

The Weekly Comet

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

Believe In The Blue! Believe In Bellevue!



Weather Impacts

As you are aware, the Bellevue CSD has experienced an impact from weather recently. The state requires each school district to meet for a minimum of 1080 instructional hours. School districts across the state schedule more hours than this based on teacher contract days and traditional school calendars for student learning. This year the Bellevue CSD was scheduled to have 1133 hours if we did not have any unexpected late-starts/early-dismissals or days with no school caused by the weather. At this time we are still on track to have well over the 1080 hours (see below):

Scheduled hours	1133.0 hours
*Missed hours	<u>29.5 hours</u>
Scheduled hours as of 2.17.23	1103.5 hours

- *No School (6.5 hours of instruction) - January 25, February 9 & 16
- *Late Start (2.0 hours of instruction) - January 5 & 9, February 3, 10 & 17

The last scheduled day is Thursday, May 25, but this day may be moved to Friday, May 26 or later due to missed school days (as indicated above) and its impact on learning. More details will emerge after the March or April school board meeting when winter weather possibilities are lessened.

Bellevue CSD Referendum Information

The referendum vote for a new 3-5 Bellevue Elementary building is coming soon. The vote is on March 7, 2023 from 7AM-8PM at the Bellevue Community Center, but people can also vote at the Jackson County Auditor's Office Monday through Friday from 8:30AM - 4:30PM. The ballot language is the following:

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?

For further information, check out the following website connected to the district website: <http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us/bondlandingpage>

Student Learning

Thanks for Josh and Angie Scheckel, and their son Holden, for brining in some calves for 1st grade students to see earlier this week (right), plus the HS Choir and HS Student Council combined to share the Valentine's Day cheer with "Singing Valentines" in both buildings (below)




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

- 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
- March 22 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher Professional Learning
- April 7-11 - No School for Students - Spring Break; Teacher Professional Learning on April 11



Bellevue's 175-year-old elementary school is out of space and time. The current elementary school, built in 1848, is one of the oldest structures in Iowa that continues to be used as an elementary school. There are not enough classrooms to meet Bellevue's growing enrollment. Classrooms and corridors are undersized, and many spaces do not meet accessibility and code requirements. Systems, including the building's boiler, are past their life and need to be replaced. The age of the building also makes it impossible to meet current safety standards.

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.



PHASE 1	A new building at the middle/high school campus for grades 3-5. PreK through second grade will remain at the current elementary school for the immediate future.	FUNDING SOURCE BOND + PPEL/SAVE
PHASE 2	Renovations and improvements to the high school's fine arts and CTE spaces and/or other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2. This phase will commence around 2028.	FUNDING SOURCE PPEL/SAVE

WHAT'S THE PLAN?



Learn more!

Scan the QR code or visit bellevue.k12.ia.us/bondlandingpage

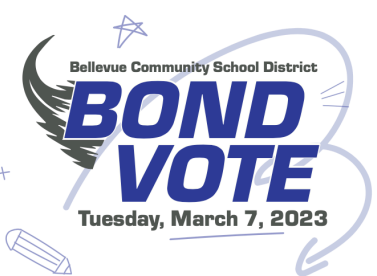
WHY IS THE DISTRICT NOT RENOVATING THE EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

The current elementary school, built in 1848, is one of the oldest structures in Iowa that continues to be used as an elementary school. There are not enough classrooms to meet Bellevue's growing enrollment. Classrooms and corridors are undersized, and many spaces do not meet accessibility and code requirements. Systems, including the building's boiler, are past their life and need to be replaced. The age of the building also makes it impossible to meet current safety standards.

The committee agreed on the proposed plan only after considering multiple concepts, including a combination of renovations and additions at both the existing elementary school and secondary school sites. Building a new school at the secondary school campus was ultimately the preferred solution for these reasons:


1. The cost of renovating and adding onto the existing school was not less than building new.
2. The existing site is too small to accommodate a building, play areas, and parking that can meet modern teaching and learning needs.
3. Due to the small site, construction and demolition would have taken place in phases over the course of multiple years, which would have been disruptive to learning.





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**.



BOND VOTE
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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.

