



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT

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President
Penny Medinger
Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Paul Fahey Vice President
Martha Henning Member
Mike Reed Member
Janet Sieverding Member

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Comet Highlights

April 10, 2017

April 14-18	No School (Spring Break)
April 18	Teacher Professional Development
April 21	"Operation Prom" with community emergency services
assisting	
	in the program for the schools in Bellevue
April 22	Prom
May 3	Bellevue Masonic Lodge Breakfast for all staff, Board Members, etc. at the Bellevue Masonic Lodge (6:30-9:00) across from Subway
May 11	Great Give Day - National program for non-profits (schools included) where community members can donate to their Favorite non-profits - The Bellevue CSD is included. (Collaboratively with the Greater Dubuque Foundation on
this	endeavor)
May 15	Bellevue Vocal Concert - Grades 6-12 @ 7:00
May 16	Bellevue Band Concert - Grades 6-12 @ 7:00
May 17	Bellevue Elementary Music Concert @ 6:30
May 26	"Beyond the Blue" recipients in the district; Social in
the	Evening
May 30	Last Day of School for students
May 27	Graduation - 8:00 PM
May 31	Teacher Work Day (mandatory)
June 1	Teacher Quality Professional Development Day for staff
(not	mandatory)
June 13-22	HS Spanish Trip to Costa Rica (18 students, plus Ms.
Dullard	and two parent chaperones)

Notes for the Board Meeting on Monday, April 10 2017

Consent Agenda

Resignations

- Leah Whetsell - HS Math Teacher (family is relocating to Arizona)
- Ken Anderson - HS Assistant Football Coach

Open Enrollments

- Angel Reuter - 9th Grade (Dubuque to Bellevue)

Recognize any Visitors

No visitors at the meeting.

Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget

This was a time for the public (anyone besides the Board members) to make comments about the proposed budget for FY18. No one was in attendance.

Approve the FY Budget for the Bellevue CSD

After discussion, clarifications, etc. on the budget information, the Board approved the budget that was proposed last month. Below is some basic, but important budget/finance information...

FY17 Levy - 12.29424

FY18 Levy - 12.19149

Reduction of .10275 for the Bellevue Community School District for FY18

These figures will include some money in both the management account (insurance, early retirement, etc.) and cash reserve at a minimal basis for increased enrollment from the state that was granted to us.

As we work to complete our tax rate for this upcoming year, it will still remain significantly less for our residents than nearly all neighboring schools based on past data:

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY17
Alburnett	18.86578	18.08983	18.0748	16.32349
Anamosa	15.06	14.99	15.1594	14.66586
Andrew	14.02864	12.97114	14.2639	11.32357
Cal-Wheat	12.72023	11.69445	11.7556	12.35838
Camanche	15.69114	15.11271	15.0092	14.86334
Cent. City	17.68056	17.36825	17.6000	17.60006
Dewitt	15.37579	15.07781	14.9742	14.69299
Clinton	16.52906	16.71711	16.7599	16.67276
Dubuque	14.60281	13.99631	14.0563	14.97697
E. Buch.	13.80246	13.15164	13.1976	14.03406
Easton Vly	12.02742	13.12096	14.4260	15.08377
Lisbon	17.12296	16.98337	17.5438	17.50000
Maquoketa	14.15846	14.08816	13.0800	12.07825
Midland	10.00648	10.16278	14.9467	13.19447
Monticello	14.37335	14.27003	14.1114	14.06487
N. Cedar	14.25	13.98	14.3771	14.80050
Northeast				14.97519

Tipton	13.21	13.75	13.4261	12.28326
W. Dubuque	13.14326	13.05271	13.0152	12.04698
BELLEVUE	12.67620	12.28671	12.2979	12.29424

Ultimately, a few things to remember with this and why state aid matters as we move forward and approve our budget:

- The less money that the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the more local property taxes that schools must levy on their community.
- The more money that the Iowa Legislature approves for schools, the less local property taxes that schools must levy on their community.
- Bellevue has traditionally had lower than average property taxes in our area, and as a whole in the state (see above). As I mentioned, I do not see this changing for the upcoming year. The budget that is being published for approval at the public hearing will be based on the 1.11% State Aid that has been approved. Once again, the budget that will need to be proposed at the March Board meeting, and then published in the local newspaper after the meeting according to state regulations. The official budget will then need to be officially approved at the April Board Meeting after a public hearing (deadline is April 15).
- Overall, the budget needs to be fair, and serve our students and community well.

In addition, Penny and I have updated some overall information on our expected revenues (being conservative) and our expected expenditures (likely being a little high with our expected increases). We also anticipated/predicted enrollment, and we estimate a loss of about 5 students per year (this is hard to predict!). Right now it looks like our Unspent Authorized Budget (Spending Authority) will be over \$1.4 million yet in 2022. Some numbers specifically include the following:

-
- 2012 2,307,796
- 2013 2,058,733
- 2014 1,813,044
- 2015 1,862,835
- 2016 1,849,348
- 2017 1,911,421
- 2018 1,922,542 (This includes an early retirement plan)
- 2019 1,905,091
- 2020 1,815,057
- 2021 1,655,852
- 2022 1,416,365

This is good overall. Remember, the Unspent Authorized Budget is the money we can actually spend ("spending authority") based on enrollment and yearly state funding. As Gary Sinclair, financial advisor from IASB has stated in the past...

"How much money should you spend each year? The amount you are given for the students that year."

Yet, districts must (others agree) have some "reserved" spending authority based on unexpected needs, across-the-board cuts from the legislature, etc. This is a good number overall for this time, and does not likely lead to reductions in the near future. But, it also does not mean we have a lot of "extra money" to play around with. When we are anticipated to fall below \$1,000,000 it becomes a specific concern in our district.

A key to remember, in my mind the most important thing, is that student enrollment drives our finances. Less students = Less staff...pure and simple. We must recognize this, and when we rehire for retirees, etc. we also must analyze if it is needed, if the current staffing model for the individual is the most effective way to meet the needs of students, and what impact it has on student learning overall.

Comet Curriculum

Mrs. Hartung-Schroeder explained the summer learning program being offered this summer at the Bellevue CSD for elementary students, "Summer Adventure." We have offered summer programming the last several years, and Mrs.

Hartung-Schroeder explained some key points:

- We are expecting around 50 students this year (41 last year); Focus on K-3
- The program provides literacy instruction in the morning, along with breakfast and lunch. The afternoon consists of other learning opportunities provided by community members and organizations (In the past: Denny Weiss-DNR; Iowa State Conservation Office, Bellevue Arts, etc.). The goal is to improve reading, strengthen self-confidence, and promote learning overall and that all students can succeed.
- Certified teaching staff is utilized.
- Funds are provided by the Jackson/Clinton County Empowerment Boards (DECAT).
- Transportation is provided by the school (with some funding assistance as well).

Support Staff Contracts and Work Agreements

The Board approved the following support staff contracts and work agreements for the 2017-2018 school year at a 2.19% increase in wages/benefits. This is based on teaching contracts and past history in the district of treating all staff alike when it comes to increases for contract and work agreements.

If employees receive insurance this is a "total package" increase like the teachers; For those without insurance, it is an increase on salary only. Our staff with insurance is getting less of an increase in salary (including teachers). A 2.19% increase would still allow us to basically stay within the funds of our "new money" from the state...which is important from my point of view for the overall budget.

Office Secretaries					
Bellevue Elementary Office	Karla Weinschenk				
Bellevue MS/HS Office	Nicole Sullivan				
Bellevue CSD Central Office	Rhonda Roth				
Supervisors	Tim Roth (Transportation)	Brett Ernst (Maintenance)			
Custodians					
Bellevue Elem (some MS/HS)	Loras Deppe				
Bellevue Elementary	Jeff Kilburg				
Bellevue MS/HS	James Cavanaugh				
Food Service					
Supervisor	Jessica Bormann				
Cooks	Connie Anderson	Kathy Ohlert	Julie Scheckel		
	Mary Hinke	Tracy Hueneke	Dianna Valanat		
Bus Drivers					
	Joe Daugherty	Floyd Daniels (Special Ed)	Brett Ernst (PM)	Jim Mueller	
	Gary Hansen	Randy Feller	Brent Roling	Larry Keple (PK/Activities)	
	Tim Roth (AM)	Mary Jo Meier (Special Ed)			
Associates					
	Laural Ploessel	Mary Jo Meier	Jill Ruggenberg	Paquita Ditsler	
	Beth Norpel	Barb Deppe	Trish Pickett	Heather Merrick	
	Barb Michels	Tami Purvis	Rhonda Cunningham	Donna Medinger	
	Paula Mangler	Audrey Roling			
Business Manager	Penny Medinger				

Technology Updates

Each year we need to make sure we are updating our technology for student learning appropriately. We have the current technology for 1:1 devices in our district currently:

- 11th & 12th grade - Macbooks; We have about 150 total Macbooks that are usable, and about 120 of them are being used currently. A few 10th grade students also have a Macbook based on their need for a college class through the Eastern Iowa Community College District. The Macbooks are better computers overall, and this is the 8th year of their use (outlasting their life span by over 3 years already, and hoping for 1-2 more years).
- 6th-10th grade - Chromebooks that are used and taken home daily. We have had most of these for over three years, and this is getting close to some of their life expectancy overall. Some of these are starting to show their age, while some brands have lasted longer - HP Chromebooks seem to be the best Chromebooks for students and their usage, handling, etc.
- 3rd-5th grade - 1:1 with Chromebooks that stay at school. They are not used as much as those in the MS/HS.
- 1st & 2nd grade - iPads that are 1:1. We are making these work currently, even though they are an older version. I am suggesting that we update one section of 2nd grade for the upcoming school year, and then the other section next year. The iPads in the one 2nd grade classroom that would be replaced would be added to the Kindergarten rooms (allow them more devices to be utilized for students). These stay at school.
- Kindergarten - About 2 students to every device (would be increased a little based on above information about 2nd grade iPads). These always stay at school.

After working thoroughly with Matt Jaeger and Jim Handke (our two part-time technology coordinators), Mr. Meyer recommended that it would be best to make the following purchases:

- 50 Chromebooks @ \$185 each = \$9250
 - These would be utilized by our 7th grade students next year or our 5th grade students, and follow them all the way into high school or through 10th grade (or longer).
 - We would continue this cycle in future years with having students keep the same computer for 4 years, before transitioning their Junior and Senior year. It is hoped that Chromebooks will be capable of college class use in the next year or so based on comments from the college.
- 25 iPads @ \$330 each = \$8250
 - These would be in a 2nd grade classroom, and would have a better operating system for the future. The current iPads are okay right now, but some of them cannot be updated to some of the 2nd grade needs (This purchase will assist in all 2nd grade students with better accessibility).

This purchase would be from our PPEL account. We are also looking to combine our "Instructional Materials Fee" for next school year to include the technology fee (instead of a separate fee) for grades 6-12. This is a continuous request from our parents, instead of writing out two separate checks for school.

Board Approved.

Legat

Legat Architects toured the elementary building on Tuesday (April 4) with Brett Ernst and me. We did not have enough time to tour the MS/HS building, but we will do that on a later date (specified below). We also shared several of the blueprints for both campuses for them to copy as they move forward. Overall, we developed the following tentative schedule, with our first meeting on May 16.

- May 16 Tour Bellevue MS/HS @ 4:30
- May 16 Core Leadership Team Meeting @ 6:00
- June Space Utilization Study and Facilities Assessment
- Early September Core Leadership Team Meeting
- Mid-October Community Engagement Meeting
- Mid-November Community Engagement Meeting
- December Core Leadership Team Meeting (evaluating data and preparing master plan for presentation to school board)
- January Present Master Plan to School Board

We also discussed sending an electronic survey to staff in late April or May for feedback on their perceptions of facilities, and to do a "student-centered" architecture planning day with some elementary students. I will keep you posted on this information as well.

Who should be on the Core Leadership Team? Are any Board members interested in being involved in this? Who else? The group should likely be no more than 8 people, and the Superintendent and Facilities Director (Brett Ernst) are typically included.

There is also a Master's Facility Planning Group that may meet with the Core Leadership Team, or at a minimum attend all Community Engagement meetings. This group typically includes grade span teacher or grade level teacher, students, administration and some community members. It usually includes somewhere between 6-16 people,

I am beginning to brainstorm some ideas for these groups, and have shared ideas with some others in the buildings...but, do you have any suggestions? I will mail this information to board members.

Continue Services with ISFIS and IASB

Board approved the following.

Both the Iowa School Finance Information Services and the Iowa Association of School Boards provide the district with valuable financial information and analysis, updates on several financial and legal issues, and many other learning impacts for districts. Each service is approximately \$850 for the year.



ISFIS, Inc.
Iowa School Finance Information Services

Iowa School Finance Information Services
1201 63rd St., Des Moines, IA 50311

April 1, 2017

Tom Meyer, Superintendent
Bellevue CSD
1601 State St
Bellevue, IA 52031-9766

Dear Tom,

With continued budget strife and ever-changing regulations, we at ISFIS commit to responsive and expert guidance to elevate the quality of information you have to make decisions to benefit students, staff and stakeholders.

Review our brochure for new opportunities to meet your district needs, but in short, ISFIS subscription:

- Keeps you out of trouble with information and risk management supports.
- Provides regular webinars to keep you in the loop and answer your questions.
- Warns you of trouble in the distance and helps you spot opportunities on the horizon.
- Finds ways to save your district money and helps you to become more effective.
- Gives you access to easy-to-use tools that inform better decisions.
- Keeps you up to date on law and finance changes.
- Supports your local advocacy efforts with stakeholders and decision-makers.
- Finds new programs and services that fulfill unmet needs in your school district.
- **And you get a long term 5-year budget projection model for no additional charge!!**

Take a look at the brochure to see everything we do. If there's something new you'd like us to look into, let us know. Our best ideas come from our subscribers.

Our ISFIS Supplemental Policy Subscription Service provides free hosting of your policy manual online, is completely searchable, provides revision tracking and is easy to update (no more three-ring binders!) This subscription also provides a virtual sample policy manual, Policy Booster updates with changes to your policy manual due to state or federal law changes, and collective bargaining exhibits.

In appreciation for our loyal subscribers, we offer a 5% discount for subscriptions paid by July 15, 2017. Simply remit payment with the attached invoice. We look forward to continually moving the cutting edge of technology, data and public policy forward to ensure that ISFIS subscription is well worth the price.

We know every dollar you spend is precious, so we will strive to help you spend it wisely to the benefit of students. We look forward to earning your business and are grateful for this opportunity to serve you.

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March 31, 2017

Kevin Lundin
Board President
16180 - 360th Avenue
Bellevue, IA 52031

Dear Kevin,

Your district's membership in the Iowa Association of School Boards is vitally important to a strong, statewide organization that supports effective local governance of Iowa public education, as well as advocacy on the critical issues affecting public education. I thank you for your membership in 2016-17, and urge you to continue to be a member in the year ahead.

IASB member services include a comprehensive slate of board development on effective governance and issues in education; timely, relevant information on education trends and issues; updated sample board policy to comply with new federal and state laws; new financial analysis and planning tools, and expanded resources on human resource issues. IASB is committed to providing a strong foundation of learning and service for all school board/superintendent teams—resources that are relevant to our work at the board table to improve student learning and enhance educational opportunity.

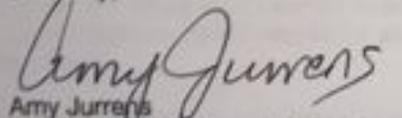
On the advocacy front, timely, sufficient school funding continues to be a priority. From urging legislators to make an investment in supplemental state aid, to highlighting inequities in school funding and offering solutions on issues such as transportation funding, IASB leverages the power of our voice as locally elected school boards. In addition, the new Promise of Iowa public support campaign, launched in late 2016, will continue during 2017-18 to showcase the importance and impact of Iowa public schools.

Your membership also matters at the federal level. Through IASB's membership in the National School Boards Association, Iowa schools help to support a strong national voice on behalf of public education.

As we forge ahead in 2017-18, I recognize the significant challenges and opportunities before us—issues that will shape Iowa public education well into the future. IASB will continue to build on a foundation of success and focus on the hard, meaningful work that will have a lasting, positive impact on Iowa students and our association for the years to come.

I invite you to renew your membership for the 2017-18 year. Your dues invoice has been emailed to your business manager.

Sincerely,


Amy Jurrens
President, IASB Board of Directors

*We appreciate your
membership!*

Cc: Superintendent
Enclosure

Comet Board Reading and Reflection

At the last meeting, Meyer gave Board members a short article to read titled "For Students, the Importance of Doing Work that Matters" by William Richardson (who spoke at the IASB Conference a couple of years ago). The Board shared some thoughts on this article, including a focus on the questions of...What are your thoughts on the article? Is this relevant for PK-12 or only certain grades or curricular areas? How it connects with foundational skills for learning as well. I have included this below, but if anyone is interested I can provide a paper copy.

BIG IDEAS (<https://www2.kqed.org/mindshift/category/big-ideas/>)

For Students, the Importance of Doing Work That Matters

By MindShift (<https://www2.kqed.org/mindshift/author/mindshift/>)

APRIL 30, 2014



MartinaK15

By Will Richardson

We're halfway to school when my 14-year-old son remembers a homework assignment he forgot to do for biology class.

"Something big?" I ask, fearing the worst.

"Nah," he says with a shrug. "Just a handout and some questions. It doesn't matter."

It's happened before, many times, in fact, that "it doesn't matter" response when it comes to work both of my kids are doing in school. This morning when he said it, I started trying to remember any work that they'd done this year that actually did matter in the world, work that seemed to have a purpose outside the classroom. Unfortunately, not much came to mind.

That's an especially frustrating reality for me because in my travels to schools around the world I see lots of examples of "work that matters"; high school kids in Philadelphia designing solar panels for hospitals in the African bush; middle school kids in San Diego writing books about their local ecosystems and selling them in local stores; primary school kids designing a new classroom wing being built at their school outside of Melbourne, Australia. And more.

The growing access to knowledge, information, people, and tools that our students are getting demands a shift in how we think about the work they do in school.

"Work that matters" has significance beyond classroom walls; it's work that is created for an authentic audience who might enjoy it or benefit from it even in a small way. It's work that isn't simply passed to the teacher for a grade, or shared with peers for review. It's work that potentially makes a difference in the world.

And while we've always been able to do "work that matters" in our classrooms, our growing access to the Web and the tools and technologies of the modern world can certainly amplify the potentials for audience and for real world application of whatever it is our students are doing. Suddenly, our students have a potential audience of 2.5 billion people who could become readers or collaborators, and they've got all sorts of tools and apps in their backpacks that they can use to create really beautiful, meaningful work in ways that most of their teachers couldn't imagine doing when they were in school. I would argue, in fact, that the growing access to knowledge, information, people, and tools that our students are getting demands a shift in how we think about the work they do in school, one that moves them away from traditional, institutionally organized "assignments" and toward more student-organized projects that are centered on the intersection of their interests and the subject or standard at hand.

That argument becomes even more compelling when you look at the work some kids are doing on their own, outside of school, around their own interests and passions. Like 16-year-old Sean Fay Wolfe, whose 422-page book [Quest for Justice](http://www.amazon.com/Quest-For-Justice-Minecraft-Chronicles/dp/0615938159) (<http://www.amazon.com/Quest-For-Justice-Minecraft-Chronicles/dp/0615938159>) (a novel set in Minecraft) currently ranks in the top 1 percent in sales of books sold on Amazon. Or like 12-year-old "Super Awesome Sylvia" (<http://sylviahow.com/>) Todd, who designed and helped to create a water color replicator that now [sells in kit form for \\$195](http://watercolorbot.com/) (<http://watercolorbot.com/>). Or 15-year-old [Jack Andraka](http://jackandraka.net/) (<http://jackandraka.net/>), who used his after school time to work in a Johns Hopkins laboratory to invent a cancer test that obliterated the current gold standard.

Are these kids outliers? Sure. But they are also examples of what is now possible for every child and, I would add, each one of us as well. And those examples and the thousands more like them should compel us to rethink what's possible in our classrooms if we begin to open up to the potentials. Instead of passing paper, digital or otherwise, back and forth between students and teacher, what if we allowed students to do real work for real audiences that can read and interact far beyond the limits of the school walls, schedule, and curriculum? What if we let our students do work that they actually cared about and wanted to create, not for a grade but because of its potential contribution to and effect on the world?

No question, this kind of work is harder to manage and to assess; there is very little if any "work that matters" that happens when students sit to take state assessments. Even though this type of work might tell us much more about what a student has learned and can do with that learning than any traditional test, it's not as efficient or quantifiable or rankable.

Still, we can start small, can't we? What if we took 10% of what we're currently doing and handed it over to our students, asking them to meet the standard or the outcome we've set for them in a way that they care about and that had a purpose beyond the classroom? What if we created opportunities for them to educate, entertain, inspire, or connect with people from all over the globe who might be sincerely influenced by the work they're doing? And what if we asked them to assess their own work in ways that matter to them, ways that inform them what worked, what didn't work, and how they might do it differently down the road?

Schools and classrooms should support a deep culture of "doing work that matters," where the adults in the building serve as models for the type of creating and learning we might expect from kids. And there should be a clear vision that everyone understands and works toward, one like the vision at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in Atlanta which states: "We are a school of inquiry, innovation and impact." Impact, as in the work that students do carries more weight than just a grade.

The reality of this moment is that every one of our students can create and share and connect in ways that didn't exist even a decade ago. I can't imagine what it's going to be like a decade from now. But I know this: if our students look at the work we're asking them to do today and say "It doesn't matter," we're missing a huge opportunity to help them become the learners they now need to be.

Will Richardson will be the opening keynote for the July 28-30 [EdTechTeacher Summit](http://lettsummit.org/) (<http://lettsummit.org/>) in Chicago.

NSBA Conference

Below are my notes from the NSBA Conference. Kevin and Janet also shared some of their perspectives at the meeting.

Reach. Elevate. Inspire.

Reasons people choose charter or other options for schooling instead of public education:

- Health
- Competitive Sports
- Professional Training
- Travel
- Special Needs
- Family Flexibility
- Religion
- Issues with Public School (psat)
- Last Chance for Success

Flexible learning will...

- Decrease External Enrollments
- Retain Funds
- Increase Student Options Professionally and Academically
- Meet Individualized Learning Needs
- Maximize Student Learning Potential

Choice

- This is the Big Word in our Society in Multiple Ways
- Puts Students in the Driver's Seat
- Intrinsically Motivated

Online College Credits

- How much have we saved parents or the student in money for college?

Killer B'S

- Boundaries
- Books
- Budgets
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Bleachers
- Buses

* We must focus on more than the budget, basketball, books, etc...We must focus on student learning.

Who are We In It For?

"I am in it for the kids" is a popular quote, but..hen was the last time you saw a kid, went into a classroom, visited with a student or teacher..?

Equity and Excellence for ALL students

- Challenge and Over-Reach our Beliefs and Expectations
- "When you change the way you look at things, it changes how things look."
- Transform schools through asking the community what they really want for kids, and what are they willing to do.

Thrive. Redefine Success.

- Students need life skills, and skills to make them resilient.

What is a "good life" for people?

"Money and Status" are common answers, but are only two-legs of a three-legged stool.

3rd Leg

- Well-Being
 - Not being "on" is a good thing in many ways
 - Disconnect and recharge
 - Multi-tasking is the biggest stressor
 - Devices are addictive
 - Harvard Study (with Virginia) - Can we be alone without freaking out? 67% of those in a room were told they would receive an electric shock if they used their cell phone during a 50-minute time frame they were alone; 67% used it anyway and were shocked.
- Wisdom
 - We all have "more than we use"
 - IQ and wisdom are different
 - Why not utilize it? Scared of change?
- Wonder
 - We get caught up in the current moment, and forget about different perspectives.
 - What do we bring to the life of others?
 - Meaning to life is important, no matter the circumstances
 - Share three things we are grateful for each day
 - Gratitude is a part of resilience
- Giving
 - A part of happiness
 - Not time or money, but a smile or a personal connection
 - Bring life and meaning

Technology

Going to get worse, based on capabilities and "wants" of society

Feature of our system, not value of our system

Sleep research...start later based on sleep patterns (cycle of laundry/sleep)

"Phone Beds" - Phone charges at night, like people

Data Driven

- We claim to be data-driven, but ignore it for ourselves
- We run all cylinders, not on empty
- Urgent and important are different
- Quiet time in schools - No technology at a certain point of day

- *Why do we believe something completely false?*
 - *Cigarettes in the past*

Create new habits, without technology

- *Set boundaries to connect with the humanities and humans*
- *Creativity is diminished with cell phones*
- *Teen research on phones...Less empathetic and compassionate*
- *Slot machine - Variable awards - Same with emails and texts; What response do I get? Usually boring, but hope for a reward*

Change

- *Accelerate change through your decisions*
- *Problems may be state and national, but solutions are local.*

Goal. Plan. Fail.

Control what you can; Ignore what you can't

Work as a team to achieve greatness

Small and manageable steps

- *More stars in the universe than grains of sand on earth (by 10X)*
- *Popular, Right and Hard Things...Do the Hard Things as well*
- *If going to fail, fail at something hard that is "beyond our capability."*

Connections

If not constantly making small connections, things will not get better (likely get worse)

Leadership

Leadership is situational and varies...must listen to others to be a leader.

Diversity allows us to expand our abilities

Information Items

Legislative Update

Meyer shared some legislative information at the Board meeting. Some highlights included the following:

Likelihood of allowing some flexible spending from different accounts with excess, but Meyer also cautioned that this will count against our overall "spending authority".

It is unlikely the SAVE (1-cent) revenue will be expanded at this time beyond 2029.

Possibility of Home Rule being extended to schools, where we currently operate under Dillon's Rule. Dillon's Rule - Schools can only do what they are specifically told they can do; Home Rule (like most cities) - Organizations can do anything as long as they are not told they cannot do it. This could be good for schools in some ways.

Statewide Assessment is being discussed again. This has been an ongoing conversation for over five years, and even though a committee recommended the Smarter Balanced Assessment recently and the legislature was planning to move forward with it last year...it has now changed and is open for proposals again. It is likely that Smarter Balance, ACT (Aspire), Iowa Assessments, and possibly more will make a push for this in the future. A key holdup on this is the funding from the state.

School Board elections will likely be in November (with city council elections and other general elections) in the future, starting in 2019.

The following quote from the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) and Tom Narak show some overall viewpoints for the legislative session as we move on to next year...

"With the downgrading of the latest Revenue Estimating Conference, the budget targets obviously reflect that unfortunate reality. Quite often at the Capitol this late in the session we hear "next year will be better". No one is saying that this session. In fact, we are hearing predictions for more gloom and doom about the future revenue predictions. The downturn in the farm economy certainly is a factor, but many people also point to the huge revenue numbers that are being consumed by commercial and industrial property tax reductions and the many growing tax credits as significant factors in the financial shortcomings." (SAI Update on April 7, 2017).

Great Give Day

The "Great Give Day" for the Bellevue Schools and other non-profit groups (part of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque) is on Thursday, May 11. People who wish to make donations/contributions to any non-profit (including schools) can give money during a national fundraising event for non-profit organizations. www.greatgiveday.org

Professional Development Update`

In the last couple of weeks we had great professional development from a couple of presenters...Trevor Ragan on Friday, March 24 for our teaching staff and some students, and on Wednesday, March 22 for our 6-12 students on making good decisions with Chris Bowers. Chris discussed self-confidence, making good choices and being the best version of "YOU". Trevor discussed the aspect of "growth mindset", as a follow-up to the staff's reading of Mindset by Carol Dweck.

Professional Development today with Trevor Ragan on Growth Mindset and "Train Ugly" for teachers and others today.



In addition, I also attended High Tech High and the "Deeper Learning" conference with 1100 others (including Curt Ernst, Matt Jaeger, Leah Whetsell, Erin Fischer and Jesse Bakey from the Bellevue Schools). This conference

focused on the application of learning and allowing students to get "highly engaged" in their learning. As is stated in the definition of "deeper learning" in the pamphlet at the conference...

What is Deeper Learning?

Deeper learning is a set of six skills that students need to succeed in and out of the classroom, including:

- **Master core academic content.** Students develop and draw from a baseline understanding of knowledge in an academic discipline and are able to transfer knowledge to other situations.
- **Think critically and solve complex problems.** Students apply tools and techniques gleaned from core subjects to formulate and solve problems. These tools include data analysis, statistical reasoning, and scientific inquiry as well as creativity, nonlinear thinking, and persistence.
- **Work collaboratively.** Students cooperate to identify and create solutions to academic, social, vocational, and personal challenges.
- **Communicate effectively.** Students clearly organize their data, findings, and thoughts.
- **Learn how to learn.** Students monitor and direct their own learning.
- **Develop academic mindsets.** Students develop positive attitudes and beliefs about themselves as learners that increase their academic perseverance and prompt them to engage in productive academic behaviors. Students are committed to seeing work through to completion, meeting their goals, and doing quality work, and thus search for solutions to overcome obstacles.

Some more of my notes and learnings include:

Connect. Innovate. Experience

Engagement with students

- Experience - "Experience Things"

How engage students in deeper learning experience? Assist teachers? Cultivate Leaders?

Equitable Learning Environments for all students

Marc Chun - Hewlett

Kindling to Candle

Kindling - Lights up easily, starts off, then disappears quickly (Pokemon Go)

Campfire - Develops, then eventually burns out (Blackberry, Jersey Shore...)

Candles - Burns on, and on for awhile...continues (Simpson's, Recycling...)

All start up quickly, but not all remain

Kindle to Candle

"Profile of a Graduate"

Content & Critical Thinking

Collaboration and Communication

Learning to Learn and Academic Learning Mindsets

The intentional loss of control of thousand of creative people who are moving in the desired direction.

Identity is the candle - Students must believe in what they are doing in school.

Work Study Programs

- Benefits of work study?
- How quantify benefits?
- How expand programs?
- Pre and post survey on what students gain
- Feedback from businesses
- Observable behaviors, attitudes, etc
- Future Ready mindset...professional email
- Higher levels of engagement n attendance at school
- Acknowledgement of doing this
- Post grad follow thru with mentors
- Supervisor or Mentor role
- Appropriate placement
- Opportunity linked to internship

Joe Luft - Deeper Learning

- Deeper sense of purpose
- All students, and not just the chosen few

What is making a difference in our education at Bellevue?

- Teaching concepts and knowledge beyond the standardized assessments?

- If struggling, move them into an application of the desired learning concept. Do we do this?

When students share their learning with an authentic audience we provide them with an opportunity to share their story, reflect on their growth, and engage in real dialogue with others about their learning and their futures.

Share learning with those that it matters to...peers, parents, teachers, mentors, community members, etc. (Exhibition Nights)



Prototype to real catapult



Teacher Learning Exhibit Night at High Tech High



Prom and After Prom

The Junior Class is hosting Prom again this year at Horizon Hall. After Prom will be at the Bellevue MS/HS. The date is Saturday, April 22. Local Emergency Services will once again present "Operation Prom" for students from Bellevue HS and Marquette on Friday, April 21, as we work collaboratively with these groups every other year for students - and their overall awareness of "driving under the influence" of alcohol, other drugs, etc.

Student Engagement

Mr. Meyer and Mr. Recker updated the Board on several recent activities of engagement of students, both in school and outside of school.

FBLA qualified 19 students for Nationals in Anaheim! The board gave up to \$5000 to support them in the past years, and Meyer stated he was going to do the same for this upcoming year (if needed). The students also will be doing fundraising, and are working with a potential matching grant as well.

- Jack Sieverding: 4th Place Computer Problem Solving
- Mason Lyons: 2nd Place Database Design; 2nd Place Computer Applications
- Lauren Dema: 4th Place Computer Applications
- Payton Marshall: 4th Place Business Plan
- Jacob Till, Rebecca Schroeder, Camryn Reeg: 4th Place Social Media Campaign; 2nd Place Graphic Design
- Madison Weber, Brin Daugherty, Lindsey Banowetz: 4th Place Social Media Campaign
- Emma Kelchen & Robyn Stillmunkes: 3rd Place Graphic Design; 4th Place Banking & Financial Systems
- Andrew Penniston, Toby Giesemann, Kyle Guenther: 2nd Place Global Business
- Anna Dunne: 4th Place Electronic Career Portfolio
- Alex Ernst, Jacob Till, Andrew Penniston: 3rd Place American Enterprise Project
- Tara Linden & Makinlee Roeder: 3rd Place 3D Animation

In the past, we have granted up to \$5000 for students to travel to a National Convention they qualify for as a group or as an individual. The Summer of 2016 we spent around \$4400 on the FBLA team traveling to Atlanta. This summer students will be traveling to Anaheim, CA.

Awards Night will be on Wednesday, May 24 - Last day for Seniors

Discussed how busy students are with track, soccer, golf, etc, plus starting baseball and softball in May.

Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

Meyer shared that the district received a True Value Paint grant for up to 40 gallons of paint from a grant Meyer submitted after consulting with Brett Ernst (through Chris Lampe at True Value).

Brochures will be "re-stocked" in some areas around town...including realtors. The Chamber of Commerce was given some about a month ago again. Great public support for our school is evident.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on Monday, May 8.

Other Notes

School Board Elections

From a recent article on changes to school board elections, specifically the dates.

Impact of proposed school election change unclear

By Kyle Ocker Knoxville Journal Express

KNOXVILLE – Legislation was passed by the Iowa House of Representatives last month aiming to combine school and city elections on the same date.

Currently, regular elections for Iowa's public schools are held on the second Tuesday in September. This is separate from normal Election Day for federal, state and city elections, which occur on the second Tuesday in November of their respective years.

Lawmakers pushing for the change say combing the elections on the same day will open school district elections to a larger turnout.

In theory that scenario is possible. Statewide in the last four elections, according to the Iowa Secretary of State's office, turnout averaged 6.5 percent. In the same time frame, turnout for city elections was 21.3 percent.

Marion County sees close to the same trends for their local school districts and townships.

In 2015, the last time school and city elections were held, Knoxville had a turnout of 5.2 percent in their school election. Meanwhile, the city elections saw 17.9 percent of voters come to the polls.

Democrats have opposed the bill on the house floor, saying the change would cause confusion on Election Day.

"This will be chaos," Rep. Mary Masher, D-Johnson, said on the floor during debate last month. "But we created chaos with the voter ID bill, so I guess this isn't any different. It seems to me that when you have two different groups of voters that are voting in different elections that we should respect that. The people who vote in school board don't necessarily vote in city council, and vice versa.

The non-partisan Legislative Services Agency estimates roughly 400 hours of work, costing roughly \$50,000, would be necessary to combine the elections. The work would involve the Secretary of State's office determining how to combine school and city boundaries that are currently incompatible.

The specific impact will vary from city to city across the state, based on how many changes would need to be made to boundary lines.

Costs will change, as well. The Legislative Services Agency says how much will depend on the specific area. Generally, they predict that cities may see some cost savings due to no longer bearing the entire cost burden. Schools, on the other hand, could see their costs increase due to paying into larger elections.

The Knoxville School District paid \$1,948.41 to run their 2015 election, while the city of Knoxville's cost was \$5,154.22 for the same year.

Pella was the biggest payer overall, with the city on the hook for a \$7,071.64 bill in 2015 and the school district paying \$3,161.75.

The Senate's state government committee voted 13-0 to recommend passage of the bill as it was passed in the House.

The Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Association of School Boards and Rural School Advocates of Iowa are among the education lobby that have registered against the bill. The Iowa State Association of Counties are the only lobbyists currently registered in support. Several others, such as the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees are listed as undecided.

The bill has not yet been debated on the Senate floor. It's unclear just when that debate could occur. If passed and signed by the Governor, the change would be slated to take effect for the 2019 elections.

MS/HS Music Room Photos





Brett is currently working on replacing the ceiling grid for ceiling tiles. We also received a quote for painting the old ceiling grid and the walls for a very reasonable rate (cheaper than we can buy the paint and use our own labor in many ways). We will likely get to the painting within the next two weeks.