

**BENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
IN THE COUNTIES OF TAMA, BENTON, AND IOWA, STATE OF IOWA  
BENTON REGULAR BOARD MEETING, Wednesday, JANUARY 15, 2020, 6:00 PM  
BENTON COMMUNITY CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE BOARD ROOM  
304 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, VAN HORNE, IOWA 52346**

**1. Board Meeting Opened: 6:00 P.M. with a call to order by Board President Pat Stepanek.**

**Present:** Directors Becker 7:00 P.M., Ludeking, Stepanek, Thompson, and Upah.

**ABSENT:** Director Nolte.

**Also Present:** Jane Svestka, Jamie Bieschke, Anna Upah, Ryan Junge, Phil Eastman, Rob Arnold, Natalie Nesbitt, Aaron Cretin, Shawn Pffiffner, Tim Lyons, Doug Embray, Dr. Ewell, and Brenda Werning. A quorum was declared present.

**2. Delegations, Communications, Considerations of Additional Items for the Agenda:**

- a. Tom Gerhold will join us at the start of the Feb. meeting if he is available
- b. Superintendent Ewell shared condolences to the Dan Schorg family on the passing their son in a vehicle accident.

**3. Public Hearing Instructional Support Levy: NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4. Action #99 Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Thompson, second by Ludeking to approve agenda.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

**5. Action #100 PUBLIC HEARING - INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT LEVY EXTENSION**

**a. Resolution to Participate**

The Board will provide a public hearing and allow anyone in attendance to speak. After receiving public input at the hearing (if any), the Board will take action on the instructional support levy.

**Motion recommendation by Dr. Ewell - "Approve the resolution to adopt the Instructional Support Levy Extension as provided in Iowa Code sections 2S7.18 through 2S7 .21"**

Motion by Upah, second by Thompson to approve the resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Becker absent till (7:00 p.m.), Nolte Absent, Stepanek, Thompson, Upah present. Members Present Voting AYE

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

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**6. Action #101 - APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER - DISTRICT 6**

Motion recommendation by Dr. Ewell - "To approve the appointment of Brenda Werning as Board Director for District #6."

Motion made by Ludeking, second by Upah to appoint Brenda Werning as the new board director for District 6 to replace Wayne Reinhart who resigned.

Roll Call Vote: Becker absent till (7:00 p.m.), Nolte Absent, Stepanek, Thompson, Upah present. Members Present Voting AYE

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

Board Secretary Doug Embray read the [Oath of Office](#) to Brenda Werning. Brenda affirmed oath commitment.

**7. Action #102 - DROPOUT PREVENTION / AT RISK**

The Board will consider approval of the following resolution for modified supplemental amount for At-Risk/Dropout prevention program for FY21. The MSA Application is linked [HERE](#).

Motion recommendation by Dr. Ewell - "The Benton CSD approves the request for modified supplemental amount for its At-Risk/Dropout prevention program in the estimated amount of \$263,929 subject to final approval by the School Budget Review Committee.

Motion by Thompson, second by Ludeking to approve the request for modified supplemental amount for At-Risk/Dropout Prevention Program in the amount of \$263,929.

Roll Call Vote: Becker absent (7:00 PM), Ludeking, Nolte Absent, Stepanek, Thompson, Upah and Werning. All Members Present Voting AYE.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

**8. ASSESSMENTS - SECONDARY - NO ACTION, PRESENTATION ONLY**

**a. [Counselor Presentation Slide Deck 4 Year Plan](#)**

Aaron Cretin and Natalie Nesbitt provided the board program guidance on student career development structure for HS 4-year plan. Assessments, Scheduling for Course work, Post-Secondary evaluation and data on participation were shared with the board. Slide Deck included for board record. No action.

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**9. Food Service Director Report**

Food Service Director Jane Svestka provided the board an update on District Nutrition Program. Presentation outlined purchasing for product, meal eligibility, commodity program, staffing, finances, equipment, infrastructure, program goals, training, continuing education and program stability. Board Directors discussed recent training event for food service staff and considerations of plant based menu promotion. Director Svestka shared the training opportunity was exposure to plant based meal options and use of beans. Director Svestka stated that the district food service program would not be implementing plant based menus or replace meat options currently provided in menu planning.

**10. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- a. [Administration Report](#)
- b. [Touch of Class Budget 2020](#)
- c. [Touch of Class Historical 17 18 19](#)

**11. BUSINESS SERVICES**

Doug Embray and Dr. Ewell recommend approval of the Financial Reports as presented:

**Action #103 -**

Motion recommendation by Dr. Ewell to approve the financial reports as presented.

- i. WARRANTS
  - 1. [PRELIMINARY WARRANTS](#)
  - 2. [ADDITIONAL WARRANTS](#)
  - 3. [SUMMARY OF WARRANTS](#)

Motion by Thompson, second by Upah to approve warrants as presented.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

**Action #104 -**

- ii. FINANCIAL REPORTS
  - 1. [GENERAL FUND REPORT](#)
  - 2. [ALL FUNDS REPORT](#)

Motion by Becker, second by Upah to approve warrants as presented.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

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**12. FACILITIES - FACILITIES USE POLICIES**

Board and Administration discussed district facility use policy and potential adjustments and revisions to current policy and administrative regulation. Topics for discussion were definitions of group to use facility, communication of schedule facility calendar, prioritization of use, length of use of facility, google calendar vs subscription application of calendar, charging of facility use by category and amounts, and other school districts facility use policy. Mr. Pfiffner will be tasked with providing the board current board policy revision options at the February board meeting. No action taken.

**13. Action #105 - POLICY**

Dr. Ewell's Motion Recommendation: "Approve the policy review and reviews as presented."

Policy Review

3. [Policy 101 - Legal Status of the School District](#)
4. [Policy 102 & 102.R1- Long-Range Needs Assessments](#)
5. [Policy 905.4 405- Tobacco/Nicotine-Free Environment](#)
6. [Policy 200.2 - Benton Community School District](#)
7. [Policy 202.4 - Board Vacancies](#)
8. [Policy 203 - Conflict of Interest](#)
9. [Policy 204 - Code of Ethics](#)
10. [Policy 205.1 - Board Member Liability](#)
11. [Policy 206.1 - President](#)
12. [Policy 206.2 - Vice President](#)
13. [Policy 208.1 - Temporary Committees of the Board AD HOC COMMITTEES](#)
14. [Policy 300 - Role of School District Administration](#)
15. [Policy 302.1 - Superintendent-Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment](#)
16. [Policy 302.6 - Superintendent Professional Development](#)
17. [Policy 302.7 - Superintendent Civic Activities](#)
18. [Policy 303.2 - Administrator Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointments](#)
19. [Policy 401.3 - Nepotism](#)
20. [Policy 401.6 - Personnel Relations to Administration and to the Board](#)
21. [Policy 704.6 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests](#)
22. New Policies - require 2 readings
  - a. [Seat-Belt policy - 1st reading](#)
  - b. [Policy 920 - Naming of District Facilities and Events](#) - 1st reading

Motion by Thompson, second by Upah to approve the policy review and reviews as presented.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

**14. Action #106 - CONSENT AGENDA**

**Dr. Ewell will recommend the approval of the entire consent agenda.**

Motion by Thompson, second by Werning to approve consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

**a. PERSONNEL**

**i. HIRES - RECOMMENDATIONS**

**\*all hires are contingent on approved background checks and fingerprinting**

1. Amanda Coffland - Bus Driver
2. Mike Arnold - Substitute Bus Driver
3. Curtis Spence - Substitute Custodian
4. Mackenzie DeVries - Bus Duty Sub (Afternoon)

**ii. Resignations**

1. Sabrina Lovell - Food Service

**b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - [December 18 Minutes](#), [Jan. 6 Work Session](#), [Jan. 8 Work Session](#)**

**c. Fundraisers**

**i. Vocal Music - for choreography & costumes for show choir**

1. [Feb. 23 - Sunday](#)

**15. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

**a. UPCOMING EVENTS**

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- b. Board meetings
  - i. Feb./March work session or March 18 Regular Meeting - interview architectural firms
  - ii. Feb. 19 - Regular Meeting - determine architectural firms to bring in
    - 1. Tom Gerhold - here at the start of the meeting to discuss the legislative session
  - iii. Action item – Date of possible Closed Session for this before you make a decision
  - iv. Exempt Session at Feb. or March meeting - Negotiations

**16. EXEMPT SESSION**

**a. With Superintendent - succession plan**

**i. A meeting of a Board to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. I.C. 21.9**

- 1. (497—8.3(21,22) Exempt sessions. 8.3(1) An Iowa Code section 21.9 exempt session is a meeting to discuss strategy concerning employment conditions of employees of a governmental body who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement under Iowa Code chapter 20. 8.3(2) “Employment conditions” include wages, hours, vacations, insurance, holidays, leaves of absence, shift differentials, overtime compensation, supplemental pay, seniority, transfer procedures, job classifications, health and safety matters, evaluation procedures, procedures for staff reduction, in-service training, and grievance procedures. 8.3(3) An exempt session does not fall under the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 21; therefore, notice, a tentative agenda, minutes, and other requirements of Iowa Code chapter 21 do not apply. 8.3(4) The purpose of an exempt session is to allow a governmental body to formulate its position on the terms and conditions of employment for non-union employees in private. An exemption from the open meetings law for this purpose parallels the exemption provided by Iowa Code chapter 20 for governmental bodies negotiating with employee unions. Meetings to evaluate the professional Ch. 8, p.2 Public Information[497] IAC 11/6/19 competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered are subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 21.5(1)“i.” This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 21.9.)

**17. Action #107 - ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Thompson, second by Ludeking to adjourn meeting.

MOTION CARRIED  
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.