

Complaint against Marengo dismissed by board

Second case pending

By Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current

MARENGO — The Iowa Public Information Board dismissed a complaint against the Marengo City Council May 15, but a second complaint is pending.

The Public Information Board will conduct training with the Marengo City Council because of the complaints, it said, though the first complaint, filed by a sitting City Council member, has been dismissed.

On Feb. 13, 2025, Jennifer Olson filed a formal complaint alleging that the City of Marengo violated Iowa Code chapter 21 by holding a meeting without notice or agenda, according to the Public Information Board.

Olson’s complaint said that after the public city council meeting, Marengo Mayor Adam Rabe informed Council Members Karen Wayson and John Hinshaw that they were to stay to have a brief personnel committee meeting.

There was no agenda, and no notification posted about the meeting, the complaint says. The meeting took place about 7:12 p.m., right after the council meeting adjourned.

Rabe, Wayson and Hinshaw comprise the Personnel Committee of the Council.

Marengo City Attorney Gage Kensler told the board in response to the complaint that the Council’s actions were justified because the committee meeting did not satisfy the statutory definition of a meeting pursuant to Iowa Code.

The gathering of Committee members did not involve deliberation or action, which is required for a meeting, Kensler argued.

The Mayor asked the committee members to stay behind to provide explanation for why a closed session was not used during the council meeting, Kensler said. This was not deliberation or action and did not meet the definition of a meeting pursuant to Iowa Code § 21.2.

Kensler also argued that two members of the five-member city council met, indicating that a meeting did not occur, said the Public Information Board.

Following Kensler’s explanation of a meeting, Olson asked to withdraw her complaint, the Public Information Board said. IPIB kept the complaint open based on concerns regarding the definition of a majority and based on a second and pending complaint against the City.

Iowa Code stipulates that meetings of governmental bodies be preceded by public notice as provided in section 21.4 and shall be held in open session unless closed sessions are expressly permitted by law. Except as provided in section 21.5, all actions and dis-

cussions at meetings of governmental bodies, whether formal or informal, shall be conducted and executed in open session, the IPIB explained.

A meeting is a gathering in person or by electronic means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of a governmental body where there is deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of the governmental body’s policy-making duties. Iowa Code § 21.2(2).

A governmental body is board, council, commission or other governing body of a political subdivision or tax-supported district in Iowa and includes a multi-membered body formally and directly created by a board, council, commission or other governing body of a political subdivision or tax-supported district. Iowa Code § 21.2(1)(b) and (c).

A meeting requires four elements, said the IPIB. A gathering occurs in-person or by electronic means; 2. A majority of the members are present; 3. Deliberation or action occurs; and 4. The deliberation or action is within the scope of the governmental body’s policymaking duties. Iowa Code § 21.2(2).

The City is correct to state a meeting requires the presence of a majority of the members of a governmental body and deliberation or action upon a matter within the scope of its policy-making duties, said the Public Information Board.

IPIB staff agreed that a meeting did not occur because the governmental body did not deliberate or act upon a matter within the scope of the governmental body’s duties.

IPIB disagreed with the City’s position that a majority of the members of the governmental body were not present. The Committee is a distinct multimembered body formally and directly created by the Council. If the Committee contains three members, and three members were present, a majority of the members of the governmental body were present.

This factor does not change the ultimate outcome of this complaint, said IPIB, as a meeting requires all four elements to meet the established definition. Deliberation or action did not occur. For this reason, a meeting did not occur.

The Personnel Committee is a distinct governmental body that must comply with all open meetings requirements, IPIB said. IPIB staff will provide training to the Marengo City Council to ensure that its members understand this issue, IPIB said.

A second complaint against the Marengo City Council is still pending. City Administrator Karla Marck said the complaint from Matt Loffer is in reference to open record report fees.

BGM COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 14, 2025 BOARD MINUTES
The Regular Board Meeting of the BGM Community School District met in regular session on May 14th, at 5:00 pm in the High School Library of BGM High School. Board President Kelly Kriegel called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in board members, Craig Kalinay, Kelly Kriegel, Stacia Brown, Eric Hodina, Kayleen Tometchik and Pat Coleman being present. Craig Kuntz was absent. Also present was Superintendent Hohensee, Brady Miller, Shane Ehresman, and Jerry Shaw.

Brown read the Mission Statement “In partnership with parent(s) and community, we will provide each student with the essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be a lifelong learner, a contributing citizen, and a productive worker in a changing and diverse world.” Kriegel read the President’s Statement. Tometchik moved to approve the consent agenda items which included additions/deletions, approval of the previous meeting minutes, current bills and additional bills, financial reports, facility use requests. Open enrollment approval of applications for James Rogers-(K)-From South Tama, Greyson Metz-(K) from South Tama. Resignations- Timothy Kauzlarich-HS SPED Teacher (Early Retirement). Leave of absence-1 Year-Katy Calkins-TAG Teacher. The motion was seconded by Hodina, unanimously adopted.

Hodina moved to approve the summer work order requests. motion was seconded by Tometchik, unanimously adopted.

Kalinay moved to approve the 2025-2026 School Fees. The motion was seconded by Coleman, unanimously adopted.

Tometchik moved to approve the bid for milk. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.

Brown moved to approve adopting a resolution to transfer funds to the flexibility account. The motion was seconded by Coleman, unanimously adopted.

Tometchik moved to approve the fall and winter coaching contracts for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.

Coleman moved to approve a resolution to consider continued participation in the equipment breakdown program. The motion was seconded by Hodina, unanimously adopted.

Coleman moved to approve an application for early retirement. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.

Superintendent Hohensee reported:

1. May Schedule.
2. Board Appreciation Week-Thanks for what you do for our district/students! It is appreciated.
3. Graduation-Scheduled for May 18th at 2:00. Meet at Shane’s office at 1:45. I will hopefully be here right at the time to walk down the aisle-if not proceed and I will join you at the front.
4. Summer Meal Programs-The application has been approved! Fantastic news for our families and students.
5. P.I.E reimbursement for the New playground surface-We received a check for \$80,000 from P.I.E a big thank you for their continued support of our school.
6. Grand Piano is in and looks/sounds amazing.
7. Card reader quote.

Principal Mary Sherwood Reported:

- Preschool Open House: We have our preschool open house on Wednesday, May 7th, for our incoming preschoolers. We currently have 30 pre-registered preschoolers for next year. We also have 12 students enrolled in our Beginderergarten program for next school year.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: Our PIE group has done an amazing job planning this week’s events, celebrating our theme of "1st Class Teachers and Staff." Highlights include a fiesta lunch, in-flight beverage service, a VIP breakfast, and flight-themed snacks, along with fun games like "Name That Tune" and trivia. We also took time to recognize School Lunch Hero Day and School Nurse Appreciation Day this month.
- Touch a Truck Event: This Friday, we’ll be hosting our annual Touch a Truck event! Around 35 local businesses and organizations are participating, including a helicopter on the football field, provided by Jim Heishman, who uses it for field spraying. Special thanks to Andrea Harms for organizing this always-popular event.
- FAST Assessments: Kindergarten through 3rd grade students completed their end-of-year FAST assessments last week. Our teaching teams will review the results along with the ISASP data, during our last professional development days to help shape our School Improvement Plan for next year.
- Home Base Service Projects: On May 16th, our Home Base groups meet one last time for an afternoon of community service and campus clean-up. Students will help clean up around town, at the library, nursing home, and on the school grounds in preparation for graduation. Then we will have popticles on the playground to end the day!
- Iowa Steel Drum Ensemble: On May 21st, our students will enjoy a performance by the Iowa Steel Drum Ensemble. We had them visit last year, and it was a fun, entertaining experience.
- Track and Field Day: Mark your calendars for May 19th! Grades 3-6 will compete in the morning, and K-2 students will have their event in the afternoon.
- Splash into Summer: Our last day of school will feature a special "Splash into Summer" event for students in grades K-6, a fun way to kick off summer break! Principal Shane Ehresman Reported: Summer School opportunities will be available only for students in need of credit recovery. Mr. Kriegel will manage the classes with Franci McClenahan supervising the students. Summer school classes will start on June 9 and end June 27, 2025.

At the April Secondary Building Leadership Team (BLT) meeting, we reviewed the BGM Wireless Communication Device policy proposal along with the governor’s cell phone bill in the Iowa legislature and March 12 SIAC meeting feedback. The BLT decided to pause school board approval until the cell phone bill is signed by the governor. At the May 2025 BGM school board meeting, a proposal will be presented to the school board.

Paraeducators were recognized on Wednesday, April 2 for their service to students and staff. Their primary function is to support teachers and students. Here’s a breakdown of their key roles: Providing one-on-one or small-group instruction to students who need extra help, reinforcing lessons and concepts presented by the teacher, and adapting materials and providing accommodations for students with special needs. Secondary paraeducators include Jessica Egerton, Liz Hamilton, Franci McClenahan, Allie Morris, Dalton Robers, Matt Smith, Jake Tibbetts and Dorothy Wedgewood.

On Wednesday, March 26, the Brooklyn Kiwanis Club took nine Kiwanis Student of the Month seniors to Des Moines for a tour of the state capitol and lunch.

Upcoming Dates:

- Class night will be held on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
- Junior High School Prom will be held on Friday, April 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the elementary gym.

Similar format to previous years.

- All 7th and 8th grade students who are passing all fourth quarter classes will go to Adventureland on Monday, May 19.

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) testing was completed on Friday, April 3. Students took the tests during the week of March 18 - March 21 (one test a day). Jeremy Mize was instrumental in test preparation, troubleshooting issues during the testing period, and following up with students for test retakes who were absent during the testing period.

TPRA Grant Update: Two elementary paraeducators will be pursuing a teaching degree using the state’s Teacher & Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship (TPRA) grant. Aimee Peak (elementary education/special education) and Quincie Smith (elementary education) have been accepted to take online classes at William Penn University in Oskaloosa. The TPRA grant will pay their tuition and books until June 30, 2026. Several other BGM district paraeducators are considering entering the associate degree in education from Iowa Valley Community College.

Principal Shane Ehresman reported:

iJag student enrollment and projections - Mrs. Kelsey Klein

Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates (IJAG) partners with Iowa schools to deliver career development programming, including leadership training, career education, individualized guidance, and employer engagement.

Monday, May 19 (all - Last Day of Class for Seniors)

Year 1 Fall 2023: 12 Spring 2024: 17

Year 2 Fall 2024: 12 Spring 2025: 25

Year 3 Fall 2025: 49 (projected)

Senior - 11; Junior - 6, Sophomore - 17; Freshman - 15

Month of May 2025 Activities:

- Tuesday, May 6 (Flex Time) - Spirit Assembly
- Wednesday, May 7 (All Day) - 7th Grade Science Trip to the Zoo
- Tuesday, May 13 (8:15 - 9:15 a.m.) Iowa Valley Community College presentation about college class applications with Kelly and Barb - All 9th and 10th graders
- Tuesday, May 13 (9:15 - 10:15 a.m.) - 6th Grade Transition meeting with Angie Radcliffe and Joe Tafta in Stacie Fiebelkorn’s classroom
- Tuesday, May 13 (12:30 - 3 p.m.) - Mandatory CPR training for all 12th grade students in Auxiliary Gym by Grinnell Hospital
- Wednesday, May 14 (6:30 p.m.) - Awards Night in Auditorium
- Wednesday, May 14 - Last Day of Class for Seniors
- Thursday, May 15 - Senior Fun Day & Chromebook/Book Turn-in - 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, May 16 - Senior Graduation Rehearsal - 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Cap & Gown Handout - HS and JH Band and HS Choir will attend this rehearsal as well.
- Friday, May 16 - 6th Grade Transition Day.
- Sunday, May 18 (2:00 p.m.) - Graduation - Seniors arrive at school at 12:45 p.m. Senior Group Photo at 1:15 p.m. Ceremony at 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 19 (all - Last Day of Class for Seniors)
- Tuesday, May 20 - Lorelei Gerard to perform at the Outstanding Performers Showcase at ISU - HS-9-12 Choir to watch
- Wednesday, May 21 (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) - Steel Drum Performance - All elementary students and 7-12 choir/band students only
- Wednesday, May 21 (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.) - SIAC meeting in Flex Room
- Friday, May 23 - (2:15 p.m. Early Dismissal) - Last day of school for students
- Tuesday, May 27 - Thursday, May 29 - Full Day of Teacher PD

The next regular meeting of the Board of directors will take place Wednesday June 11th, 2025 at 5:00PM.

Hodina moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm. Kalinay seconded.

Brady Miller, Board Secretary Kelly Kriegel, Board President

Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom Community School (FY 24-25)

List of Paid Bills

Check Date Range: 05/01/2025 to 05/19/2025

Invoice

Vendor Warrant Date Amount Description

Bank Account: (GEN) General Account

Secretary of State/Notary Division 10811 5/5/2025 30.00 Notary stamp

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. 10823 5/15/2025 171.00 Board of Ed - Attorney

People Inc. 10824 5/15/2025 32,671.00 Technology - 13" Technology - 14"

Audas Sanitation 10825 5/15/2025 835.98 Custodial - Garbage

Auto-Jet Muffler Corp 10826 5/15/2025 771.87 Bus #9 - Muffler Repair

Raymond Baker 10827 5/15/2025 84.00 Custodial - Shared

BGM Activity Acct./Bear's Closet 10828 5/15/2025 2,000.00 Reimbursement for

BGM Lunch Account 10829 5/15/2025 203.00 Preschool - Snack Milk

Blum of Minnesota, LLC 10830 5/15/2025 104.10 Elem. Library - Llumio TAG -

Lumio Standard Joan D. Bonnett 10831 5/15/2025 150.00 HS Music - HS Music

Brooklyn Grocery - Acct. #203 - Board 10832 5/15/2025 17.80 Board Expense -

Other

Brooklyn Grocery 10833 5/15/2025 991.79 FCS - General

Brooklyn Hardware 10834 5/15/2025 358.29 Custodial - General FCS - General

Custodial - Ground

Brooklyn Lumber & Building Supply 10835 5/15/2025 149.99 Custodial - Ground

Custodial - Wrestling

Brooklyn Municipal Utilities 10836 5/15/2025 15,233.14 BGM HS Building - BGM HS

Building - BGM Elementary

Brooklyn Mutual Telecommunications 10837 5/15/2025 470.57 Dist. Wide -

Telephone

Brooklyn Service Center 10838 5/15/2025 28.00 Custodial - LP Gas

BSN Sports, LLC 10839 5/15/2025 9,151.25 Co-Curricular - Football Co-Curricular -

Co-Curricular

CDW Government, Inc. 10840 5/15/2025 1,250.00 Technology - CISCO

Central Rivers Area Education Agency 10841 5/15/2025 1,000.00 Networking

Support

Chad Nath 10842 5/15/2025 300.00 Pool Operator Course -

City Of Brooklyn 10843 5/15/2025 175.00 Board Pd - Shared

Claim Aid 10844 5/15/2025 286.94 Spec. Ed Level 3 - Spec. Ed - Level III

Morgan Collum 10845 5/15/2025 40.02 Elem. - Supplies

Diam Pest Control 10846 5/15/2025 150.00 Custodial - Purchased

Carrie Dolmage 10847 5/15/2025 35.00 HS Music -

Embark IT, Inc. 10848 5/15/2025 1,140.00 Technology - Related

Follett Content Solutions, LLC 10849 5/15/2025 318.38 Elem. Library - Books

Zachary Goodrich 10850 5/15/2025 79.99 Custodial - Clothing

Trainer 10851 5/15/2025 585.20 Custodial - Plumbing

Shirley Grimm 10852 5/15/2025 75.00 HS Music -

Hall's Feed & Seed Inc. 10853 5/15/2025 40.00 Custodial - Ground

Hamilton Glass Windows & Doors 10854 5/15/2025 240.98 HS Building Repair &

Harden Bros. Propane, Inc. 10855 5/15/2025 1,208.40 Custodial - LP for heat

Propane for Heat

HD Supply Formerly Home Depot Pro 10856 5/15/2025 5,720.32 Custodial - General

Custodial - Cleaning

Bradley Duane Hohensee 10857 5/15/2025 905.40 Supt. Shared Travel

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. 10858 5/15/2025 1,831.50 HS Math -

Consumable

IOWA ASSOC OF SCHOOL BOARDS 10859 5/15/2025 3,138.00 Board Paid Dues &

Board of Ed - Policies

Iowa Communications Network/ Finance Div. 10860 5/15/2025 1,168.15 Dist Wide -

Internet Bill

LEGAL NOTICES

Iowa High School Music Assoc./ Attn: Exec. Director 10861 5/15/2025 145.00 HS

Vocal - Large HS Music - Annual

Iowa Valley Comm. College District 10862 5/15/2025 81,445.75 Tuition to Community

Career Academy -

Joe Irlbeck 10863 5/15/2025 416.67 Instructional - Strength

J. V. Pepper & Son, Inc. 10864 5/15/2025 173.72 HS Vocal - General HS Vocal Music

JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 10865 5/15/2025 190.96 Custodial - Ground

Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC 10866 5/15/2025 1,072.73 Elem. Reg. -

Preschool Supplies Elem. Spec. Education

Donny Lastovka 10867 5/15/2025 3,480.00 Technology Director -

LOREN FORD TRUCKING 10868 5/15/2025 97.35 Custodial - Purchased

Lowes Business Acct./SYNCH 10869 5/15/2025 291.20 Custodial - General

MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC 10870 5/15/2025 858.40 Technology Related

MCC Bookstore 10871 5/15/2025 7,212.25 HS Textbooks - Fall

McGraw - HILL SCHOOL EDUCATION HOLDINGS LLC 10872 5/15/2025

3,139.20 HS Science - Software

Michael J. Manatt Community Center 10873 5/15/2025 1,282.14 Custodial - Replace

Brady Miller 10874 5/15/2025 221.20 Shared w/HLV - Shared w/HLV - IASBO

Jenny Mize 10875 5/15/2025 40.60 HS Workshop -

Allison Morris 10876 5/15/2025 32.00 Transportation -

NAPA Auto Parts 10877 5/15/2025 233.98 Custodial - General Transportation

NEW CENTURY FS, INC. 10878 5/15/2025 3,260.89 Transportation -

Office Express 10879 5/15/2025 37.10 Title 1 - Supplies

Plank Road Publishing 10880 5/15/2025 127.95 Elem. Music - General

Push Pedal Pull 10881 5/15/2025 804.99 Wellness Center -

Quill Corporation 10882 5/15/2025 2,344.12 Elem. Office Supplies Elementary -

Office Supplies

REALLY GOOD STUFF, INC. 10883 5/15/2025 193.07 Elem. Other General Elem.

Instructional

Robo Wonder 10884 5/15/2025 4,600.00 Elementary - 2yr.

Rochester 100 Inc. 10885 5/15/2025 474.00 Elem. Supplies Preschool Supplies Elem.

General

SCHOOL ADM OF IOWA 10886 5/15/2025 874.00 Elem. Principal - SAI Elem.

Principal

SCHOOL DATEBOOKS / SDI INNOVATIONS 10887 5/15/2025 657.63 Elem. -

Datebooks

School Nurse Supply Inc. 10888 5/15/2025 179.54 Nurse - General

School Specialty, LLC 10889 5/15/2025 5,074.58 HS Furniture & Fixtures Elem. Art

Supplies Elem. - General

Securly, Inc. 10890 5/15/2025 3,082.43 Technology - Securly Technology - Securly

Siemens Industry Inc. c/o Citibank (Bldg Tech) 10891 5/15/2025 211.95 Custodial -

Purchased

Upfront Floral & Home Decor 10892 5/15/2025 141.00 Board of Ed - Funeral Board

of Ed - Funeral Board of Ed - Funeral

Victor Lumber Co. 10893 5/15/2025 251.21 Industrial Tech -

WARD'S SCIENCE 10894 5/15/2025 3,308.71 HS Natural Science - HS Natural

Science - HS Natural Science

WMFF Group, LLC 10895 5/15/2025 29.37 Board of Ed - Ad & Board of Ed - Legals

Board of Ed - Legals

City Of Brooklyn 10896 5/15/2025 175.11 Board Paid Shared -

Quill Corporation 10897 5/15/2025 30.00 Elem. General

School Specialty, LLC 10898 5/15/2025 40.14 Elem. General

WMFF Group, LLC 10899 5/15/2025 94.26 Board Paid - Ad &

Base Account

(SCH) Schoolhouse Account Total 209,435.26

Bank Account: (SCH) Schoolhouse Account

C.H. McGuiness Co. Inc. 287