

**John Bergs**  
Activities Director  
**Margot Hansen**  
Director of Teaching & Learning  
**Jeff Heine**  
Buildings & Grounds Director

**BELLE PLAINE**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Ryan Laager, Ed.D., Superintendent

**Chuck Keller**  
Business Director  
**Mary Mesler**  
Student Support Services Director  
**Dorothy Koller**  
Community Education Director

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**ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Oak Crest Elementary School, 1101 Commerce Dr, Belle Plaine, MN 56011**  
**6:00 PM Monday, January 5, 2026**

***Our mission is to pursue excellence in academics, programming, and the social and emotional development of our students. Fostering a culture of kindness, inclusion, and pride in ourselves, our school, and our community.***

Terry Kahle: Present, Karl Keup: Present, Matt Lenz: Present, Tracy O'Brien: Present, Kellen Schmidt: Present, Tonya Smith: Present.

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair will call the meeting to order.

**2. Election of 2026 School Board Officials:**

Acting Chair Kahle

Nominations are in order for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Clerk and Treasurer.

Acting Chair will ask for nominations (3) times from the floor. After the selection of the chairperson, the rest of the meeting will be the responsibility of the newly elected chairperson.

**1. Chair**

Nomination(s):

Approve the nomination of Terry Kahle as Chair of the Belle Plaine School Board. This motion, made by Kellen Schmidt and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**2. Vice-Chair**

Nomination(s):

Approve the nomination of Tracy O'Brien as Vice-Chair of the Belle Plaine School Board. This motion, made by Matt Lenz and seconded by Karl Keup, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**3. Clerk**

Nomination(s):

Approve the nomination of Tonya Smith as Clerk of the Belle Plaine School Board. This motion, made by Kellen Schmidt and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**4. Treasurer**

Nomination(s):

Approve the nomination of Kael Keup as Treasurer of the Belle Plaine School Board. This motion, made by Tracy O'Brien and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**3. Acknowledgment of Visitors:**

Board Chair

The newly elected Chairperson will ask if visitors wish to make any comments.

**4. Other Items as Brought Before the Board & Approval of** Board Chair

**Agenda:**

Chairperson will ask if there are any items that need to be brought before the board and for consideration of the Agenda.

Approve the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Tracy O'Brien and seconded by Karl Keup, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**5. Consensus Items:** Board Chair

The following consensus items will be voted on as a group. If anyone wishes to separate one or any items from the consensus vote, please notify the chair immediately.

Approve all of the following consensus items. This motion, made by Tonya Smith and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**1. 2026 Official Depository**

As per past practice, there is a need to designate an official depository each year. It is recommended that First National Bank of Belle Plaine and Cornerstone State Bank be named as the official depositories of all district funds for year 2026. In addition, the MN School District Liquid Asset Fund and MN Trust shall be designated as alternate school district depositories.

**2. 2026 Official Newspaper**

As per past practice, it is recommended to designate the Henderson Independent as the official district newspaper during the 2026 year.

**3. 2026 Official School Attorney**

As per past practice, it is recommended to designate Dorsey, Whitney LLP, and Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney as the official district Attorneys during the 2026 year.

**4. 2026 Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

Establish mileage reimbursement rate at 2026 IRS rate of \$.725/mile.

**6. Action Items:**

**1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO  
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF  
A DECLARATION OF TRUST ESTABLISHING  
THE "MN TRUST" AND AUTHORIZING  
PARTICIPATION THEREIN:**

A resolution authoring the participation in the MN Trust.

Approve participation and entry into the MN Trust. This motion, made by Kellen Schmidt and seconded by Karl Keup, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

**2. ISD #716 Authorization Resolution** Chuck Keller

As per past practice, it is necessary to officially authorize the district signers as submitted, i.e. Board Chairperson, Clerk, Treasurer, and designees Business Manager, Payroll Supervisor, Accounts Payable Supervisor and Superintendent.

Approve district signers for financial transactions. This motion, made by Tracy O'Brien

and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

### **3. 2026 Regular Board Meeting Dates**

Dr. Ryan Laager

Administration recommends that the board continue with two meeting dates per month – the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The first meeting each month is proposed to be a work session dealing with current issues such as curriculum, testing, budget or policy. The second meeting each month would be the full business meeting of the board.

\* Note that no work session is scheduled for July, October and December and that these regular meetings are proposed to be on the 3rd Monday.

Regular board meetings will begin with the Finance Committee Meeting at 6 p.m. for all months. Work sessions begin at 6 p.m. Please see the attached schedule.

Approve the schedule for the 2026 School Board Meetings. This motion, made by Karl Keup and seconded by Matt Lenz, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

### **4. Organizational Structure**

Dr. Ryan Laager

The board must annually approve the formal organizational structure for the district. Previously assigned board committees are included on the organizational chart. Supt. Laager will discuss the responsibilities of each of the committee assignments and members may request preferences for committee assignments. If changes in committee assignments are desired, approval for all committee assignments will remade with changes. The current organizational chart is attached for your review. Approve the organizational structure and committee assignments. This motion, made by Tracy O'Brien and seconded by Kellen Schmidt, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

### **5. Board Member Compensation**

Dr. Ryan Laager

The current rates are: \$1,800 annual stipend for all board members; \$200 for Chair; \$150 for Vice Chair, Clerk & Treasurer; Chief Negotiators \$150; Special Meetings \$50; All Day Meetings \$100. Payments are made to board members at the end of June and at the end of December for half the stipend amount and for any extra meetings attended during that time period by the member.

Recommendation is to leave the compensation at these rates for 2026.

Approval of the Board Member Compensation schedule is recommended. This motion, made by Tonya Smith and seconded by Tracy O'Brien, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

## **7. Discussion Items:**

### **1. Superintendent Update:**

Dr. Ryan Laager

Superintendent Laager provided the following updates:

- Facilities: The initial round of meetings with CTE, fine arts, and athletics staff are expected to wrap up by mid-February.
- Courses: There is a new requirement to offer an ethnic studies course in 2026. This course will follow the same minimum registration process as other courses (i.e., will not run without the designated minimum number of students signed up).
- Registration: Kindergarten roundup is planned for early March. The high school

registration process will begin for students in February.

- Curriculum: Administration and teaching staff are partnering to explore math series options for K-5.

**2. Board Member Updates:**

**8. Upcoming Meetings:**

January 26: 6:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

February 9: 6:00 p.m. Board Work Session

February 23: 6:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

**9. Adjourn:**

Board Chair

Adjourn the Organizational Meeting at 6:22 pm. This motion, made by Karl Keup and seconded by Kellen Schmidt, Passed.

Kahle: Yea, Keup: Yea, Lenz: Yea, O'Brien: Yea, Schmidt: Yea, Smith: Yea

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Board Clerk

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Date