

**Belmond-Klemme Community  
School District**  
Belmond, Iowa 50421



**Superintendent's Report**

**TO:** The Belmond-Klemme School Board  
**FROM:** Dan Frazier, Superintendent  
**DATE:** Thursday, June 09, 2022  
**RE:** Superintendent's Report on School District Business

**Hiring Update**

We are currently fully staffed for the next school year. We are one of the very few in the state of Iowa.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Leaving</u>	<u>Hiree</u>
2201. Art, Elementary	1.0 FTE	<i>Nicole Nelson</i>	Mikayla Hennigar
2202. Physical Education, Elem.	1.0 FTE	<i>Jaxon Heinz</i>	Brooke O'Connell
2203. Teacher, Elementary, 5th	1.0 FTE	<i>Annie Bram</i>	Dani Schon Transfer
2204. Physical Education, H.S.	1.0 FTE	Jerry Lane	Derek Varner
2205. English/Language Arts	1.0 FTE	Candie Cueva	Erin Slifer
2206. Computers, Elementary	0.5 FTE	Dani Schon	
2207. TAG	0.5 FTE	Dani Schon	
2208. Kindergarten	1.0 FTE	Karissa Rasch	Kristiana Reinsmoen
2209. Teacher, Elementary, 2nd	1.0 FTE	Mariana Henrichs	Annabelle Jensen
2210. Teacher, Elem, Utility	1.0 FTE		
2211. Social Studies, Secondary	1.0 FTE	Adam Anthony	Ethan Krogman
2212. Teacher, Elementary, 6th	1.0 FTE	Leah Deutsch	Nicole Van Hooser
2213. Teacher, Elementary, 6th	1.0 FTE	Leah Thompson	Lacey Krabbe

Sixth grade teacher Leah Thompson resigned from her position. Special education teacher Lori Eekhoff offered to move to the sixth grade regular classroom position. In her place, we will recommend Lacy Krabbe. Lacy previously taught nine years of special education in CAL.

Therefore, we are now fully staffed except for the newly created computer/TAG position at the elementary and middle school.

Now that it is June and the school year is complete, we are not required to release any teachers from their contracts for next year.

## **Iowa in a Crisis of a Teacher Shortage**

Across the state, thousands of teaching jobs remain unfilled. All schools are required by law to post their job vacancies on the Teach Iowa website. For the last few years, Iowa schools have been receiving applicants from overseas. This year I hear unconfirmed rumors they are getting hired. Many of the applicants are from the Philippines. The school will help the teacher get a Green Card and move to the U.S., but Iowa schools may have no other options.

Iowa education has reached a point of crisis. We are over the edge and on the way downhill, and no one in Iowa government seems to care. Here's an article from WHO: "Low pay and burnout causing the great teacher resignation," by: Natalie Paynter:

<https://who13.com/news/low-pay-and-burnout-causing-the-great-teacher-resignation/>

## **Redistricting**

Now that the U.S. Census is complete, school districts and AEAs must complete redistricting based on the new data due in 2023. As you know, redistricting is used for multiple purposes including Director Districts to determine board membership.

I am looking into firms that can help us rebalance the population of our director districts. At this time, I have one vendor I have contacted: Cornerstone Geospatial Consulting. I will keep the Board posted as I work on this project.

## **Clarion and Soccer**

Clarion is on board, however, with sending their soccer players to us next spring for a shared soccer program. I plan to have the contract on the July board agenda.

## **Rec Center**

I am leading a community committee whose purpose is to explore and plan for a possible community recreation center with gymnasium and fitness center. Iowa Specialty Hospital would like to convert their existing fitness center into office space. They would also like a gymnasium. As a school, we, of course, are short on gymnasium space. We could use the equivalent of three basketball courts. The city also has an interest in something that would support youth sports and adult recreation. I have volunteered to lead the effort.

## **Sound Quality Improvement**

Although the appearance of the instrumental music room has been modernized and greatly enhanced, the sound quality has actually diminished. Our sound engineer has worked with Mike Stittsworth, and we now have a new design for sound control in the room. I have authorized the installation of additional sound control tiles at a cost of \$18,000.

## **No Vouchers This Year**

On Monday morning, May 23, House Speaker Pat Grassley announced the Iowa Legislature will not pass Governor Kim Reynolds' private education bill this year. "It doesn't look like we're going to be able to put the votes together in the House this year to pass that," he said.

In a Tweet the same morning, Senator Sarah Trone Garriott @SarahforIowa stated, "Knocking on doors, I have heard resoundingly from people of all political affiliations—Iowans don't want vouchers. I'm glad these Reps were listening." According to opinion polls, 60% of Iowans do not want vouchers.

Governor Reynolds has since vowed to pass her voucher bill next year.

## **Vouchers Maybe Next Year**

Governor Reynolds just primaryed four state representatives in her own party who had stuck by her through thick and thin but would not give her vouchers. Their constituents did not want vouchers.

So, Governor Reynolds endorsed their opponents in the Republican primary and all four endorsed challengers won. Now those reps are out, and four new GOP representatives will likely be elected. Then vouchers may be smooth sailing into law.

**While it is easier to transfer public funds to private entities than to undertake the challenging work of fixing our public schools, it is fruitless and short-sighted to divert resources from the public schools that serve the vast majority of students. Just as this nation was intentional about the establishment of the public education system, we must continue to be intentional about the urgent need to prioritize a quality public education for all students and not privatize the educational system for the benefit of just a few.**

*~"Grading the States," NPE and Schott Foundation*

## **No Open Enrollment Deadlines**

In order to stick it to schools one more time in another way, late Tuesday night and last minute, the Iowa Legislature struck all the dates and deadlines for open enrollment. The law since 1986 has been that parents were required to apply for open enrollment by March 1 so schools could plan and budget for the coming year.

This law change means that there are now *NO* open enrollment deadlines. Students can now open enroll between districts at any time, for any reason, and as always, funds follow immediately.

This change in the law took place largely in secret and out of the blue with no public input or debate.

## **Dan's Schedule for the Week of July 4**

Taking a week of vacation.

## **Calendar of Upcoming Board Events**

June 19, 2022	Father's Day
June 21, 2022	Summer Solstice
July 4, 2022	Independence Day
July 21, 2022	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
August 15 – 19, 2022	Back-to-school Workshop
August 18, 2022	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
August 23, 2022	8:30 A.M., First Day of School for Students
August 30, 2022	7:00 P.M., Volleyball home opener versus Lake Mills
September 1, 2022	Kindergarten Open Enrollment Deadline
September 2, 2022	7:00 P.M., Football home opener versus Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
September 5, 2022	Labor Day – No School
September 11, 2022	Patriot Day
September 15, 2022	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
September 17, 2022	Constitution Day
September 21, 2022	1:30 P.M. Dismissal for Teacher PD