

The Weekly Comet

From Dr. Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

Believe In The Blue! Believe In Bellevue!

Upcoming Events, Early Dismissals, and "No School" Days

- February 8 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- February 15 - Bellevue CSD Community Open House about the Referendum
- February 20 - No School President's Day
- March 7 - Bellevue CSD Special Election for Bellevue Elementary School - Polls open from 7 AM - 8 PM
- March 8 & 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences ; 2-Hour Early Dismissal
- March 10 - No School

Bellevue CSD Referendum Information

As the district moves closer to the date of the March 7 referendum for a new 3-5 elementary building, this week information on the ballot language and voting is presented to the right. More information can be found at the following link: <http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us/bondlandingpage>

Student Learning



Congratulations to the first two state qualifiers - Adessa Leibfried and Ryanne Dunn for the 1st Annual Iowa Girls State Wrestling Championships this week in Coralville

Legislative Action - Vouchers

As many of our stakeholders, and citizens in our state are aware, the Iowa Legislature recently approved public tax dollars to be utilized by non-public schools across the state in a phased program. While there was significant opposition presented in the days leading up to the votes to both the House and Senate from many people across the state (including several from Bellevue), this was passed hurriedly in both branches. A concern expressed by many is the additional funding that will be granted to school systems that are not required to allow all students in school, meet all standards and requirements of public schools, and other aspects. Finally, many believe the excess of funds to non-public schools will impact overall school funding in the future, along with funding to other areas of our society.

Ultimately, I don't know the impact overall on education in our state in the short- or long-term, I do know that the Bellevue CSD will continue to provide outstanding programs to our students and work to continuously improve them in the future as well. We will continue to offer programs that engage our students in their learning and prepare them for their future. We do this very well as a district, yet there is always room for continuous improvement...which we will continue to work at as we have shown through the years.

WHAT WILL THE BALLOT SAY?

On March 7, 2023, a date pre-determined by state law, Bellevue Community School District will hold a special election. Sixty-percent of voters must approve the question for the bond to pass.

Shall the Board of Directors of the Bellevue Community School District in the County of Jackson, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$13,100,000 to provide funds to build, furnish, and equip a new elementary building and improve the site?

HOW DO I VOTE?

EARLY



Vote early in person at the Jackson County Courthouse Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. February 15 through March 6.

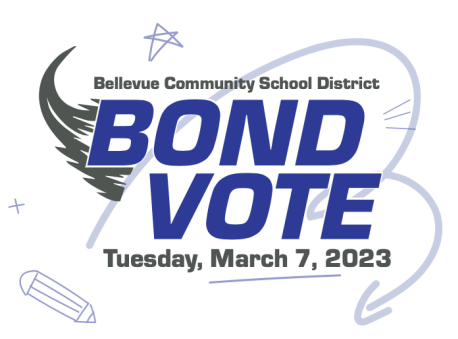


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ABSENTEE

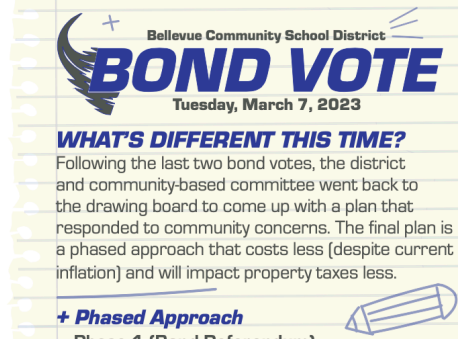
Request an absentee ballot from the Jackson County auditor by February 20 (15 days prior to the election). Ballots must be received to the auditor by 8 p.m. on election day.

Print an absentee ballot request form online: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf>



Belleve Community School District
BOND VOTE
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Bellevue's 175-year-old elementary school is **out of space and time**. In order to provide equitable educational spaces for Bellevue's youngest learners, the Bellevue Community School District is asking voters to approve a \$13.1 million general obligation bond during a special election on **March 7, 2023**.



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WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME?
 Following the last two bond votes, the district and community-based committee went back to the drawing board to come up with a plan that responded to community concerns. The final plan is a phased approach that costs less (despite current inflation) and will impact property taxes less.

+ Phased Approach

Phase 1 (Bond Referendum)

- PK-2 stays in the existing elementary school
- 3-5 move to a new building at the middle/high school site

Phase 2 (District-Funded)

- Renovations and improvements to the high school's fine arts and CTE spaces
- Other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2

+ Lower project cost

- \$13.1 million compared to \$16 million (2018) and \$14.5 million (2019)

+ Less property tax impact

- \$2.70 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation compared to \$4.05 (2018) and \$3.75 (2019)
- The project cost will be supplemented by PPEL and SAVE funds which will not raise property taxes additionally.

Bellevue Elementary always has a variety of things happening in their engaging classrooms. Over the last week they celebrated the 100th Day of school for the 2022-2023 school year, participated in sledding in their own "handmade sleds", and had a visit from the Jackson County Conservation Office.

