

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

Open Session	Conference Center	7:00 p.m.	January 21, 2020
<b>Kind of Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>

### Members

#### Present

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

#### Absent

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Call to Order	Board President, Ms. Lindsay Spencer, called the open meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
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Pledge of Allegiance	Ms. Spencer led the <i>Pledge of Allegiance</i> .
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Presentations and Recognitions	There were no presentations.
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Communications	Ms. Spencer read procedures for participating in the citizens' comments period and asked if there were any citizens' comments. Ten people spoke.
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Mr. Ben Cooper said the last meeting ended in an impasse. The Board has worked to be transparent. He said the elementary school needs and reasons for the bond issue should be clearly explained to the community. Good schools will bring in residents. He favors two schools.

Mr. Phoenix Torno is a BMS student. He said the bond issue for two schools would pass. He said all teachers at his elementary school knew him. If all elementary students were to attend one consolidated school, teachers may not get to know everyone as well. Students would grow tired of each other by the time they reached middle school. He likes having the opportunity to meet and interact with other students in the district whom he may not know. He thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Jim Schnarr said the population has not decreased and neither has enrollment. Other surrounding districts are expanding. Brentwood Bound will also promote schools. He is concerned about having fewer teachers at a consolidated elementary school. He asked the Board not to divide the base of support. He favors two schools.

Ms. Mary Favazza has children who have attended the ECC, Mark Twain, BMS, and BHS. She thanked the Board. She has no favorite elementary school option and believes either one would work. She said students must learn to read proficiently. ELA strategies are not working. She asked that BSD invest in other ELA options.

Ms. Carrie Kotowski lives next door to Mark Twain and works at Washington University. Her children will be in kindergarten. Walkability is huge. She favors two schools.

Ms. Cari Allen is a BSD parent. She thanked the Board and said social media is not always nice. She appreciates the Board's willingness to make hard decisions and have hard discussions. She asked what the best solution would be for now and for 20 years from now. She asked that everyone be respectful and kind to all.

Mr. Mike Horton has a son at BHS. He favors two schools. He asked what would happen if the one consolidated school is on the ballot and passes. He wanted to know what would happen with the McGrath site. He has heard it might be athletic fields and asked what sports would be played. He asked if the district would have another bond issue for the athletic fields. He said Frazier School was closed and the property was sold. He does not want BSD to lose property.

Ms. Jane Torres is part of the leadership council at Mark Twain. Program teaches kids beyond the classroom and builds community. She set up an on-line survey asking responders if they favored a \$23 million bond issue for one consolidated elementary school or a \$29 million bond issue for two elementary schools. 465 responses have been received in favor of the \$29 million for two elementary schools.

Ms. Megan Harris asked what the next steps would be if a bond issue for one consolidated school is on the ballot and fails. She said the \$29 million bond issue for two schools should be put on the ballot first. She sees strong leaders on the Board. She said there has been lots of talking but not a lot of listening. She knows the Board is concerned about fiscal responsibility. Two schools are valuable to the community. One consolidated school would lower property values. She favors two schools.

Ms. Kirsten Brouillet thanked the Board for their efforts and time. She sent a letter to the Board. She said home values would not decline if there were one consolidated school. She wants good schools. One school would still be considered "small." One elementary school will unite students. If students and teacher are together, they will get to know more people. Professionals conducted the phone survey. The tax increase is minimal.

Roll Call

Board members were present or absent as stated above.

Attendance

Also in attendance was Superintendent, Dr. Brian Lane.

ACTION 109  
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 December 17, 2019 and Meeting of January 13, 2020; Expenditures for December 2019 in the amount of \$2,618,057.76; Transfer \$450,022.05 for December from General to Teachers Fund; Financial Reports from CFO: 1912 Balance Report, 1912 Bank & Cash Reconciliation, 1912 Activity Report, 1912 Budget Report, 200121 Invoice Report, Q4 Investment Summary, and Q4 Investment Memo. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

ACTION 110  
Approval of Budget  
Adjustment

Mr. John Stewart, Chief Financial Officer, presented the first budget adjustment for FY2019-2020. Revenues increased by \$243,212. Revenue total included changes in taxes and Title funds. Expenses increased by \$524,446. Expenses included purchased services and supplies for BMS/BHS, as well as costs associated with the October 2019 bond sale. The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the budget adjustment. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Update  
Communications

Mr. Sam Rayburn, Director of Communications, said that the ParentSquare rollout is underway. Twelve percent of parents are using the application so far. There have been 79 posts from teachers and 65 direct message threads between parents and teachers. Facebook usage is up 56%. Twitter reached 10.2 thousand times.

Ms. Trostel asked if ParentSquare is user friendly and if it could be presented at PTO meetings. Mr. Rayburn said he was already planning to attend meetings. He will also be recruiting a team of parents to help others learn how to use the application.

Mr. Womer asked about instructions for ParentSquare. Mr. Rayburn said instructions were emailed to all parents and that instructions are available at ParentSquare.com.

Update  
BHS/BMS Campus  
Additions and Renovations

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

*In Progress and Completed:*

Area A door and hardware installation is ongoing. PLTW classroom utilities rough in is underway with completion scheduled for the second week in February. Cafeteria permanent lighting fixtures were installed. Dry food storage room in progress. Auditorium handicap ramps were installed. Fire sprinkler piping is in progress. Gymnasium glass entry doors and permanent lighting control were installed. Addition foundation wall has been completed. Excavation

of new elevator shaft has been completed. Finish work on building C, upper floors is nearing completion. Relocation of existing classrooms into their permanent homes will be coordinated soon.

*Continuing:*

Continue selective demolition; concrete and structural steel work for addition; and work on second and third floor of Building C.

*Contract Amount:*

Original contract amount: \$18,496,000.00. Contract amount to date: \$18,421,183.59. Change order #7: \$11,445.59. Contingency balance remaining: \$0.00.

*Schedule:*

Project is 36 workdays over the scheduled completion date, which would set completion for October. The time may be reduced. K&S will pay a late fee for each day the project extends past August 11.

Mr. Allen said he wants the community to be informed of the schedule on a regular basis. Dr. Lane said that student and staff safety comes first. At times, safety concerns may result in project slowdown. He said BSD would maintain communication with the community.

Dr. Lane invited the community to attend an open house on Tuesday, February 4 from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in the BHS gymnasium. It will be an opportunity to see the completed gymnasium and watch BHS basketball. The event is free.

Presentation  
Assessment Summaries

Dr. Alex Tripamer, Director of Instruction and Student Support, presented APR for MAP/EOC, ACT, and NWEA assessment summaries. Brentwood is a high performing district, in the top 4% in achievement in Missouri. Per DESE standards, testing in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 covered English language arts and math. Science was also included in grades 5 and 8. End of course tests include English, Algebra, and Biology. The practice ACT is given to sophomores, along with a detailed report. Sixty-five students in the BHS Class of 2019 took the ACT. BHS average best composite score was 23.46 and the state average was 20.6. Nine students achieved a score of 31 or higher, making them eligible for the Bright Flight scholarship program. BSD students scored above the national mean on the NWEA tests. Students receive intervention plans where needed. Brentwood is still looking at state approved programs to replace the MAP tests. NWEA is one of two programs under consideration. A consortium of districts in the state is studying the options and will make a recommendation.

Ms. Trostel noted that middle school students seem to have struggles with ELA. She asked what support was available. Dr. Tripamer said students needing assistance have interventions for reading and comprehension.

Mr. Womer asked about educating teachers to help with interventions. Dr. Lane said that teachers and students are doing lots of work.

Mr. Allen asked about setting an achievement goal within BSD (for example, 90%), regardless of ranking as compared to other St. Louis county school districts. Dr. Lane said NWEA would be a better determinant than MAP.

**ACTION 111**  
**Approval of Surplus Items**

Dr. Tripamer said surplus items included 20-25 year-old textbooks from BMS/BHS and 4-5 year-old marching band uniforms. BSD no longer has a marching band. He has not found a market for the items. Ms. Trostel asked if the items could be offered to students at no cost. Dr. Tripamer will make the items available to students. Remainders will be disposed of. The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the plan to make the surplus items available to students at no cost and dispose of any items that remain. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

**ACTION 112**  
**Approval of Bond Issue**  
**Resolution and Ballot**  
**Language**

The motion was made by Ms. Nehrt for a resolution calling a special election in the Brentwood School District, St. Louis County, Missouri (the "district") on the question whether to borrow money in the amount of \$29,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing and equipping district school sites, buildings and facilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keith Rabenberg.

Mr. Allen clarified that the bond issue would be for constructing a new elementary school at the McGrath site and renovating Mark Twain.

Mr. Rabenberg said he was voting yes. He was skeptical that any bond issue would pass, based on the survey results. He said the difference in time from when the survey was conducted and the April 2020 election may result in the community being ready to support the bond issue.

Mr. Allen cited said decisions should reflect the District's stated mission, vision, and values. He said the district has six needs.

- 1.) Maximize the educational experience for the students.
- 2.) Invest in teachers and educational staff.
- 3.) Invest in programming.
- 4.) Invest in elementary schools
- 5.) Decision must maximize fiscal potential.
- 6.) Maintain class sizes.

There have been five years of discussions on how to accomplish this. Ballot language means a commitment to directing resources to both elementary campuses. District is still missing a clear plan. All parties together should work smart on spending the district's funds. A concise message is needed. The proposed bond issue would be a 20-year investment. Trust in the process to discover best opportunity for students.

Mr. Womer supports the \$29 million bond issue. He said everyone must work together for the next 20 years. He is concerned about possible cuts to operations.

Ms. Spencer said BSD planning for the future includes wonderful, safe facilities for students and staff. Will take a lot of working together to pass the bond issue.

Mr. Dan Brouillet said he was not necessarily supportive of the \$29 million bond issue. BSD had a process. The Elementary Facilities Committee did their job. Not all options were explored. Social media took over. The Board hears everything even if members do not respond or agree. This vote is for a 20-year investment. BSD will need a tax levy for operations. He does not think community support is there.

Ms. Trostel is not in favor of the \$29 million bond issue. She favored the one school option. She noted that students are together at BECC, BMS, and BHS, and asked if they should also be together at the elementary level. Ms. Trostel said people come to Brentwood because it is an amazing community.

Ms. Nehrt said a case could have been made for one school. BSD will see if the \$29 million bond issue will pass. Goals are to work to pass the bond issue and repair relationships. If the bond issue does not pass, then get back together to come up with a plan that will pass.

Dr. Lane recognized the two facilities committees and the time each group devoted to the process. He recognized the Board members for their courage and conversation. He recognized the audience for taking on tough issues. There are many perspectives, all of which are coming from a good place. BSD has a plan on the table. The district has established the need, now the marking phase begins. 36% of the people surveyed support the plan. There is an outside chance the \$29 million bond issue will pass, but the process will not be easy. Dr. Lane thanked the audience members for their participation in the process.

The motion passed by a 5-2 roll call vote.

<p><u>Update</u> BSD School Board Candidates</p>	<p>Dr. Lane reported that three of the seven Board member terms would expire in April 2020. Three candidates are running for three-year terms on the Board of Education: Ms. Lindsay Spencer, Mr. Keith Rabenberg, and Mr. Chris Perkins.</p>
<p>SSD Liaison Report</p>	<p>Ms. Nehrt had no report.</p>
<p>MSBA Delegate Report</p>	<p>Mr. Rabenberg and Board members reviewed the MSBA Refresher Training course report.</p>
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. <i>TENTATIVE</i></li> <li>• MSBA Legislative Forum, Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. in Jefferson City</li> <li>• LWV/BSD School Board Candidates' Forum, Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.</li> <li>• Board Business Meeting, Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• SSD Governing Council Meeting, Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• Board Policy Meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• Senior Citizens' Brunch, Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.</li> <li>• Board Business Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.</li> </ul>
<p>Citizens' Comments</p>	<p>Ms. Spencer asked if there were any citizens' comments. Five people spoke.</p> <p>Mr. Ben Cooper said he would be willing to share his points and plan with anyone who is interested. He would also like to hear from teachers regarding the elementary school projects.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Schnarr thanked everyone for their hard work. He appreciates the Board of Education and all of the people who got involved in the process.</p> <p>Ms. Kristen McDaniels thanked Board members. She knows the process was tough. She said it would take lots of convincing and clear messaging in order to promote the project and timeline. She asked for tips on how McGrath could become a Blue Ribbon School like Mark Twain. She feels the divide at the middle school level and thought having one elementary school would help solve the divide. She asked that parents work together.</p> <p>Ms. Lois Truman said she did not mean to attack anyone. She did not realize the divides existed as her grandchildren are actively involved with other children throughout the district. Ms. Truman thanked the board for representing the district and for hearing all voices. She asked about the status of the Early Childhood Center</p>

and Central Office. She would like to have a strong sense of the plan. Ms. Truman offered to help with the elementary projects.

Ms. Megan Harris said she is excited to be an advocate for the elementary projects. She would like a clearly defined plan before going out in the community to promote the projects.

ACTION 113  
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.

  
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President

  
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Secretary