



Comet Highlights from the August 8 Board of Education Meeting

August 16	KMAQ Radio "Back to School" broadcast from Bellevue CSD 9:00-10:30
August 16	New Teacher Orientation, Model Teacher Meeting, Mentor Teacher Meeting
August 16	Appetizers at "Flatted Fifth" (Potter's Mill) with new teachers, families, and <u>Board members</u>
August 17-19, 22	Teacher Professional Development
August 23	First Day of the 2016-2017 school year

Consent Agenda

Recommendations for Hire

- Cord Heim for MS Basketball. Cord has experience coaching basketball from the elementary level through high school, and the district believes he will be an asset to our MS basketball program and beyond.
- Josh Richter - Volunteer HS Football Coach (pending certification with the state of Iowa)

Student Handbooks & Employee Handbooks

The Board approved the following: Employee and Student Handbooks

Handbooks are available upon request for each building, and the district handbook is attached (pertains to all employees).

The building's student handbooks have no major changes from recent years.

Finally, there are also separate handbooks in addition to the district handbook for Food Service, Associates, Secretaries, and both buildings student handbooks that are available on the district website.

Meyer updated the Cell Phone policy somewhat for staff. It reads at the following and is in the District Handbook and separate employee area handbooks:

Cell Phones: As a professional in a professional environment it is important to act professionally at all times, especially when we serve as role models for students on a daily basis. Cell phone use should be limited to times when you do not have students in your room or under your supervision. There may be special situations (family emergencies, etc.) that deem it necessary to have a cell phone available to communicate with someone, but this is not to be normal practice. At the same time, if a teacher needs to take a picture with their device (cell

phone), or post information about class on social media using the phone during a class, this is acceptable and appropriate.

Summer Project Updates

A few updates:

- Classroom and Hallway Floors - Completed
- Classroom Cleaning - Completed, minus a few small repairs in several rooms (fixing lights, paint touch-up, etc.)
- Gym Floors - Completed
- New Furniture (Elementary Classrooms) - The furniture, collaborative tables, should arrive next week, or the beginning of the following week. This will be a nice addition for our students and their learning in both grades 3 & 5 for the 2016-2017 school year. My plan currently is to add furniture to classrooms on a yearly basis in both buildings (or one of the other) that promote collaboration among students, and allow for an enhancement of their learning. Budget dependent obviously. We received some grant money this year for this endeavor, and it costing the district approximately \$6000. We also purchased a few new teacher's desks and chairs for the TLC staff and new position of elementary counselor, plus a few similar needs for staff.
- Elementary Sidewalk area - D&T Concrete is to be starting this endeavor this week, but most of it next week. The areas are the sidewalk across the street from the Bellevue Fire Department (split cost with the City of Bellevue- \$3500 each approximately), and the east side of the school and some sections on the Fire Department side that are not impacted by the Fire Department (\$5000-\$5500 approximately).



- In addition, some rooms have changed as a result of the TLC (Teacher Leadership Compensation) program. Curt Ernst and Joannie Kilburg are the Instructional Coaches, and have new areas overall. While Curt is keeping his own room at the elementary, Joannie is moving into Kim Jochum's room that she used for Title I (next door to Curt) and Kim is moving to the downstairs elementary lab area that is not utilized much. In addition, the staff has moved some computers from this room to Mr. Toops' room in the MS/HS for use. This allows Kim some extra room for her students and materials, and utilizes this room daily. In the past 1-2 years the room has not been utilized much due to computer/iPad access in the teacher's rooms for students. In the MS/HS Curt and Joannie will share Jim Handke's Technology Room. Jim is only in the district for two days a week (not the whole day), and this seems like an appropriate area for the coaches since they are NOT in their rooms for a large portion of the day. We did buy some extra teacher desks and chairs for this room, along with a round table to collaborate around.
- Emily Rickertsen, Elementary Counselor, painted her room in the elementary building. Her location to work with students will be in the former Nurse's Office in the elementary (with the new office area a few years ago the Nurse's office is located in the office area). Emily volunteered to do this, and has it looking good for the start of the school year.
- The next phase of Cole Park is being planned. The Bellevue Braves have raised nearly \$20,000, and with this money and some from the Bellevue Community Club it appears that it will cover seating (box seating) and cement work for the baseball field. At this time, no seating is planned for the softball area based on requests from the coaches. The school contribution for this will be limited, and quite likely none!

Board Policy Updates

This was the final meeting on the Board Policy updates. See past information on these updates, and feel free to ask any questions. Meyer recommended the adoption of all updates, including the Student Representative. These are attached, and were approved

Student Teaching Agreements

The Board approved the student teaching agreements with the University of Dubuque and the University of Northern Iowa. This is a formality for the colleges and the school in the case of student teaching assignments in our district. Mitchell Haferbier will be student teaching the first semester with Pam Van Vleck and Tim Toops.

Board Secretary/Treasurer

The Board approved the continuation of the services of Penny Medinger as Board Secretary/Treasurer for the 2016-2017 school year. Penny does an outstanding job in maintaining accurate records, monitoring various accounts, and assisting the entire district financially. She is an outstanding employee, who understands the duties of her position very well.

Depositor Banks

The Board approved Bellevue CSD name Bellevue State Bank, Fidelity Bank, ISJIT, and Banker's Trust as depositor banks for 2016-2017 school year up to an amount of \$5,000,000. We have done this for several years, and it allows us options in depositing funds.

Comet School Finance Overview

Reminder: Enrollment drives our funding...pure and simple. Based on registration it appears good overall, but we will not know until the first few days of school and ultimately not until "Count Day" in October.

Comet Curriculum Presentation

Curt Ernst presented briefly on the upcoming Instructional Coaching Roles of his and Joannie Kilburg..Curt as the STEP (Science, Technology, Engagement and Problem-Solving) Coach and Joannie as the Literacy Coach. Their goal, simply put, is to assist teachers in improving student learning. It is a program in motion and will be improved continually throughout the school year.

Comet Reading and Reflection

In connection with Joannie and Curt's presentation, Meyer shared an excerpt from the book "Peak" (attached) by Anders Ericsson and Robert Pool that discusses the improvements over time, and how these improvements occur. Meyer also shared a short video from Arthur Clarke from 1974 to show an example of how things change... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIRZebE8084>

Information Items

Registration Review

Registration on Monday and Tuesday went well, and attendance was good. We have had several new families, but some families who were in the district have also moved. Some statistics on attendance:

- Out of the 293 families (including new families) at the MS/HS, only 26 families did not make it to registration, and 4 of them let the offices know they could not make it to registration.
- It appears that the MS/HS will have 20 new students.
- Initial numbers indicate 4-year old numbers are up 12 from last year's 3-year old preschool count; In addition, in K-5 we have 18 new students, but 8 students have left (+10 overall).

The numbers appear good right now, but...you never know until school starts and when numbers become official in October with the state and enrollment requirements.

IASB Annual Conference in Des Moines

This year's conference is on November 18 & 19. The 18th is the delegate assembly with the main conference on the 19th. If you can arrange it in your schedules, it is a great learning opportunity with Board members from across

the state. It allows you to see what other Boards and districts are doing across the state, along with hearing from other speakers.

New Staff Meeting

I have tentatively scheduled the 3rd Annual Board and New Staff get together for Tuesday, August 16 at the "Flatted Fifth" (Potter's Mill) from 6:30-7:30. Meyer will plan on ordering appetizers and some soft drinks, etc. for everyone to enjoy and visit together with.

Joint Board Meeting

We need to have our annual Joint Board Meeting with the Andrew CSD sometime soon to share our use of their funds from the Whole Grade Sharing agreement. Meyer is working with their Superintendent, Chris Fee, on scheduling this. It will likely occur prior to our regular meeting in September at 6:00 on September 12.

Adjourn

Next meeting is Monday, September 12 @ 6:30 PM (possibly a Joint Board Meeting with the Andrew CSD Board Members at 6:00)