

**Beaver Dam Unified School District
Board of Education Proceedings**

December 14, 2020

The regular meeting of the Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education was held on the above date at Beaver Dam High School. President, Chad Prieve, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Bev Beal-Loeck, Marge Jorgensen, Tony Klatt, John Kraus, Jr., Lisa Panzer, Chad Prieve, Gary Spielman, and Joanne Tyjeski. Board members absent: None.

Mr. Prieve led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jorgensen moved, Spielman seconded, to approve the minutes from the regular and special meetings on November 9, 2020, as presented.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Prieve welcomed visitors.

Beal-Loeck, at the request of the President, announced the board may recess into closed session per Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss specific employees. The board will reconvene into open session for the possible transaction of business and adjournment.

Kraus moved, Beal-Loeck seconded, to adopt the agenda as presented.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Ms. Bates, Lincoln Elementary School Principal, and Ms. Alvin, District Curriculum & Instructional Coach, presented the School of the Month report for Lincoln Elementary School. Ms. Bates explained that Lincoln Elementary has consolidated from 2 sections to 1 section and houses the robust virtual elementary grades. It is also a Title school and is utilizing instructional coaching to meet Title needs. Ms. Grey, Literacy Support Teacher, and Mr. Fakes, Grade 5 Teacher, shared how reading strategies are being implemented and student successes. A video was presented of virtual teacher introductions and students sharing their experiences so far this school year. Ms. Bates and Ms. Alvin expressed appreciation for the support of families of both virtual and in-person students.

Ms. Malkovich, Director of Business Services, presented a donation in the amount of \$20,000 to the High School Science Department from Jason Brass on behalf of the Gall Family in memory of Matthew T. Gall MD, a 1988 graduate of BDHS. The donation will be used to improve instructional space and start an arboretum.

Tyjeski moved, Jorgensen seconded, to accept the donation on behalf of the Gall Family.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Meyer, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Peters, District Assessment and Technology Officer, provided an update on At-Risk Programming. They defined students who are considered at-risk and explained that programming aligns with the district's strategic plan. There is an emphasis on addressing the at-risk needs at the High School level and blend Response to Intervention (RtI) processes and supports for grades K-12. They reviewed research-based best practices, along with a continuum of services pertaining to RtI and At-Risk Program options. A recommendation will be presented for board action tentatively in February to integrate at-risk services at the High School rather than the Don Smith Learning Academy operating as a separate entity. This will provide students identified as at-risk with increased access to course and extra-curricular offerings, as well as access to more staff trained in specialized areas for academic and social/emotional support.

Mr. DiStefano, Superintendent, provided an update on the Return to School plan for 2020-2021. The district continues to meet with the Dodge County Health Department and actively reviews and monitors numbers that impact the district. The district is now able to track cases by the district boundary area. He reported that cases and quarantines impacting the school district have stabilized over the past few weeks and early trends show an overall decrease. The CDC updated quarantine guidance flexibility moving from 14 to 10 days with an early day 7 test out option, which the State and County Health Departments adopted. He recommended that district continue with current district protocols and the 14-day quarantine for the remainder of the first semester and then consider adjusting the timeline to 10 days with no early test out. He explained that the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) expires on 12/31/20 and recommended that the district fund an extension the relief provided by FFCRA through January and reevaluate it monthly. He reported the district hopes to allow limited in person fan attendance at home events beginning on or around January 11 and allow outside groups to use facilities with protective measures in place on or around February 1. He explained that planning to return to more in-person instruction in grades 6-12 will begin later this winter, depending on trends. The virtual instruction week the week after Thanksgiving provided a benefit and he recommended the district move to virtual learning for grades 4K-12 January 4-8, 2021.

Kraus moved, Jorgensen seconded, that the board support moving to virtual learning for grades 4K-12 the week of January 4-January 8, 2021, the district hold to current quarantine procedures through the end of the first semester and then consider a move that aligns with some of the guidance flexibility at some point thereafter, and approve the extension of the relief provided by the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) funded by the district through January and reevaluated monthly.

The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye – Jorgensen, Klatt, Kraus, Panzer, Prieve, Spielman, Tyjeski, and Beal-Loeck. No-None.

Mr. Prieve announced that Ms. Lerwick resigned from the board of education effective December 11, 2020, since she and her family have moved out of the district. The board will work through the process of filling the vacancy over the coming weeks and the new member, when selected, will serve until April 2022. The board expressed their appreciation to Ms. Lerwick for her service.

Board members recognized Ms. Tyjeski for her work with the virtual Red Kettle Concert and the High School drama students for the outstanding musical.

Mr. DiStefano recognized Ms. Lerwick for her service and staff, families, and students for their patience and support. He recognized Mr. Prieve for 10 years of service and Ms. Beal-Loeck for 25 years of service and presented them with their service awards.

Ms. Doyle, Board Student Representative, reported on ACT testing and what the high school does to prepare students. She shared the resources that are available and what other school districts do. She said students would like more ACT prep work incorporated into classes either online or in paper copy since the test is paper and pencil.

Ms. Beal Loeck, Operations Committee, reported the committee met on November 23. The committee received a demonstration of the Speak Up, Speak Out anonymous tip line, an update on the district's 5-year facility plan, and update on the district safety drills. The state requires school boards to act by January 1 on school safety drills to ensure they are conducted according to their school safety plan. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2021.

Beal-Loeck moved, Tyjeski seconded, to approve the safety drill reports as received and completed for each school as presented.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Ms. Panzer, Teaching and Learning Committee Chairperson, reported the committee met on November 16. The committee received a report on the district student and family social and emotional outreach efforts, proposals for new course proposals and curricular adjustments, and an update on Comprehensive Support and Improvement and At-Risk programming. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2021.

Panzer moved, Spielman seconded, to adopt the course proposals and curricular adjustments, which are two new ELA courses, computer science, and a language class for heritage Spanish speakers, which will be included as electives. In addition to the new courses, two modifications to existing courses are two half-credit ELA courses for grade 10 that will be merged into one integrated course. Chemistry and Biology courses will move to utilize a Pre-AP curriculum for all students rather than having separate honors courses.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Board members shared the engagement opportunities they participated in over the past month.

Beal-Loeck moved, Jorgensen seconded, the board may recess into closed session per Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss specific employees. The board will reconvene into open session for the possible transaction of business and adjournment.

The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye – Klatt, Kraus, Panzer, Prieve, Spielman, Tyjeski, Beal-Loeck, and Jorgensen. No-None.

During closed session, there was discussion regarding specific employees. No action was taken during closed session.

Beal-Loeck moved, Tyjeski seconded, to reconvene into open session.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Kraus seconded, to approve the following retirement and resignation: Barb Ruenger-Secretary-Middle School (Retirement effective 1/22/21) and Stacy Van Buren-Human Resources Specialist (Resignation effective 3/12/21).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Beal-Loeck seconded, to approve the following leave of absence request: Megan Brennan-Social Studies Teacher-Middle School (Medical Leave 2/26/21 – end of the 2020-21 school year).

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Panzer moved, Jorgensen seconded, to approve the following appointments: Cassandra Cruckson-Grade 4 Teacher-Lincoln Elementary School (LTE 11/23/20-end of 2020-21 school year), Stacy Drews-Human Resources Specialist-District, and Ryan Yuds-English Language Arts Teacher-Middle School (LTE 1/11/21-end of 2020-21 school year).

The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye – Kraus, Panzer, Prieve, Spielman, Tyjeski, Beal-Loeck, Jorgensen, and Klatt. No-None.

Tyjeski moved, Jorgensen seconded, to approve the payment of financial claims (Voucher #391, #392, #393, #394, and #395) for District Credit Card, District Insurance, ACH File, Net Payroll, Payroll Taxes, WEA Trust Advantage, Health Savings Account, Health Savings Account (District), Fidelity, WEA TSA, Wisconsin Retirement System, Payroll Related Voucher, and Line of Credit Payment for a total of \$6,417,917.13. (A listing of these vouchers can be found in the Accounts Payable Check Register.)

The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye – Panzer, Prieve, Spielman, Tyjeski, Beal-Loeck, Jorgensen, Klatt, and Kraus. No-None.

Kraus moved, Jorgensen seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

/s/
Chad Prieve, President

/s/
Marge Jorgensen, Clerk