

Belmond-Klemme Community School District

Belmond, Iowa 50421



Superintendent's Report

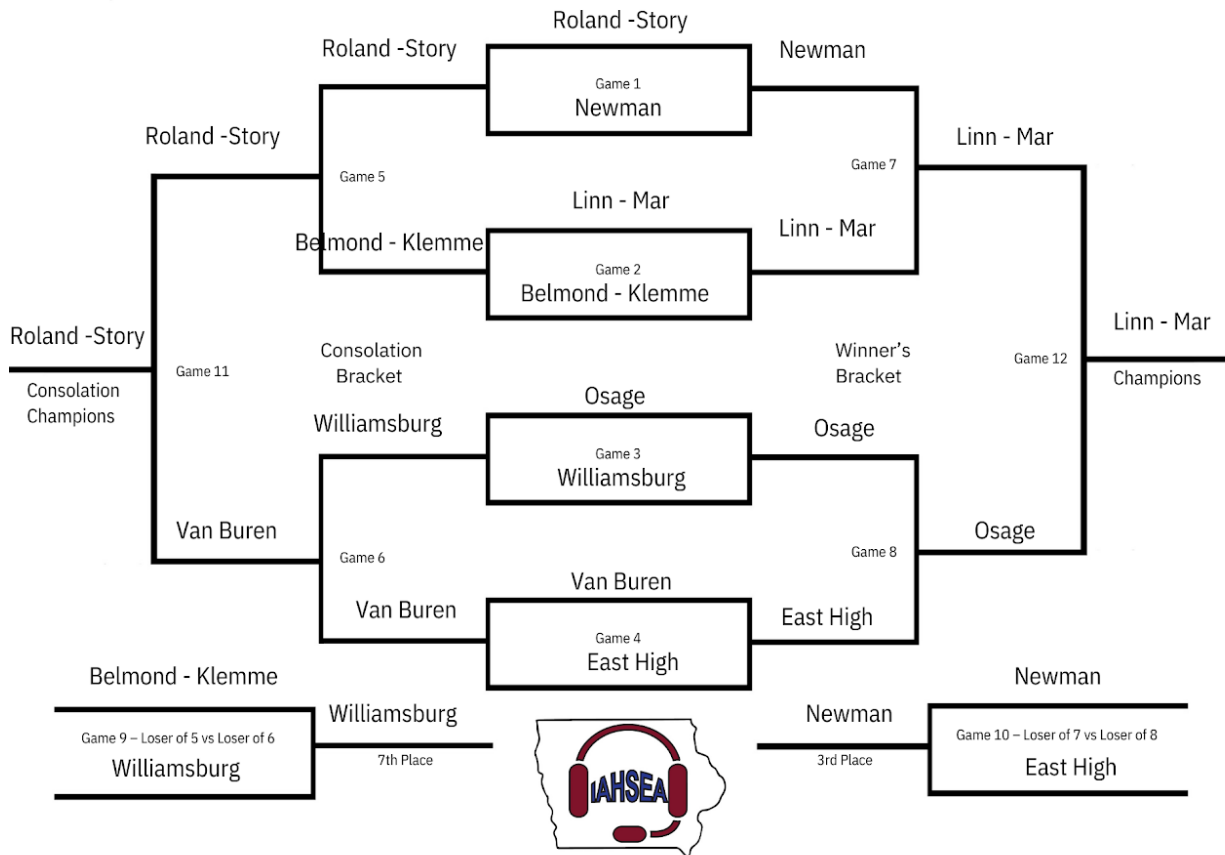
TO: The Belmond-Klemme School Board
FROM: Dan Frazier, Superintendent
DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022
RE: Superintendent's Report on School District Business

eSports Team in State Tournament

Earlier this month, our BK Bronco eSports team playing the game *Overwatch* competed in the state tournament again, this time placing 8th in the State of Iowa. *Congrats, team!*



2022 IAHSEA Overwatch Playoffs



Hiring Update

Posting	Position	Hiree
2201.	Art, Elementary	Mikayla Hennigar
2202.	Physical Education, Elem.	Brooke O'Connell
2203.	Teacher, Elementary, 5th	
2204.	Physical Education, H.S.	Derek Varner
2205.	English/Language Arts	Erin Slifer
2206.	Computers, Elementary	Possible Transfer
2207.	TAG	Possible Transfer
2208.	Kindergarten	
2209.	Teacher, Elementary, 2nd	Annabelle Jensen
2210.	Teacher, Elementary, Utility	Nicole Van Hooser
2211.	Social Studies, Secondary	

Current Job Openings

- Transportation Director;
- School Board Secretary;
- Teacher, Elementary, 5th Grade;
- Computers, Elementary (Potential Opening);
- Talented and Gifted (Potential Opening);
- Track Coach, Assistant Varsity Girls;
- Soccer Coaches, Head and Assistant;
- Baseball Coach, Assistant Varsity;
- Baseball Coach, Junior High.

Efficiency in Hiring

Because the board authorized the administration to hire one additional elementary teacher, we can move much, much faster in filling jobs. On Monday we interviewed three candidates for a possible opening in second grade. Later the same day, our second grade teacher resigned. After school, we offered the second grade position to one of the candidates we interviewed earlier in the day.

The candidate accepted the job on Tuesday afternoon. I sent her a contract Wednesday morning. By Wednesday afternoon, we had her inked. It is hard to be more efficient than that.

Budget Numbers Delayed; Special Meeting Needed

The state was slow in getting their sales tax numbers to us. Consequently, Business Manager Greenfield was not able to publish our budget in time for our next board meeting and budget hearing set for Thursday, March 17.

If no one has any objections, I suggest we have a special board meeting and budget hearing on Thursday, March 31.

Learning Loss with a Four-day Week

Across the nation, several school districts have opted for a four-day school week for multiple reasons such as a means to save money with buses running 20% fewer days and other services reduced by one-fifth. Over the course of a year, these schools averaged 58 fewer hours of school. More than 1,600 U.S. school districts have adopted the model as of 2019-2020.

RAND Corporation researchers examined the practice and found there are a number of surprising advantages to the shortened week. However, they also identified long-term learning loss from fewer days in school. The study published in *Education Week*, revealed the following findings:

“The researchers found that there was no significant difference between four- and five-day districts when looking at absolute measures of student proficiency. But looking at growth over time shifted that picture.

“Around three years after the switch, student growth in the four-day districts began to fall short compared to that in similarly situated five-day districts. The finding grew more pronounced with time and the slowdown in achievement was more dramatic in math than in reading. In all, the declines were on the order of between 0.5 to 0.15 of a standard deviation lower after three years, and around 0.2 of a standard deviation after eight years.”

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/4-day-school-weeks-new-research-examines-the-benefits-and-drawbacks/2021/10>

Recommend Discussing Permanent Daylight Savings Time

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday, March 15, passed legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent starting in 2023, ending the twice-annual changing of clocks in a move promoted by supporters advocating brighter afternoons and more economic activity. The Senate approved the measure, called the Sunshine Protection Act, unanimously by voice vote. The House of Representatives, which has held a committee hearing on the matter, must still pass the bill before it can go to President Biden to sign.

Some of us can still remember when our nation moved the clocks forward in winter. Congress voted on December 14, 1973, to put the US on daylight saving time for two years. President Nixon signed the bill the next day. The move was intended to conserve energy during the energy crisis of the 1970s.

However, early-morning darkness quickly proved dangerous for children. Over the next few months, the darkness contributed to multiple accidents among students on the way to school. Students suffered injuries, and there were deaths too. By February, eight Florida kids had been killed in traffic accidents. Florida's governor, Reubin Askew, asked for Congress to repeal the measure.

"It's time to recognize that we may well have made a mistake," US Senator Dick Clark of Iowa said during a speech in Congress on January 28, 1974.

During that winter, schools in some areas delayed their start times until the sun caught up with the clock.

Calendar of Upcoming Board Events

March 20, 2022	March Equinox
March 21, 2022	World Poetry Day
March 31, 2022	7:00 P.M., Special School Board Meeting and Budget Hearing
April 1, 2022	April Fool's Day
April 2, 2022	World Autism Awareness Day
April 6, 2022	National Tartan Day
April 10, 2022	Palm Sunday
April 14, 2022	Maundy Thursday
April 15, 2022	Good Friday
April 16, 2022	Passover (first day)
April 17, 2022	Easter Sunday
April 18, 2022	Tax Day
April 18, 2022	Boston Marathon
April 19, 2022	The 100 th Day of the Iowa Legislature (per diem expenses end)
April 21, 2021	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
April 22, 2022	Earth Day

Snow Make Up Days

It may be too early to talk about snow make up days. However, as of today, we have missed the following school days for snow:

- January 14 and
- February 22.

This now puts our tentative last day for students on Wednesday, June 1, and check-out day for teachers on Thursday, June 2.

Snow Day Q & As from the Iowa Department of Education

Question: May local school boards forgive snow make-up days or hours?

Answer: No.

Question: May a school district get a waiver from the Iowa Department of Education to *NOT* make up snow days or hours.

Answer: No. The Department has no such authority.

Question: Do seniors have to make up “snow days”?

Answer: This is a local decision. Iowa Code 279.10 states, “the school district . . . may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended school calendar.”

Question: Must a school district make up days or hours when weather forces it to start late or let out early?

Answer:

Days Calendar - No.

Hours Calendar – No, as long as they meet the minimum of 1,080 hours. However, a local school board could decide voluntarily to make up the time that is lost by late starts and early dismissals. Making up these hours – especially if a district has had more than a couple of them – is sound educational practice.

Question: A school district has parent-teacher conferences planned on a Tuesday and Thursday evening yet to come in the school’s calendar. Staff and students will also go to the school on Friday of that same week. May the district count the hours spent on parent-teacher conference Tuesday and Thursday night as another day of student instruction on Saturday (a fifth consecutive day, Tuesday through Saturday) — even though staff and students would not attend school on Saturday?

Answer:

Days Calendar - Yes. 281 IAC 12.1(9) provides for this exception as long as the five consecutive days equals 30 hours of student instruction. Remember, parent-teacher conference time counts as student instruction.

Hours Calendar – Yes. Schools count hours of instruction. Parent-teacher conference time count as student instruction.