our completers)

Indirect impact: low unemployment generally means private sector business also competes for teachers to fill their labor-pool needs

Rural shortages are extreme: need to find great teachers committed to rural schools. Building from within the community is more likely to encourage retention.

This is a letter I sent to teachers, after talking with teachers who will not be receiving the extra money:

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Tom Meyer
Phone: 563.872.4001 ext. 260
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BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Teachers at the Bellevue CSD
From: Tom Meyer, Superintendent
Re: Teacher Retention Pay
Date: March 2, 2022

There has been a lot of discussion in school districts across the state about "Teacher Retention" pay. This pay was announced by Governor Kim Reynolds on January 11, 2022 in her Condition of the State address. The intent of the pay by the Governor and the DE is to "keep" teachers in the district the rest of the 2021-2022 school year.

In the last week, the Iowa Department of Education has shared information with districts how this pay (\$1000/teacher) is to be distributed. Based on the last meeting with the DE on Monday, February 28, the following is information on how this money will be shared, who is (and is not) eligible for the pay, and other information. A summary of some specifics include the following:

- It is only for teachers, and does not include any other certified or non-certified staff.
- Teachers must be a 1.0 full-time teacher.
- Staff considered as classroom teachers include the following:
 - Grade-Level Teachers
 - Content Area Teachers
 - Title Teachers
 - English Learner Teachers
 - Special Education Teachers
 - Physical Education Teachers
 - Music Teachers, and
 - Art Teachers

The DE has stated that these parameters were set based upon the finite amount of federal and state funding available to cover retention payments.

As a district representative, I am frustrated with this process and how the payments are being offered and distributed. Yet, I do not have any way of changing these regulations that we must follow and are held accountable to through an auditing system of the state.

If you do qualify, you will need to complete a "Teacher Retention Payment" form that will be sent as a Google Doc in the next week. Those who do not qualify in our system have been contacted by me to inform them of their status.

BELIEVE IN THE BLUE

It is the policy of the Bellevue Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender identity, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, services, or employment practices.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Adjourn

Next meeting is Monday, April 11 at 6:30 PM. This will also include a public hearing on the budget for FY23.