TO: BENTON COMMUNITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DR. JAMES BIESCHKE, SUPERINTENDENT
RE: REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
6:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting
PLACE: Central Office - Board room
304 1st Street
Van Horne, Iowa 52346



6:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings are required to provide a platform for community members to directly express their opinions, concerns, and ideas on issues affecting their lives, thereby influencing decision-making processes and ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered by elected officials or governing bodies, ultimately leading to more informed and representative policies and actions within a community; essentially acting as a vital tool for transparency and citizen engagement.

HEARING #1- FY26 CERTIFIED BUDGET

6:00 PM President Thompson opened the Public Hearing. NO COMMENTS
6:00 PM President Thompson closed the Public Hearing.

HEARING #2- ATKINS PLAYGROUND

6:01 PM President Thompson opened the Public Hearing. NO COMMENTS
6:01 PM President Thompson closed the Public Hearing.

INTRODUCTION OF ROB LIBOLT - New High School Principal starting the 2025-2026 school year.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER - 6:02 PM

Directors present: DIrectors Becker, Kaiser, Schanbacher, Shaw, Thompson and Werning. Director Nolte was absent.
A quorum was declared present.
Also present: Dr Bieschke, Anna Selk, Rob Arnold, Ryan Junge, Jason West, Katie Bauder
Shawn Pfiffner, Phil Eastman, Rob Libolt, Belle Werner, Michelle Werner, Angel Brecht, Brooks Ritscher, Morgan Kruse, Cami Hennings, Ashley Ritscher, Jon Ritscher, Darrin Foreman.

DELEGATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CONSIDERATIONS OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA

Contract for Therapist Support Agreement (School Based Services) with Tanager.

ACTION ITEM #101 - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Kaiser, second by Shaw to approve agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

OPEN FORUM - None

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORT - K-12 Agriculture Education - Anna Selk

ADMINISTRATION REPORT - Dr Bieschke

ACTION ITEM #102 - FY 25 CERTIFIED BUDGET APPROVAL

FY26 Certified Budget information: Benton CSD FY26 Budget presented at a property tax rate of **$10.32** currently for FY26 comprised of General Fund Levy (Property Tax $7.52), Instructional Support Levy w/ 4% Income Surtax (Property Tax $.54), Management Levy $1.17, PPEL $.33, and Voted PPEL $.76 for a total Tax rate of $10.32 for FY26 Budget Publication.

- **FY 26 Certified Budget Notice of Public Hearing**
- **FY 26 Tax Certification Page**

Motion by Werning, second by Kaiser to approve the FY26 Certified Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #103 - E-RATE PURCHASE

Public school districts, nonpublic schools, area education agencies and public libraries are eligible to apply for funding under the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) "E-Rate" Program. E-Rate provides discounts on telecommunications services (such as data circuits and Internet) and internal connections (such as routers and switches). The program allows us to purchase technology and then be reimbursed for 60% of the total cost.Once every five years it becomes necessary to upgrade our existing network in each of our centers.

Access Points:

- In each building we're changing out all existing wireless access points. Access points allow end user devices to connect to the network and get out to the internet.
- All classrooms throughout the district have an access point
- Gyms, auditoriums, lunchrooms and other places where people congregate will often have at least one access point as well.
- Though we'll swap out every access point we currently have for upgraded ones we'll also be adding some in areas that need additional coverage.
- A total of 153 access points, district wide, will be upgraded and 17 APs will be added.
- Included in this project will be 6 switches and backup power supplies.
- all devices come with a 5 year license.
- ITS Infrastructure Technology Solutions won this bid.
- Cost: 191,249.26 and we'll get 60% of that back because it's an e-rate project

Routers:

- Routers direct traffic into and out of our network and makes sure traffic is being routed safely, securely, and efficiently.
- Routers also provide the firewall against hackers, malware, and other Internet hazards.
- We upgraded the routers at each center (each building has 1, 4 total).
- Blue Ally won this bid.
- Four full featured Fortinet routers will cost 47,492.00, with 5 year licensing and support and we'll get the 60% discount.

Motion by Schanbacher, second by Becker to approve the E-Rate purchases as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #104 - APPROVE BID CONTRACT FOR SECURE FRONT ENTRY WORK

The following bids have been received for the secure front entry work at Keystone Elementary, Norway Intermediate, and the MS/HS. Foreman Construction Company completed all required bid documents and is the lowest bid. Shive Hattery recommends the approval of the bid contract from Foreman Construction Company for the work at the stated bid of $1,206,900.

Bid Tab- All bids Received
Shive Hattery Recommendation Letter

Motion by Kaiser, second by Shaw to approve the bid contract from Foreman Construction Company for the secure front entry work at Keystone Elementary, Norway Intermediate, and MS/HS for $1,206,900.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #105 - APPROVE BID CONTRACT FOR ATKINS PLAYGROUND

The following bids have been received for the Atkins Elementary Playground Equipment Replacement. Matt Construction Inc. completed all required bid documents and is the lowest bid. Shive Hattery recommends approval of the bid contract from Matt Construction Inc. for the work at the stated bid of $357,793.01, including the base bid and alternate 2 bid.

Bid Tab- All bids Received
Shive Hattery Recommendation Letter

Motion by Schanbacher, second by Kaiser to approve the bid contract from Matt Construction Company for the Atkins Playground Equipment replacement for $357,793.01.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #106 - APPROVE GWAEA MENTORING AND INDUCTION CONTRACT

The Grant Wood AEA Mentoring and Induction Consortium pools together local and national resources to make certain that every school in the region has access to proven and research-based induction, mentoring and coaching programs. The program provides a mentor teacher that visits one-on-one with new teachers to the profession for their first two years. The cost is $6,700 per teacher.

Motion by Becker, second by Werning to approve the GWAEA mentoring and induction program contract.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #107 - 2024-2025 PROSPECTIVE GRADUATES

Approval needed for students who will graduate pending successful completion of all requirements for graduation.

2025 Graduates for Approval

Motion by Kaiser, second by Schanbacher to approve the list of students for graduation pending all requirements are satisfactorily met.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #108 - BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **WARRANTS**
2. **ADDITIONAL WARRANTS**
3. **SUMMARY OF WARRANTS**
4. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
    a. **GENERAL FUND**
    b. **ALL FUNDS REPORT**

Motion by Schanbacher, second by Kaiser to approve the warrants and financial reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #109 - CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes common topics.
* All hires are contingent on background check, proper licensing, & release from current contract if applicable.

HIRES

- Rob Libolt - HS Principal
- Kody DeNeve - Norway 4th Grade Teacher
- Danielle Fisher - Atkins 3rd Grade Teacher
- Monica Miller - MS/HS Special Education Teacher
- Matt Buscher - Asst Varsity Softball Coach

TRANSFER

- Morgan DeRycke - Transfer from 4th Grade Teacher to Special Ed at Norway

VOLUNTEERS

- Brad Mears - Baseball
- Jordan Thys - Baseball
- Jordan Rettenmeier - Softball

RESIGNATIONS

- Erin Van Sickle - Keystone 3rd Grade Teacher
- Jami Corbett - Bus Driver (end of school year)
- Kelsey Madsen - Norway Vocal Music Teacher
- Ashley Wahe - Bus Driver (Immediately)

MEETING MINUTES -

- March 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 2, 2025 SIAC Meeting Minutes

CONTRACTS

- Anderson Erickson Milk Renewal Contract
- EAP Services Agreement with Aetna Behavioral Health
- Robinson Brothers Environmental Inc
- Tanager School Based Therapist Support Agreement

Motion by Kaiser, second by Shaw to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

ACTION ITEM #110 - POLICY REVIEW

The following policies were reviewed.

- **504.3 -** Student Publications changed to 502.03 - Student Expression and Student Publications Code (Edits from IASB)
- **504.3R1 -** Student Publications Code changed to 502.03-R(1) Student Expression and Student Publications Code - Regulation (Edits from IASB)
- **504.4** - Public Performances by Students changed to 504.04 Student Performances (No change from IASB policy)
- **504.5** - Fundraising (No change from IASB policy)
- **504.5E** - Fundraising Approval Form (No change from IASB policy)
- **505.9** - Interscholastic Competition (No IASB policy)
- **506.2** - Elementary Student Transfer Policy (No IASB policy)
- **506.2R1** - Request for Elementary Transfer Regulation Form (No IASB policy)
- **507.11** - Wellness Policy changed to 507.09 (Edits from IASB)
- **507.09-R(1)** - Wellness - Regulation - (New Policy 1st Reading**)**

Motion by Werning, second by Kaiser to approve the policy revision and review as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Free Breakfast & Lunch- 4 years free for Keystone Elementary based on direct certified free status
- Free breakfast for the whole district
- Prom - Saturday, April 26th
- Graduation Commencement- May 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEM #111 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kaiser, second by Shaw to adjourn the board meeting at 7:21 pm.

MOTION CARRIED
ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE