MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

Open Session	Conference Center	7:00 p.m.	December 17, 2019
Kind of Meeting	**Location**	**Time**	**Date**

Members

Present	Absent
Jamie Allen	
Dan Brouillet	
Melissa Nehrt	
Keith Rabenberg	
Lindsay Spencer	
Kerry Trostel	
Mark Womer	

Call to Order	Board President, Ms. Lindsay Spencer, called the open meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	Ms. Spencer led the *Pledge of Allegiance.*
Presentations and Recognitions	There were no presentations.
Communications	Ms. Spencer read procedures for participating in the citizens' comments period and asked if there were any citizens' comments. One person spoke. Mr. Mark Abels would like for McGrath Elementary to remain open. He noted dwindling enrollments. Athletic fields did not receive many votes at the community forum. Mr. Abels said that keeping both schools open would be good for property values.
Roll Call	Board members were present or absent as stated above.
Attendance	Also in attendance was Superintendent, Dr. Brian Lane.
ACTION 89 Approval of Consent Agenda	The motion was made by Mr. Jamie Allen and seconded by Ms. Melissa Nehrt to approve the consent agenda which included: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2019; Expenditures for November 2019 in the amount of $2,700,806.29; Transfer $0.00 for November from General to Teachers Fund; Financial Reports from CFO: 1911 Balance Report, 1911 Bank & Cash Reconciliation, 1911 Activity Report, 1911 Budget Report, and 191217 Invoice Report. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Update
Communications

Mr. Sam Rayburn, Director of Communications, said he is working with BSD counselors to build community resources for families. Schools are starting to use ParentSquare and the rollout will take place during the Spring semester. BSD appreciates the community's support and participation in the various school events held throughout the year. The district is looking at sponsorships for athletics. The district would like to hold an open house in January at BHS/BMS. 2020 marks the district's centennial.

Board members asked about the ability to provide timely school closure information to all families. There was an indication that not all families received automated phone calls. Mr. Rayburn said the automated calls, e-mails, and text messages were sent via the communication method or methods each family selected. He said that due to the nature of systems and technology, phone calls may be delayed. E-mails and text messages are disseminated faster.

Discussion
Elementary Facilities

Board members discussed the elementary facilities. Frequently Asked Questions were posted on the BSD website. District received 12-15 positive responses about the Elementary Facilities Planning Committee recommendation.
Mr. Allen said the number of families with current students is narrow. BSD will also need support from the wider community to pass the bond issue.
Ms. Nehrt asked if supporters would work to get out the vote.
Mr. Allen said BSD would need to go back to taxpayers to ask for funding for operational expenses. He asked if the district would be able to do so following the bond issue vote for facilities.
Ms. Nehrt said districts usually go to voters for tax levy for operations every 4-6 years.
Mr. Dan Brouillet asked a question about the Mark Twain vs. McGrath site.
Ms. Nehrt asked why the Mark Twain site was selected and about the one school option.
Mr. Mark Womer thanked the Educational Facilities Planning Committee. Members are peers and residents of the community. He trusts the recommendation. Mr. Womer is against the sale of property. Regarding future operating budgets, he does not want to cut teachers.
Mr. Allen asked that the BSD mission, vision, and values be kept in the forefront when determining how the decision fits.
Mr. Keith Rabenberg expressed concern about Brentwood Boulevard. Community likes having schools nearby. If built, the athletic fields would require annual funding for upkeep and maintenance plus periodic changes to support changing programs. BSD is on the low end of tax rates. He sees one school as being a difficult concept to sell. He thinks that traffic issues and complaints would also occur if one school were located at the McGrath site instead of the Mark Twain site.

Ms. Spencer said the survey indicates it will be difficult to pass anything. People want two schools or one school on the McGrath site. Facilities need to be addressed.
Ms. Kerry Trostel said it would have been good to pass all four projects on the original bond issue. The bonding capacity was not available.
Mr. Allen asked what equity would look like to keep both schools. With one new school, every student has access all of the resources. Bond issues always require 4/7 majority for passage. One idea is to put something on the ballot to see where voters stand. District has a 10-year financial plan, and at this time, one dollar goes a long way.
Ms. Nehrt said BSD should put a measure on the ballot in April 2020. There is strong interest in two schools.
Ms. Trostel would like to see a plan for one school on the McGrath site.
Ms. Spencer said that families would not come together for one school at either location.
Dr. Lane said BSD could get a 57% vote (4/7 majority), but at what cost?
Mr. Brouillet said the best way for equity is one school. Two schools will not be equitable. If property values drop, there will be issues in the community. There will also be concerns about operational expenses. The Board should determine what option provides the best fiscal stewardship.
Mr. Allen asked the Board to consider if the recommendation is the best solution for the next 30-50 years.
Ms. Trostel said it is important for students to get a good education, see their friends and their teachers. It may not matter if that happened at one school or two schools.
Ms. Nehrt asked who would advocate for the selected option and would there be enough support for passage?
Mr. Womer said the survey question indicated that support was in the mid 30's.
Mr. Allen asked, based on active voter information, which option would pass and how would the District get enough votes from active voters.
Mr. Allen asked about the transition period during construction.
Dr. Lane said the district needs better elementary facilities and asked what would be the best way to get them. The bond issue may pass or it may not, in which case the district would wind up with nothing. He said the bond attorneys could provide language for two options.

ACTION 90
Approval of Liability Insurance Coverage

Mr. John Stewart, Chief Financial Officer, presented the MUSIC Liability insurance coverage for 2019-2020. The rate is $213,761, which is an increase of 2.7% over the previous year. This includes an 8% credit for membership. The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the purchase of the Liability insurance. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

ACTION 91
Approval of Umbrella Insurance Coverage

Mr. Stewart presented the Umbrella insurance coverage options for 2019-2020. Coverage is capped at $10,000,000. The rate is $3,566, which is an increase of six percent over the previous year. The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the purchase of the Umbrella insurance coverage of $10,000,000. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

ACTION 92
Approval of BECC Tuition for 2020-2021

Ms. Nancy Stoverink, Director of the Brentwood Early Childhood Center, presented tuition rates for 2020-2021. The three percent rate increase will cover staff raises and insurance. Proposed rates are comparable to rates of other area districts.

Space needs are being met. BECC opened two new classrooms and hired additional teachers. No Brentwood families are on the wait list. Ms. Stoverink said they have some lottery spaces. BECC had a $40,000 operating deficit, but it has been reduced to $5,000.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the BECC tuition rates for 2020-2021 as presented. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Update
BHS/BMS Campus Additions and Renovations

Mr. David Gill, BSD Owner's Representative, presented the monthly construction progress report.

Completed:
Gymnasium, locker rooms, and team room turned over to BSD on December 2, 2019. New freezer in the dry food storage room is complete and operational. Turned over to BSD on December 17, 2019. Second and third floors of the north building are scheduled to be turned over to BSD on January 31, 2020.

Continuing:
Concrete work on commons/library and build-out of Building C second and third floors. Start alternate work in existing auditorium. Auditorium seating will be installed at the end of the school year. Correct lights have arrived for the Cafeteria. New doors; new fans with covers, and new tack boards are pending. It is now possible to access the cafeteria via the gym. The outside access option will remain available at this time.

Selective demolition work to allow construction of the new PLTW classroom; elevator access; under floor plumbing for restrooms; new data room and fiber backbone cable entrance and a new entry point for the HVAC hydronic water loop piping.

Contract Amount:
Original contract amount: $18,496,000. Contract amount to date: $18,409,738. Change orders remain the same. Balance is $18,648.

ACTION 93
Approval of BHS Course Proposals

Ms. Vicki Rees, Instructional Improvement Coordinator, and Dr. Alex Tripamer, Director of Instruction and Student Support, presented proposed changes to five BHS courses.

- *English/Language Arts – Composition: Topics in Writing*
  Name changed to describe the course of study. Semester course instead of yearlong course to offer variety for fourth English credit.

- *English/Language Arts – Reading: Topics in Literature*
  Name changed to describe the course of study. Semester course instead of yearlong course to offer variety for fourth English credit.
- *English/Language Arts – Films and Literature*
  Course will be re-focused and will become an ELA elective.
- *Practical Arts – Residential Construction*
  Course will provide exposure to residential construction careers. Upon successful completion of the course, students may receive a residential carpentry certificate issued by the Carpenters' Union.
- *Mathematics – Elements of Algebra II*
  Name changed to describe the deliberate pace of study for the class.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the five proposed course proposals. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

ACTION 94
Approval of 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Ms. Rees presented the 2020-2021 academic calendar. The calendar is based on the work and recommendation of a committee comprised of a parent, teacher, and administrator from each school. Research included the results of an on-line survey taken by 497 people including BSD parents, students, and staff. According to the new state mandate, schools can open no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day; a minimum of 1,044 hours of instruction is required; and at least 36 hours of inclement weather make-up time is required. BSD Fall semester will be August 24, 2020 - December 23, 2020. Finals will be given prior to winter break. Spring semester will be January 5, 2021 – May 26, 2021. Spring break will be March 19 - 26. Snow make-up days will be May 27 - June 4. Ten minutes has been added to each school day. The number of professional development days has been reduced to 5. Early release days will be on Fridays. The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

SSD Liaison Report

Ms. Nehrt attended the SSD quarterly meeting. Brentwood received recognition for including SSD on the BSD website. Ms. Nehrt said Brentwood has two parents on the SSD Parent Advisory Council. SSD would like to increase participation. The focus is on how to better serve parents.

MSBA Delegate Report

Board members reviewed the MSBA Refresher Training course report.

Upcoming Events

- Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- NTB Communication Lab, Monday, January 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
- School Board Candidates' Filing Closes, Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
- Board Business Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- MSBA Legislative Forum, Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. in Jefferson City
- LWV/BSD School Board Candidates' Forum, Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
- Board Business Meeting, Tuesday, February 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Spencer asked if there were any citizens' comments. Six people spoke.

Mr. Duane Grandgenett said that taking children to school is a way that parents motivate students. Process starts in early childhood. He is concerned that not being able to walk to a neighborhood school might affect students and their education. The community should have more information prior to a bond issue election.

Mr. Brian Hansen likes the Residential Construction course and the trade school option. He suggested providing the students an opportunity to walk the BHS/BMS building site to get a first-hand look at the construction process. Mr. Hansen said that for the 2016-2017 school year it cost $2,376 per student for after school care. Total costs per student for before and after school care was over $3,000. He is concerned that if the one school option is selected, more parents may need to enroll their children in before and after school programs to accommodate schedules. This would result in additional family expenses. Mr. Hansen said the community needs to be better educated about the process and proposed projects.

Ms. Lois Truman asked what community members should do to make their voices heard. She said people want to help and need a clear vision regarding the elementary schools. She asked that all options be explored. The community has a solid record of support. Residents need to know the difference between operations and capital improvements. Ms. Truman suggested providing historical data on how finances have been spent. She believes that school equity was addressed in 2016-2017.

Ms. Jane Torres spoke on behalf of Ms. Megan Harris, who had to leave prior to the second comment period. Ms. Torres said it was important to listen to those speaking out. The most equitable approach is not what is happening now and it will not happen with one school. Ms. Torres asked that the Board listen to what people are saying; they are having difficulty feeling heard.

Ms. Vanessa Lopez said her family likes the walkability and ability to visit with other families. She asked that the district figure out a way to keep two elementary schools. She would like to see visuals. Ms. Lopez did not see the on-line survey and asked if it could be offered again.

Mr. Andy Burkemper thanked the Board and members of the Elementary Facilities planning Committee for their work. He said that only a portion of voters would show up on election day. The difference between a $23,000,000 bond issue and a $29,000,000 bond issue does not matter. Likes quality schools that are within walking distance. The focus should be on what is best for students and Brentwood as a whole, and select the best option.

ACTION 95
Adjournment 9:10 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