



## Belmond-Klemme Community School District

Interim Superintendent's Report, Chris Bergman, 1.18.24

### School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

Planning and Facilitation Team: Kendra Haugen, Christine Schultz, Erin Slifer, Justin Meyer, and Chris Bergman

A meeting of the School Improvement Advisory Committee of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District will be held on January 30, 2023 at the Belmond-Klemme Jr.-Sr. High School, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The following questions were included in the minutes of our first SIAC meeting. The bolded questions are ones of focus per board president recommendation:

- **Are our males and females performing at similar levels? If not, what might be factors influencing these results?**
- What does intervention look like for students in need of more support?
- **How are we serving the students already proficient with the standards expected at their grade level?**
- How are we utilizing our resources, human and financial, to match the needs of our students?
- **How often/how much do teachers need to go back and adjust the curriculum when there are gaps in learning?**
- Are specific groups of our students (English Learner, Talented and Gifted, Special Education, etc.) lower or higher than the state averages?
- **How are we supporting new teachers in learning the expected BK curriculum? What mentoring is in place?**
- What does the professional learning for our teachers, paraeducators, and other staff look like?
- **How many students are taking college-credit courses?**
- How are we pursuing more college and career readiness experiences such as work-based learning or new courses for our students?
- Are ACT scores important to our students? How many students take this assessment?
- If our instruction is based in research and is provided by a high quality teacher, should improved results be reflected in our scores?
- Besides standardized tests such as ISASP, FAST and ACT, what other data do teachers use to drive their instruction and make decisions?

### Community Partnerships

Ckay Jensen and I are scheduled to attend the Belmond Growth Alliance (BGA) Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th. Chad Schreck, the President and CEO of North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Schreck will share partnership opportunities within our area and from throughout Iowa.

## **Safety and Information Sharing**

On Thursday, January 11th, our Leadership Team met to focus on continuous improvement of safety and security for students, staff, families, and community members engaged on our school campuses.

A leading tool used to guide the conversations included and was not limited to the Belmond-Klemme Iowa School Assessment Report which was created pursuant to the Governor's initiative to support safety and security.

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), in partnership with local school districts, law enforcement personnel, private sector parties, and other stakeholders, developed and issued school district safety and security vulnerability assessment reports that focus on policies, plans, and procedures for active threat incidents and other safety matters. The assessment was designed to align with SISA (K-12 Security Guide, 3rd Edition), PASS (Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12, 5th Edition), DHS (K-12 School Security Guide for Preventing and Protecting Against Gun Violence, 2nd Edition, and FEMA (IS-362.A: Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools.

For security, such assessments are kept confidential, within need-to-know parties of an organization's leadership team. Please, know that our team takes the safety of our students and all who visit our campuses very seriously. We will continue to seek improved processes and communication, ask reflective questions, and listen to concerns as we respond.

In light of the recent tragedy within the Perry Community School District, safety and security is heightened and at the forefront of our hearts and thoughts. It is important to note that when incidents occur at school, district leaders are often unable to share information that some might find necessary. When investigating and seeking solutions, we are bound to policy, law, and following procedures.

When you have concerns, please reach out to your building principal as the first point of contact. Our goal is to communicate as best as possible, be transparent with all that is not confidential, and provide assurance that we care deeply about each child and situation.

## **Future Ready Assessment with CRAEA**

Our SIAC meeting brought to light a need and continued desire to enhance our 21st Century, STEM, Technology and Future Ready experiences for our students. Our board goal of enhancing critical thinking skills and honing communication skills aligns with this as well.

We will partner with CRAEA's Future Ready leadership team (Josh Johnson and Kay Schmalen) to assess our district's current offerings and build a database of information on Future Ready efforts to use to better align supports and allocate resources across the CRAEA region. These discussions will allow us to learn more about happenings in other school districts. I plan to include the principals, as well as aligned directors, counselors, instructional coaches, and other content experts.

## **Condition of the State Address**

To keep apprised of the announcements made regarding educational impact of this year's legislative session, take time to watch these portions of the address.

## **NIACC Career Center Grant**

This grant is in review today, January 18, 2024. Information will be shared as soon as the grant is awarded/denied.

## Communication

January Community Newsletter

## IASB Advocacy

Preschool Literacy Toolkit - IASB

Day-on-the-Hill

## Professional Learning

Willow Sweeney

Central Rivers AEA February 1, 2024 (AM session for Superintendents. PM session open to all educators - \$25)

Leadership Camp 1.3 Special Education Focus July, 2024 (There is no cost for the two-day leadership camp) Ckay Jensen will be attending this leadership experience.

## SF 496

BK received a State-Approved Waiver through July 2024 which will allow time for our newly hired teacher librarian to engage in Destiny (electronic catalog) training and inventory our current collection.

## Advocacy and Policy

### **Day on the Hill February 13, 2024**

The legislative session began on January 8th, and I encourage you to consider engaging in any advocacy activities you see fit. On Fridays, beginning January 18th, the superintendents from West Fork and Hampton Dumont, and I will be meeting with Representative Latham to advocate for public schools, specifically focusing on the needs of rural districts.

Opportunities to Engage in Advocacy: The interim superintendent attended these Zoom sessions.)

### **Day on the Hill Pre-Training: Three Things to Know; January 30, Noon–1 p.m.**

You won't want to miss this essential pre-training webinar featuring lobbyists Kate Walton, (AEAs) Michelle Johnson (IASB) and Dave Daughton (SAI). In this webinar, you'll get the info you need to be effective at Day on the Hill: the latest from under the golden dome, top education issues for all three organizations, and insights into new legislative issues floating around.

### **Day on the Hill Pre-Training: State of the Budget; February 7, Noon–1 p.m.**

In this brief rundown of the state of the budget and school finance funding issues, IASB Associate Executive Director of Government Relations & School Finance Shawn Snyder will hit on the biggest things you need to know about Iowa's economy and state revenues; the governor's budget recommendations; and what to keep an eye on beyond school aid funding. Heartland AEA CFO Kurt Subra will add his two cents about AEA funding (no pun intended), and the impact of last-minute reductions to that funding. This recap will ensure you are in-the-know before advocating at the Capitol.

***One day at the Capitol—three organizations—one unified voice for public education.*** For the first time ever, the AEAs, IASB and SAI are uniting for a collaborative Day on the Hill this February. Join your colleagues from all three organizations for a full day of advocating for public schools and student success at the Capitol! Together, the AEAs, IASB and SAI developed the following joint legislative priorities to help guide your discussions with your legislators: (I will be attending February 13th)

- Strengthen our educator workforce through increased investments;
- Support students in need with increased preschool funding and stable special education supports; and
- Sustain essential services for ALL public school students.

### **Calendar Events**

1.17.23	Top of Iowa Student Athlete Leadership Conference, Osage 9th: Parker Dougherty, Jordyn Muhlenbruch, Ella Walrod, and Cash Young 10th: Kendra Huedepohl, Kaylen Morris, Griffin Paulsen, and Daniel Rodriguez
1.26.23	SAI Executive Leaders, Ankeny
1.30.24	SIAC @ 6:00-7:30, Jr.-Sr. High School
2.13.24	Day on the Hill, Capitol at Des Moines
2.15.24	School Law Conference, Virtual Event
3.25.24	SIAC @ 6:00-7:30, Jr.-Sr. High School