

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Board of Education of the Brentwood School District

Open Session	Conference Center	7:00 p.m.	February 16, 2021
Kind of Meeting	Location	Time	Date

Members

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jamie Allen Melissa Nehrt Chris Perkins Keith Rabenberg Lindsay Spencer Kerry Trostel Mark Womer	

- Call to Order Board President, Ms. Lindsay Spencer, called the open session meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Awards and Recognition Dr. Lane recognized BHS student, Jeremy Forman, for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on December 21, 2020. Jeremy worked with 15 younger Scouts to build 30 bird houses for the World Bird Sanctuary. Houses were placed near Ste. Genevieve, MO to provide habitat for small bird rehabilitation. Jeremy's Scout Master is Mr. Keith Carey.
- BECC presented a short video in which students shared what they love most about the early childhood education program.
- Dana Dalba received the Special School District Building Block Award in recognition of her work as a para-professional.
- The Brentwood Chamber of Commerce recognized Dr. Lane as Business Professional of the Year. Dr. Lane said he appreciated the Chamber's support. He said it has been a team effort to get the students back to school.

Board members were honored by the Missouri School Boards Association. Dr. Lane said this has been a difficult year, addressing COVID19, on-going construction projects, and more. Board members have risen to the occasion and worked together as a team.

Communications

Ms. Spencer asked if there were any citizens' comments. No comments were presented.

Roll Call

Brentwood School District Board members were present or absent as stated above.

Attendance

Also in attendance was Superintendent, Dr. Brian Lane.

ACTION 113
Approval of Consent
Agenda

The motion was made by Mr. Jamie Allen and seconded by Ms. Melissa Nehrt to approve the consent agenda as outlined. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Update
BHS/BMS Campus
Additions and
Renovations

Mr. Matt Nigh and Mr. Cory Bextermueller from Navigate Building Solutions provided an update on the BHS/BMS project.

Building A: Classes are in session, gym is open, cafeteria is operational, and auditorium is complete. Seats will be installed by the end of February. Mr. Andrew Hartnett, Facilities Director, said that BSD is recoating the floors. This was outside the scope of work for K&S Construction.

Building B: The main addition, lobby, and offices are scheduled for completion in early April. Small gym is scheduled for completion in June. The first-floor administration and principal offices will be finished in March. Lower level meeting rooms will be completed in February.

Building C: Classes are in session. Restroom sinks replaced in February.

Elevators: #2 (Building B) scheduled for completion in mid-March. #3 (Buildings B & C) scheduled for completion at the end of June.

Sitework: Building A sod and sidewalk are completed. Fencing has been removed. Building B grading scheduled to be complete in late March, weather permitting. Building B courtyard exterior brick is complete. Work continues on the courtyard footings.

Ms. Spencer asked if the main entrance will be available for use this year. Mr. Nigh said the interior will be ready and can be used for interior circulation. The exterior will not be ready.

Mr. Allen asked when the project will be finished. Mr. Nigh said the building and sitework will be finished in June, weather permitting. Completion of the elevator is unknown. Team is waiting for a switch to arrive in order for installation to continue.

Update
Elementary Facilities

Mr. Mark Franzen and Mr. Brent Higgins of HTK Architects provided design committee updates for McGrath Elementary. The design team has completed the schematic design phase and will be starting design development. HTK will meet with user groups this week. Mr. Franzen said they appreciate the Board's participation, specifically Ms. Nehrt and Mr. Perkins, along with Dr. Lane, in the design process.

Mr. Higgins identified the items of importance: Learning environment should blend into the neighborhood. Balance natural and built environment. Have flexible, effective learning spaces. Have a clear, identifiable entrance. Design that builds community. Open and airy with natural light. Team wants to have neighborhood/community meetings, and review the project with the Brentwood planning and zoning commission and Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Franzen and Mr. Higgins presented a project schedule.

Mr. Rabenberg said that moving the McGrath entrance to High School Drive will be controversial. The community needs to be informed. Mr. Franzen said the city has also mentioned the need for communication with the community.

Ms. Trostel asked when the neighborhood meetings would start. Mr. Higgins said it would be probably be the end of February but dates have yet to be determined. Mr. Franzen said Board members are invited to attend any and all meetings. A schedule will be provided to Dr. Lane.

Mr. Allen said the schedule and information about the project should be presented in open forums, communication via the website, and other formats to get the word out to the community. Mr. Franzen suggested an open house with stations to visit encourages questions and conversations.

Mr. Womer proposed joint meetings with the Board of Aldermen if needed. Mr. Rabenberg agreed. Mr. Franzen said HTK and BSD team members have started meeting with city representatives.

Ms. Spencer asked if on-line events could be scheduled. The design team said yes. Mr. Franzen likes the Zoom meeting with on-line voting and surveys. Navigate will prepare an action plan.

Dr. Lane would like to set the dates in order to begin promoting the events now. Invite community to submit questions in advance. Mr. Franzen said the questions could be forwarded to HTK for response.

Ms. Nehrt asked if BSD could use a Reddit AMA style format, allowing viewers to receive an instant response to questions.

Ms. Trostel suggested attending ward meetings.

Mr. Allen wants to keep communication about the project in the forefront.

Mr. Rabenberg also stressed the need for constant communication.

Mr. Bextermueller said the design team is already reviewing utilities, traffic, trees, and landscaping.

Mr. Higgins presented the schedule. Once the new McGrath is built, Mark Twain students will move into the old McGrath and Mark Twain will be renovated. When the project is complete, students will move back to Mark Twain; the old McGrath will be demolished and the new fields will be built. HTK will meet with the city Planning and Zoning Commission on March 10 and with the Board of Aldermen on March 15.

Mr. Rayburn said he will put the project schedule on the website. Mr. Bextermueller will add additional information about Mark Twain prior to the posting.

Mr. Perkins and Ms. Nehrt said BSD needs to provide specific information to the community about why the scheduling decisions were made. Dr. Lane would like to emphasize key dates.

Mr. Franzen said the sewer line at the McGrath site would have to be moved and trenched around the eastside of the site. Some trees will be lost.

Mr. Womer asked about the soft playground surface in the middle of the "U." Wants Pre-K to have exposure to nature. Mr. Franzen said the area includes some grass. Mr. Womer also asked about the soccer field. Mr. Franzen said the fields will be grass. Mr. Allen said having outdoor green space is key.

Mr. Higgins reviewed the schematic design floor plans.

Ms. Trostel asked if the gym can accommodate sports programs for different age groups. The space could be rented, serving as a revenue driver. Mr. Franzen said the gym height would accommodate adjustable height equipment.

Ms. Spencer asked how many people the gym will hold as a storm shelter. HTK said the gym would hold 1,040 people.

Ms. Trostel asked if there is a stage in any of the areas. Mr. Franzen said not at this time. Ms. Trostel asked about a survey to determine interest in a stage. Mr. Franzen mentioned a permanent stage vs. a movable platform stage. Mr. Bextermueller said there is an expense involved with the space serving a storm shelter function in addition to a gym.

Mr. Allen said the items of importance should be the building principles. Ms. Nehrt said light and nature were main points.

Mr. Hartnett said the HVAC system was removed from classrooms and onto the roof. This will limit interruptions for maintenance. The mansard roof design will hide the units.

Mr. Bextermueller talked about the budget and financial decisions regarding the building. The McGrath project needs to be under budget. Mr. Franzen said the project is on schedule and under budget at this time. It needs to remain in budget so that funds are also available for the Mark Twain project. HTK and Navigate will be using budget tracker and will review line item costs that will impact.

Mr. Perkins asked if the 1,736 SF in the ECC multipurpose room could be used as a storm shelter. It would hold 340 people.

Mr. Allen said that the "items of importance" does not list safety and security.

Ms. Trostel wants to engage parents in the process. Mr. Bextermueller said parents would be invited to open house and community meetings. Dr. Lane would like events to include opportunities for feedback. Mr. Franzen said he would come to the meetings.

Dr. Lane said the Elementary Facilities Committee had 100% participation at their meetings, via a combination of in-person and Zoom attendance.

Presentation
BMS Goals and
Initiatives

Dr. Andrew Loiterstein, BMS Principal, reviewed NWEA assessment results and presented goals and initiatives for the middle school.

Goal 1: Students in the Super Subgroup will experience greater achievement as evidenced by academic data points such as class grades and NWEA scores, and by enrollment in advanced classes.

Goal 2: Provide the planning, communication, and implementation to guide Brentwood Middle School through the uncertainty and changing circumstances presented by the unique challenges we are faced with as measured by feedback from staff, students, and parents.

Initiative: Leader in Me – BMS joined the program two years ago. The faculty made this decision together to adopt this philosophy in which the leadership skills of all students are recognized, fostered, and appreciated. Three action areas are academic, culture, and leadership. Students started the program one year ago.

Ms. Trostel asked if the challenge classes have been unhooked or if students must enroll in both. Dr. Loiterstein said math and ELA classes have been unhooked. Dr. Loiterstein and Dr. Lane said students are encouraged to give the classes a try. They said it is easier to enroll in the class, then step back if necessary than it is to start the class late and try to catch up.

Mr. Allen asked how to address encouraging students to enroll where they need to go. Dr. Loiterstein said BMS works to address all levels. Smaller classes allow teachers to identify needs of and opportunities for students.

Mr. Womer asked what BMS needs that has not been provided. Dr. Loiterstein said opportunities for individualization and extra staff to implement.

Ms. Trostel asked if there are new areas that should be added. Dr. Loiterstein said BMS is on par with the offerings of other districts of 600-900 students. BMS is able to share staff with BHS.

Ms. Trostel asked if there is shop class at BMS. Dr. Loiterstein said there is PLTW, not woodworking.

ACTION 114
Approval of 2021-2022
Academic Calendars

Ms. Vicki Rees, Instructional Improvements Coordinator, presented the 2021-2022 Academic calendar and the 2021-2022 BECC calendar. Committee reviewed the 2020-2021 calendar, the state mandates, and looked at the calendars of other districts in St. Louis County. The first day of school will be Monday, August 23. High school finals will take place before winter break. One day has been added to winter break during the first semester. A survey of parents, students, and staff indicated school should end before Memorial Day, finals should take place before winter break, and PD early release days should be on Fridays.

The ECC calendar is the same except for fewer early release days. On most early release days the ECC will operate on a regular schedule to allow for equity of days and tuition payments.

Ms. Spencer asked about the difference in length of the first and second semesters. Ms. Rees said the net difference was only couple of days, so the decision was made to not make further adjustments.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the 2021-2022 Academic calendar and the 2021-2022 BECC calendar. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Presentation
Test Summaries

Dr. Alex Tripamer, Director of Instruction and Student Support, presented the NWEA winter assessment results. BSD focused on math and reading using two metrics: The RIT score and the conditional growth index. NWEA can predict the growth path.

K-10 math scores and reading scores were above the NWEA mean at all grade levels. K-9 math scores for African American students were below the NWEA average. Grades 2-10 showed growth from fall to winter.

Reading scores for African American students in grades 3, 5, and 8 were above the NWEA mean. There was substantial difference in grades 1, 7, 9, and 10. These grades did not demonstrate growth.

Dr. Tripamer reviewed the NWEA cohort history for grades 2-10.

Key points: Fall and winter remote testing was successful. “COVID Slide” was not evident at all grade levels. All grade levels are above NWEA mean in math and reading (2021). BSD demonstrated more growth in math than in reading. BSD African American students are not meeting the NWEA mean in math or reading.

Next steps: Send home parent report with winter results. Principals will review building level data. Have grade level meetings at each school to evaluate each student’s growth, identify students for targeted supports, and continue with strategies to close achievement gaps. NWEA spring assessment period scheduled for April-May.

Ms. Trostel asked what is planned to help students with math and reading. Dr. Tripamer said NWEA will provide an individual list of exact skills for each student to work on. Dr. Lane said middle school and high school allow time to teach and work with students individually during class period. Students do not have to be pulled from class to work with a teacher’s assistant. Elementary schools will have interventionists for math and ELA if additional support is needed. If it is determined that BMS and BHS teachers need additional support, Dr. Lane will bring concerns to the Board.

Ms. Trostel asked if there might be a separate time that middle school students may receive additional help without being embarrassed by feeling like they were being singled out.

Dr. Tripamer said there is a math workshop and Ms. Mary Seal does a reading class. Dr. Ed Johnson will be working on a program for the high school.

Ms. Trostel asked if there are group peer-to-peer options. Cooperative learning, not always with teachers.

Ms. Trostel asked about in-person vs. virtual testing. Dr. Tripamer said end of course testing must be in person.

Update
Communications

Mr. Sam Rayburn, Communications Director, said the new websites are up and running with new features. Questions may be directed to “contact the webmaster,” which is located at the bottom of the screen. Building personnel will be trained to update building pages. A survey will be conducted in March.

Today was the first alternative methods of instruction (AMI) day. A survey will be sent to get feedback.

Mr. Rayburn created a shell on the website for information about the design and construction of Proposition E projects. Project background, schedule details, and other information will be plugged in as received and shared with the Board for input. BSD can also host Zoom meetings with a team answering questions as they come up during the presentation.

BSD will host the Race, Equity, and Inclusion presentation by Dr. Gladys Smith, "Understanding Race-based Stress/Trauma," on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Thirty-four people have signed up so far. Building Principals and Board members may invite families and community members to attend.

Black History Month activities and events are featured on the BSD website. The virtual format will allow the district to build on the program throughout the year.

On behalf of the Communications Committee, Mr. Rayburn reports that students at BHS are doing lessons and learning technology and media production at the same time.

The Safe Reporting tab on the BSD website provides contact information for mental health support and other resources.

Update
Re-Entry

Dr. Lane said he is pleased with the low COVID19 quarantine rates. There is currently a total of five in the district. He encouraged everyone to keep up the safety protocols and routines. He has received no firm information on vaccination availability and dates.

Mr. Mark Womer said the second dose may cause recipients to not feel well for a brief period. He suggested coming up with a plan to address possible staff absences that may occur and keep classes open.

SSD Liaison Report

Ms. Nehrt said the next meeting is in two weeks. New board members will be elected at that time.

MSBA Delegate Report

Mr. Keith Rabenberg said that he has contacted legislators. He testified before the Senate Education Committee last week about educational savings accounts and concerns about virtual schools getting funds. He plans to testify again this week about the MOPAC program. State legislators can be contacted by phone or in writing.

Ms. Trostel asked about proposed term limits for school board members. Ms. Spencer said there has been discussion about moving school board candidate elections from April to November. There has also been discussion about changing the length of terms. Ms. Nehrt said there is a proposal to limit State Board of Education members to one term that is part of SB 55.

Update
Board Committees

There were no Board committee updates.

Upcoming Events

- Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Business Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- NTB Communication Lab/Reporting, Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, April 6 2021 from 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
(venue TBD)
- MSBA Legislative Forum, Monday, April 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in Jefferson City
- Board Reorganization and Business Meeting, Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION 115
Adjournment 10:17 p.m.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to adjourn and reconvene in closed session. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.



President



Secretary