

Belmond-Klemme Community School District

Belmond, Iowa 50421



Superintendent's Report

TO: The Belmond-Klemme School Board
FROM: Dan Frazier, Superintendent
DATE: Monday, October 12, 2020
RE: Superintendent's Report on School District Business

Change Orders for Greenhouse

September 29, we did our final walk-through of the new greenhouse. It is ready to go and very impressive.

In any construction project, change orders are inevitable. We found we needed some additional plumbing and electrical work for \$12,000, and we needed a concrete ramp to meet fire exit codes on the east side, \$2,000. I authorized these two change orders.

Excellent Bus Inspection

Twice each year, the state must inspect our entire fleet of vehicles. The state used to provide this service at no cost, but now they charge us handsomely for each inspection.

This week saw one of our best inspections. Only one had a minor citation. One bus had a burned-out light. That was all.

Classroom Video Systems

When Jacobson Elementary was built in 2008, Promethean (smart) Boards were installed in every classroom, courtesy of the Jacobson Foundation. These interactive white boards were the state of the art when they were selected for our school.

However, that was twelve years ago. In terms of modern technology, they are very dated. They cannot compete with a laptop computer or a tablet in the hands of every single student. Moreover, the operating system in our old Promethean Boards is vulnerable to hacking. This endangers our entire computer network.

We have taken the step to replace the Promethean Boards (which would cost several thousand dollars apiece to replace) with big screen televisions for a fraction of the cost. The televisions connected to modern computers are able to serve as effectively as the Promethean Boards.

Classroom Sound Systems

When Jacobson Elementary was built, voice amplification speakers were installed in all classrooms. Most teachers over time chose not to use the voice amp system. Eventually the systems became outdated.

However, with teachers wearing masks on a daily basis, several teachers report need the voice amplification systems in their classrooms reactivated so their students can hear them better. It should be a reasonable cost to get these systems working again, and we are aiming to do so fairly quickly in the classrooms where the teachers have requested it.

Annual Flu Shot Clinic was Tuesday

With over 200,000 Americans dead from the COVID-19 virus and the virus continuing unabated, it has never been more important for everyone to get a flu shot. Belmond-Klemme held our annual flu shot clinic on Tuesday, October 13, in cooperation with Iowa Specialty Hospitals.

The seasonal flu vaccine is changed every year to keep up with the three strains of the virus that research suggests will be most common in the upcoming flu season. You need to get a new vaccine every year to stay safe. You can get the flu at any point during the year, but flu season occurs in the fall and winter.

According to the CDC, “a flu vaccine is needed every season for two reasons. First, a person’s immune protection from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, because flu viruses are constantly changing, flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the viruses that research suggests may be most common during the upcoming flu season. For the best protection, everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated annually.”

Calendar of Upcoming Board Events

October 27, 2020	End of First Quarter
November 6, 2020	No School Following Parent-teacher Conferences
November 17 – 19	IASB Annual Convention
November 19, 2020	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
November 25 – 29	No School – Thanksgiving Break
December 17, 2020	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
December 23 – 30	No School – Christmas Break