

Belmond-Klemme Community School District

Belmond, Iowa 50421



Superintendent's Report

TO: The Belmond-Klemme School Board
FROM: Dan Frazier, Superintendent
DATE: Tuesday, September 13, 2022
RE: Superintendent's Report on School District Business

Preliminary Enrollment Appears Stable

Although we do not perform an official count until October 1, our preliminary enrollment count on September 2 suggests stable enrollment. The elementary saw a significant decrease of ten students. The secondary school was up by 16 students.

<u>Jacobson Elementary</u>		<u>2021</u>
Kindergarten	46	54
Grade 1	44	46
Grade 2	49	45
Grade 3	49	43
Grade 4	39	48
Grade 5	47	45
Grade 6	46	49
Elem Total	320	330
	-10	+5
 <u>Jr/Sr High School</u>		
Grade 7	49	46
Grade 8	47	71
Grade 9	72	53
Grade 10	61	53
Grade 11	71	72
Grade 12	72	61
HS Total	372	356
	+16	-3
GRAND	692	686

Student Representatives to the Board

The student council will send two students to represent the student council at school board meetings this year. The two representatives are Ben Eckhoff and Ellie Hinman.

They are both seniors. Ben has been an NHS member since his sophomore year and is always very willing to volunteer when he is needed. Ellie has also been a NHS member since her sophomore year and is currently Honor Society President. She is also the Secretary of the Student Council.

The two student council representatives to school board meetings, Ben Eckhoff and Ellie Hinman, will begin their duties at our October meeting. They are not available in September as our meeting that month is the same night as coronation during homecoming week.

Radon Test Results are Clear

Testing for radon gas last week resulted in no rooms tested above the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L. In fact, only two non-classroom spaces in the high school tested above 2.0 pCi/L. This means no further action is recommended at this time.

Selgrade Construction conducted the testing for possible radon gas in all classrooms and work stations during the first week of September of this school year. We had no evidence that radon gas is present in any of our buildings, but we conducted this test as a precaution.

Boosters in Two Weeks

County health will be here for a vaccination clinic on Friday, September 23, 2022, from 3:15 – 4:00 PM. We will offer both flu and covid boosters. All staff are encouraged to get vaccinated.

Crowdfunding Apps Need Pre-approval

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. Crowdfunding is a form of crowdsourcing and of alternative finance. In 2015, it was estimated that worldwide over \$34 billion was raised this way. Crowdfunding has been used to fund a wide range for-profit entrepreneurial ventures such as artistic and creative projects, medical expenses, travel, or community-oriented social entrepreneurship projects.

A number of web sites for crowdfunding may be found on the internet, e.g., Go Fund Me, Kickstarter, and Just Giving. One that deals mostly with education is Donors Choose. Teachers in some schools have set up pages on their own. This has created problems for some school boards where the crowdfunding requests have gotten out of control.

Board policy 504.5 speaks to fund raising, and it asks that all fund raising be pre-approved by the building principals. We interpret policy 504.5 to include crowdfunding. Before a teacher opens a Donors Choose page, he or she must ask for approval from the building principal and school board.

Public Document: For distribution at the school board meeting.

Spirit Lake School Board unanimously approves arming staff

Reprinted from the Sioux City Journal, Ariel Pokett, Aug 24, 2022 / 09:10 AM CDT

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (KCAU) — The Spirit Lake Community School Board has approved arming selected staff to carry a firearm on school grounds to protect the staff and students.

According to the special agenda notes from the Spirit Lake Community School Board of Directors' special meeting, the board of directors unanimously approved arming staff within the school district.

The notes indicated that the resolution allows the Superintendent to select 10 or fewer individuals to be armed with a gun on school grounds with the intent of protecting staff and students.

The notes cited the law Iowa Code 724.4B (2) (a), which states that a person who has been specifically authorized by the school to be armed on school grounds is not subject to criminal charges.

Research on the Effect of a Four-day School Week

This year the Cardinal Community School District in Eldon, Iowa, changed to a four-day school week to increase its appeal as a school system in this time of teacher shortage. Across the U.S., an increasing number of schools are switching to four-day weeks to improve teacher recruitment and retention.

However, these changes come at a cost that is sacrificed in diminished student achievement. Seven recent studies find negative results – some tiny and some more substantial.

In 1999, only about 250 schools in the U.S. had four-day weeks. By 2019, 1,600 schools across 24 states had switched to classes four times a week, and the number has increased dramatically over the last two years in response to the teacher shortage. Seventy percent of the 1,600 schools are in rural areas. The other 30 percent tend to be in small towns and suburban schools. To date, no city schools have adopted four-day weeks.

One 2021 study in Oregon calculated that the four-day week shaved off one-sixth of the usual gains that a fifth grader makes in math, equal to about five to six weeks of school. Over many years, those losses can add up for students.

Researchers at NWEA analyzed the test scores of 12,000 students at 35 schools that had adopted four-day weeks in six states: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. The test scores of four-day students in grades three through eight grew slightly less during the school year compared to hundreds of thousands of students in those six states who continued to go to school five days a week.

The switch seems to hurt reading achievement more than math achievement which is somewhat surprising since reading is easier to do at home while math is a subject that students primarily learn and practice in school.

The most recent of the seven studies, a preliminary paper posted on the website of the Annenberg Institute at Brown University in August 2022, is a large multi-state analysis and it found four-day weeks harmed some students more than others. Hispanic students, who accounted for one out of every six rural students in this study, suffered much more from four-day weeks than white students did.

On the surface during a typical 36-week school year, a four-day week means 36 fewer days of school. Some schools have been better at preserving instructional time, reallocating the hours across four longer days. Others have struggled to protect every minute of math and reading instruction. Longer hours can also tax young children's attention spans.

Legislators in New Mexico are debating whether to crackdown on the schedule switch. Oklahoma passed a law to restrain the move to four-day weeks but delayed putting it into effect.

From an article written by Jill Barshay and produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education.
<https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-seven-new-studies-on-the-impact-of-a-four-day-school-week/>

Calendar of Upcoming Board Events

September 15, 2022	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting
September 16, 2022	'Constitution Day and Citizenship Day' observed
September 21, 2022	Photo Day
September 21, 2022	1:30 P.M. Dismissal for Teacher PD
October 5, 2022	World Teachers' Day
October 10, 2022	Columbus Day
October 14, 2022	Belmond Tornado of 1966
October 19, 2022	1:30 P.M. Dismissal for Teacher PD
October 26, 2022	End of First Quarter
November 1 & 3	Parent-teacher Conferences
November 4, 2022	School Will be in Session
November 6, 2022	Daylight Saving Time ends
November 8, 2022	Election Day
November 11, 2022	Veterans Day
November 23, 2022	Comp Day for Conferences – No School
November 24, 2022	Thanksgiving Day

December 24, 2022	Christmas Eve
December 25, 2022	Christmas Day
December 26, 2022	'Christmas Day' day off
December 31, 2022	New Year's Eve