

**School Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021**

100: Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

The Linn-Mar School Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM in the boardroom of the Learning Resource Center (2999 N 10th St, Marion). Roll was taken to determine a quorum. Present: Buchholz, Isenberg, Lausen, Morey, Nelson, Wall, and Weaver. Administration present: Bisgard, Anderson, Christian, Ramos, and Wear. Absent: Breifelder.

200: Adoption of the Agenda *Motion 086-01-11*

MOTION by Buchholz to adopt the agenda, as presented. Second by Lausen. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

300: Audience Communications

Superintendent Bisgard shared that there were 20 letters received in strong support of the Iowa BIG program. Due to the length and quantity of the letters they will not be read aloud, but hard copies have been shared with the board members.

400: Informational Reports, Discussions, and Presentations

401: Community Promise – Exhibit 401.1

Emily Russ, Workforce & Communications Director for the Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), shared an update on the Community Promise program including information on the Marion Community Build Project, the first Pursuit Grant Recipient (Corbin Kruser from the Marion Independent School District), and some remote learning tools, stats, and goals of the Community Promise Program.

402: Project Based Learning – Exhibit 402.1

Mark Hutcheson, Director of High School Teaching & Learning, shared information on Venture Academics, the new Linn-Mar Project Based Learning Program that will be replacing the district's participation in Iowa BIG. Information was shared on what the program is about, why the district is transitioning to the program, why the transition is occurring now, how the program will work, planning that has occurred, and what a day in the life of a Venture student might look like.

403: Board Visit

Board members reported they enjoyed the enthusiasm of the teachers and administrators during their December 17th visit to Boulder Peak Intermediate and that they were impressed with the integrative technology being utilized.

404: Marion City Council

Wall and Buchholz reported there were no district-related items discussed during the December 17th and January 7th Marion City Council meetings.

405: Career & Technical Education Committee

Nelson reported that during the January 6th CTE meeting the discussion centered on Project Based Learning at the high school level.

406: Cabinet Update & Return-to-Learn Plan – Exhibit 406.1

Superintendent Shannon Bisgard shared that the K-6 grade students and staff were excited to be back to in-person learning. The following information was also given as the criteria that will be utilized to determine the use of snow days versus virtual learning days:

- Snow Days/Teacher Work Days: No school for students and teachers work from home.
 - Traditional snow days will typically be used on “last minute” (5:00 AM) decisions.
 - Virtual learning will NOT be held on these days.
 - Due to the number of hours built into the district calendar, these days will NOT be made up by students or staff. They will count as contract days for teachers; who will be allowed to work from home.
- Virtual Learning Days: Students and teachers hold school from home.
 - Typically held when advance notice is available on weather decisions (the night before).
 - Schedules on these days will be the same as those utilized prior to Thanksgiving break.
- Late Starts or Early Dismissals: Procedures will remain as always done.
 - No AM preschool or K-6 virtual learning on late starts.
 - No PM preschool or K-6 virtual learning on early dismissals.

Information from the Linn County Department of Public Health on COVID vaccinations was also shared, including the news that it could be months before educational staff are vaccinated due to slow distribution and supply demands. District COVID numbers are being continually monitored and the board will reassess and decide on the Return to Learn Plan for third quarter during the January 25th meeting.

500: Unfinished Business

600: New Business

601: Discussion on Potential Facility Needs

Superintendent Bisgard facilitated a discussion on potential facility needs. A short review of the 10-year Capital Project Improvement Plan was shared; which included an enrollment threshold of 2,800 students before a second high school was potentially needed. Based on current enrollment trends, it is believed this threshold will not be met within the next 10 years. Board members were in agreement that 2,800 remain as the enrollment threshold and requested additional information on potential facility needs. Bisgard will collect the information requested and the board will continue the discussion at future meetings.

602: At Risk/Dropout Prevention Application **Motion 087-01-11**

MOTION by Lausen to approve the 2021-22 At-Risk/Dropout Prevention Modified Supplemental Application in the amount of \$1,338,750.00, and for this amount to be submitted to the School Budget Review Committee for consideration of increased spending authority. Second by Wall. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

603: Revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar – Exhibit 603.1 **Motion 088-01-11**

MOTION by Buchholz to approve the revised 2021-2022 school calendar, as presented. Second by Lausen. The revision included moving up the new teacher orientation days, replacing regular staff professional learning days with personalized staff learning days, and changing the August 26th and 27th staff half work days to full work days in order to meet teacher contract days. There were no changes made to student attendance days. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

604: Open Enrollment Requests **Motion 089-01-11**

MOTION by Lausen to approve the open enrollment requests, as presented. Second by Buchholz. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Approved OUT

Name	Grade	Requested District	Reason
Senters, Caden	10 th	Cedar Rapids CSD	Good cause
Senters, Jeron	11 th	Cedar Rapids CSD	Good cause

Denied OUT

Name	Grade	Requested District	Reason
Xiya, Gabriella	9 th	Marion Independent	Late; no good cause

700: Consent Agenda Motion 090-01-11

MOTION by Wall to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Second by Lausen. Nelson extended a welcome to Chris Gates, the newly-hired Operations & Maintenance Manager. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

701: Personnel

Classified Staff: Assignment/Reassignment/Transfer

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Salary Placement
Gates, Chris	O&M: Manager	1/8/21	\$85,000/year
Good, Troy	BP: Student Support Associate	1/6/21	LMSEAA II, Step 10
Grensteiner, Susan	BP: Student Support Associate	1/4/21	LMSEAA II, Step 15
Lansing, Don	From BP to EX Student Support Associate	1/4/21	Same
McCloy, Jenny	From OR NS General Help to EH Student Support Assoc	1/4/21	LMSEAA II, Step 16
Norris, Megan	AC: Aquatic Instructor/Diving	1/4/21	\$12.00/hour
Pelikan, Emily	LRC: Computer Technician	1/11/21	\$22.00/hour
Potratz, Natalee	From LG to BP Student Support Associate	1/18/21	Same

Classified Staff: Resignation

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Basu, Soumi	WF: General Ed Assistant	1/12/21	Other employment
Bjork, Dawn	LG: Student Support Associate	1/5/21	Personal
Bruce, Niona	WF: Student Support Associate	12/22/20	Other employment
Coleman, Jabrianna	HP: Student Support Associate	1/8/21	Personal
Moos, Crystal	HP: Lead Cook	12/11/20	Personal
Powell, Christine	O&M: Custodian	1/4/21	Personal
Riherd, Michelle	LRC: Payroll Technician	1/8/21	Personal
Smith, Editha	IC: Custodian	12/28/20	Personal

Co/Extra-Curricular Staff: Resignation

Name	Assignment	Dept Action	Reason
Finnerty, Mike	HS: Assistant Varsity Boys Track Coach	12/3/20	Personal
Wood, Polly	HS: Assistant Varsity Girls Golf Coach	1/6/21	Personal

702: Approval of December 14th Minutes – Exhibit 702.1

703: Approval of Bills – Exhibit 703.1

704: Approval of Contracts – Exhibits 704.1-7

1. Change order #13 with Knutson Construction for Hazel Point Intermediate
2. Change order #3 with DC Taylor Company for the Bowman Woods roof project
3. Agreement with Xello for use of their student career information system
4. Agreement with Forecast5 Analytics for use of the 5Lab program
5. Cooperative agreement with University of Iowa for the student teaching program
6. Student teaching affiliation agreement with Grand Canyon University
7. Independent contractor agreement with Michele Safavi
8. Interagency agreements for Special Education services with Cedar Rapids CSD (3), Clayton Ridge CSD (2), Dubuque CSD (1), Marion Independent (2), and REM Iowa (1). *For student confidentiality, exhibits not provided.*

705: Informational Financial Reports – Exhibits 705.1-2

1. School Finance and Cash Balance Reports as of November 30, 2019
2. School Finance and Cash Balance Reports as of November 30, 2020

800: Board Communications, Calendar, and Committees

801: Board Communications

Buchholz congratulated Associate Superintendent Wear on his TV interview regarding the hand sanitizer donation the district received from Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery.

802: Board Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location/Comments
January 14	11:30 AM	Board Visit	Westfield Elementary
January 19	12:00 PM	Superintendent's Lion Learning	Virtual
January 19	5:30 PM	Superintendent's Lion Learning	Virtual
January 20	11:30 AM	Policy Committee	Virtual
January 21	7:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee	LRC Conference Room 203
January 21	5:30 PM	Marion City Council (Isenberg)	Virtual
January 25	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	LRC Boardroom/YouTube
January 28	11:30 AM	Board Visit	Bowman Woods Elementary
Date	Time	Event	Location/Comments
February 2	8:00 AM	Marion Legislative Day	Virtual
February 2	TBD	Linn County Conference Board (Buchholz)	Virtual
February 4	5:30 PM	Marion City Council (Lausen)	Virtual
February 8	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	LRC Boardroom/YouTube
February 11	11:30 AM	Board Visit	Excelsior Middle School
February 18	7:30 AM	Finance/Audit Committee	LRC Conference Room 203
February 18	5:30 PM	Marion City Council (Nelson)	Virtual
February 22	5:00 PM	Board Meeting	LRC Boardroom/YouTube

803: Committees and Advisories

Committee	2020-21 Representatives
Finance/Audit Committee	Buchholz, Isenberg, and Morey
Policy/Governance Committee	Lausen, Wall, and Weaver
Career & Technical Education Advisory (CTE)	Buchholz, Morey, and Nelson
School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)	Buchholz, Isenberg, and Wall
Facilities Advisory Committee	Morey, Nelson, and Weaver
Iowa BIG Advisory Board	Lausen
Community Promise	Nelson
Linn County Conference Board	Buchholz

900: Adjournment *Motion 091-01-11*

MOTION by Lausen to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. Second by Buchholz. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Sondra Nelson, School Board President

JT Anderson, Board Secretary/Treasurer