



## BISD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 22, 2025

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President Sarah Buenger at 5:30pm with all board members in attendance.

#### 2. Invocation was provided Principal Daniel Symm

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 4. OPEN FORUM/COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comments were made by:

- Julia Slovak on behalf of the "Concerned Citizens of Bellville" regarding efforts to keep Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) out of Austin County noting that there are 8 sights proposed in Austin County with 4 in the boundaries of Bellville ISD and asking the Board to join advocacy efforts through support, action and partnership to keep BESS out of Austin County; and
- Bridget Kourik noting a BESS site proposed to be within 1 mile of "Spicer Elementary" and noted that those engaged in efforts to fight against BESS locations and noted that it's very dangerous for our kids and requested that the District engage their attorneys to help fight against BESS noting that those interested in bringing these to the area are going through the county to purchase county lots and that there are no state regulations currently in place regarding this but some are supposed to be coming through. Ms. Kourik offered to visit with anyone who'd like more information and asked the Board to "Please help us"

#### 5. PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

- A. Swearing in of Board Members for Positions 5 (Kenneth Stein); 6 (Heather Novicke), and 7 (Regina Gillum) and Student Representative (Katelyn Krenek) occurred at the Regular Board Meeting;
- B. Recognition of Student Board Member Grant Walling for his service in 2024-2025 School Year occurred at the Agenda Review Meeting;
- C. Recognition of Student Award Recipients for the Spring Semester will occurred at the Regular Board Meeting:
  - Girls Track, (Crosby Stark);
  - The BHS PTECH Health Science Students were recognized at the Agenda Review Meeting for their opportunity at the UTMB Cadaver Lab at which they thoroughly impressed the university host.
- D. The Board heard a presentation at the Regular Board Meeting presented by Laurie Gaddy and Glenn Gaddy regarding interest in forming a non-profit group to create a dog-park in an allocated portion of park at the BISD Administration site.

#### 6. ACTION ITEMS:

##### A. Election of Board Officers:

- Kenneth Stein nominated Grant Lischka for President. Grant Lischka was elected President by a vote of (6-0) with Grant Lischka abstaining; Grant Lischka assumed the role of President to facilitate the remainder of the meeting.
- Kenneth Stein nominated Sarah Buenger for Vice President. Sarah Buenger was elected Vice President by a vote of (6-0) with Sarah Buenger abstaining;
- Sarah Buenger nominated Kenneth Stein for Board Secretary. Kenneth Stein was elected Secretary by a vote of (6-0) with Kenneth Stein abstaining.

#### 7. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. GOAL 1: LEARNING was presented by Natalie Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Academics at the Agenda



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Review Meeting. Ms. Jones gave a shout out to our PTECH Health Science Teacher & Students. Ms. Jones shared data on our WIG Goals including use of HQIM, observation of instructional strategies, and teams meetings for an instructional purpose on a weekly basis. Ms. Jones also shared data on our Year-End Map Growth attainment levels. Some concern arose regarding the lack of growth observed in 6th & 8th Grade on the Reading MAP.

## B. GOAL 2: LEADERSHIP

1. Financial report was presented by Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Dennis Jurek at the Agenda Review Meeting noting the significant reductions in grant funding in the 2024-2025 school year with the expiration of COVID grants and SHARS funding. Other than these notations, Mr. Jurek noted that not much had changed since the April 25 Budget Workshop. Mr. Jurek provided an overview of the Bond overview noting everything is on track with the exception of projects planned to be funded through bond interest earnings including additional HVAC replacements at BHS and expansion of the scope of the restroom addition at West End Elementary. Food Service is on pace with expenditure of funds for new equipment purchases this year from the Food Service fund balance account. Interest & Sinking is on track with a defeasance payment anticipated for August. Depository Bids have been put out and will be brought to the Board in June.
2. A Capital Improvement Update was presented by Dr. Michael Coopersmith, Chief Operations Officer at the Agenda Review Meeting noting the schedule for continued progress on the new junior high. Building G is slated for pour on 5/13, building H is slated for pour on 5/16, and Building I, is slated for 5/17. Perimeter framing has begun on every building except Building F. Duct work and sprinkler systems are underway in Buildings A-E. Dr. Coopersmith provided an overview of the project scope to be completed at West End in Summer 2025, noting the expanded scope to include a coach's office and storage closet. Dr. Coopersmith noted that we are soon to have no additional updates for Softball, the expanded parking lot is slated to be constructed this summer and the overall project is currently trending slightly under budget. Dr. Coopersmith also reviewed the entire bond project schedule:
  - Summer 2025 West End Restrooms
  - Winter 2025-2026 Opening of the New BJHS
  - Summer 2026: OBI Transition to existing BJHS, OBI demolition, OBP Interior Refresh
3. Dr. Coopersmith shared an update from the recent safety audit noting that a secondary door in the construction building, next to a roll up door was open with no exterior fencing in place and not being actively monitored (though students were in an out of the shop area); rectifying this issue would require active monitoring while the roll-up door and surrounding exterior door to be actively monitored while open.
4. Dr. Poenitzsch shared an overview of progress on the district's strategic action plan, a cadence of routine accountability for work toward goals, and how to scale this work to include teachers' in the dialogue in addition to beginning the process of researching the most appropriate way to access TIA funds for Bellville ISD.

C. GOAL 3: CULTURE -Dr. Poenitzsch, Superintendent, provided a culture report at the Agenda Review Meeting noting open positions and upcoming new hires that have been recommended, specifically hiring of the next individual to serve as the BJHS Assistant Principal.

D. GOAL 4: COMMUNITY-Dr. Poenitzsch Superintendent provided a report at the Agenda Review



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Meeting noting efforts for continued community engagement for May 2025.

## 8. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were approved with a motion by Jared Lischka, seconded by Sarah Buenger; (Vote 7-0)

- A. Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on April 25, 2025
- B. Minutes from Budget Workshop on April 25, 2025
- C. Minutes from special meeting on May 12, 2025
- D. Minutes from Agenda Review Meeting on May 12, 2025
- E. Declaration of surplus property for disposal of outdated curriculum materials
- F. Budget Amendments and donations with Mr. Jurek calling out the multitude of donations received by OBI for attendance rewards and the FFA Scotland Trip at the agenda review meeting and noting an amendment for payment for fiber optics at the new junior high site allocated from Bond Interest earnings.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

The following items were discussed for action at the Regular Board Meeting:

- A. Purchase of replacement technology devices and related budgetary actions to be funded through the District's fund balance in the amount of \$171,650.00 from CDW under TIPS Contract number 230105 with a motion by Sarah Buenger, second by Jim Batson; (Vote 7-0)
- B. Updates to the BISD Board Operating Procedures to note Regular Board Meetings moving from the fourth Thursday of each month to the fourth Monday of each month with a motion by Regina Gillum, seconded by Heather Novicke; (Vote 7-0);
- C. Action on inter-local agreement for sale of a BISD Bus to Hempstead ISD in the amount of \$25,000 with a motion by Kenneth Stein, seconded by Jared Lischka; (Vote 7-0)

## 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board remained in open session.

## 10. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board remained in open session.

## 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS: BOARD REPORT

- A. Details on BHS Graduation Ceremony were provided
- B. Details on BISD Board Retreat we shared to take place in-district on June 23.

## 12. ADJOURN

The board adjourned at 6:45pm with a motion by Sarah Buenger, seconded by Regina Gillum.

### BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 23, 2025

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BOARD PRESIDENT: SARAH BUENGER

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BOARD SECRETARY: KENNETH STEIN