

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2018
6:00 p.m.

The Blytheville Board of Education met in a special meeting at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 2018, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tracey Ritchey, President | (2) Erin Carrington, Vice-President |
| (3) Barbara Wells, Secretary | (4) Tommy Bennett |
| (5) Billy Fair | (6) Desmond Hammett |
| (7) Tobey Johnson | (8) Henrietta Watt |

Others present: Kris Williams, Allison Turner, Idyll Jenkins, Casey DeFord, Jennifer Bennett, Tracey Plunkett, Paula Pitts, Jana Wilson, Jennifer Johnson, Megan Lambert, Rebecca Cooper, Todd Welch, Kyle Cook, Zack Roberts, Tony Hollis, Eric Eular, Rick Terry, Michelle Sims, Alisa Williams, Harold Sudbury and Vanessa Stewart.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the Month of January to order at 6:01 p.m. |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with eight members present. |
| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION | At this time the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel hiring and benefits. |
| 5. OPEN SESSION | After discussion, the Board came back into open session at 7:15 p.m. |

No action was taken.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Superintendent Report

- A. United Way Report was handed out. Total District pledge for 2018 is \$3,796.30.

Statement of Interest were given to Board to complete and file with the County Clerk before the January 31, 2018 deadline.

B. Resolution to Accept Sale of Bonds

Marshall Hughes, First Security Beardsley, presented final recap of \$2,680,000 Construction Bonds, Series B dated February 18, 2018 to the Board.

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tommy Bennett to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and delivery of the \$2,680,000, Blytheville School District No. 5 of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Construction Bonds, Series B dated February 1, 2018 and other documents pertaining thereto as prepared by the Friday, Eldredge & Clark Law Firm.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:22 p.m.

C. Thomas, Speight and Noble 2016-2017 Audit

Rebecca Cooper, Thomas, Speight and Noble highlighted the 2016-2017 Audit that was given to each Board Member.

A motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Henrietta Watt to accept Thomas, Speight and Noble 2016-2017 Audit.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:30 p.m.

Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

Don Jenkins and his people did a tremendous job working on busted pipes while we were out for break. My guys do a great job.

Carolyn Barnes has excellent organizational skills and does a great job getting over two thousand kids to and from school with 150-200 rural routes. She does a great job getting someone to drive the roads to see which roads we can go down and which roads are not safe. Mrs. Barnes does a tremendous job keeping our schools safe.

Brandon Harper, Eileen Garris, Bobby Ashley and Security Team were given martial art training. We sent Brandon to the emergency room

after he was hurt. Training dealt with how to handle adults and children.

Our first bid on construction was last Sunday. Walk-thru was done Thursday after ground-breaking. Bid opening will be next week at their office. We will need dry weather before we start moving dirt. It is an exciting time.

Board Member Tobey Johnson reported that she has called County Judge Terri Brassfield about Half Moon Road. It is the worst road in our town. Judge Brassfield said that had several workers out with the flu and one with a broken foot. The city owns 8th Street and Park Street, both are having issues. Our hands are tied because it is not our property.

Parking lot bids January 30th at 2:00 p.m. Construction documents will take six to eight weeks.

Geotechnical reports were done on the soil and land.

Desmond Hammett asked if there was a contract issue and could the facility be moved to another location. Hammett asked to see documentation showing penalties. Todd Welch, answered that there would not be penalties if the facility was moved to a new location but there would be redesign work and fees that would be above and beyond original fee. Estimated fees would include architect/civil engineer \$60,000, survey \$12,000, soil test \$6,000, and structural foundation redesign \$10,000-\$15,000. We have done reports and survey has been completed for a particular site. The contract is not tied to a site. There are four firms working on project.

Cost effectiveness of old gym will have to be measured. Stakeholders have a meaningful and large voice in the district. Information has been taken out to community meetings.

Instructional Reports

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

Professional Learning/Collaboration:

- Robin Sneed and I went to the ADE Charter Review Panel over Christmas break on December 20th to present our application for 3 more years as a Charter. The Blytheville High School New Tech Charter was approved unanimously by the panel and then

accepted without questions by the State Board of Education in January. Within the approval the Charter Panel requested that we review and update our goals because we are doing so many things to provide growth and enrichment for the whole child such as Career and Technical opportunities with industry certifications and internships prior to graduation, improving ACT scores through opportunities like the College Prep Academy, and Student Voice and they want to see those added as goals to track that progress.

- In December Mr. Atwill, Ms. DeFord, Robin Sneed the New Tech Director and I had a meeting at BHS with Mark Morrison (founding Napa New Tech High Principal and more recently Napa Valley Unified School District Executive Director for Secondary Education) who was visiting multiple districts around the United States. Since we opened BHS NT in 2013, districts are looking for opportunities to scale the New Tech outcomes (often called Deeper Learning outcomes/21st Century Skills, etc) to more students in their districts. Alan Veach from New Tech Network nominated our school and district team because he felt our New Tech journey could help shape the future of the network because we are already scaling many of the Deeper Learning Outcomes throughout the district.

Mrs. Cooke shared an email from Mark Morrison, M.A., Director of District & School Development, New Tech Network™ expressing his appreciation for the work being done.

- Want to remind the board that we have three schools who are going to the Team Institute with Arkansas Leadership Academy - BES is in 3rd year, BPS is in 2nd year, and BMS is in 1st year. Principals in Master Principal Institute and Assistant Principals in the AP Institute. The Performance Coaches provide feedback and have shared progress for each building and are continuing the systems approach to make the work align across the district just as ADE and SPDG are doing. A series of meetings have been scheduled with each school to set goals and provide training that will coordinate with the Strategic Action Plans that we are doing with Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA). We meet to assure that there is alignment with what we are doing with SPDG and Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA).

90% of our seniors will be accepted to post high school education and 47-50% will actually take advantage of these opportunities. Blytheville is rich with community groups who want to help kids succeed. We take students out to visit colleges as much as we bring them in. We want our high school seniors to walk out after

graduation with a plan, a vision and a dream. (Helping Our Teens Elevate Their Potential representatives Shayla Adelowo, Alisha Williams, Michelle Sims, Jacquin Benson, and Nina Watson - HOTEV (Helping Our Teens Elevate Their Potential) have taken our students to visit historically black colleges and universities. Jeff Echols, ANC and Emily Crosskno, College & Career, BHS New Tech network on college fairs.

- Teacher numbers are down across the nation and we are working on waivers. Recruitment fairs will be soon with ASU, UCA, Pine Bluff and others.
- Recommendation from Personnel Policy Committee regarding the school calendar:

The district applied for Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) during the first semester. The state may grant up to 10 student attendance days for the use of AMI including without limitation virtual learning on days when the district is closed due to exceptional or emergency services such as a disease outbreak, inclement weather, other acts of God, or a utility outage.

Because we did not get our approval letter until January 12th, when we were already out for snow, we have 4 days that need to be made up. Teachers will be creating packets and providing instruction for students and parents this week that will be used in the event that any other days must be taken this year.

The Personnel Policy Committee (PPC) met this afternoon to vote to request an amendment to the 2017-18 calendar.

64.3% of teachers surveyed regarding next year's calendar asked to add any extra days to the end of the year rather than miss the breaks/holidays already built in during the year, therefore the following motion was made:

February 16 will be the first make up day and teachers will make up the PD scheduled for that day (6 hour) at the principal's discretion after school (already board approved).

Amendment to the calendar - Take the President's Day, February 19th as holiday rather than make up day #2, and make up the remaining 3 snow days on May 30, May 31, and June 1st as outlined in the 2017-18 calendar.

PD for teachers:

6 PD hours moved to after school, scheduled by principal (already board approved)

Motion made by Ben Fisher, seconded by Tracy Plunkett, motion carried. Changes will be presented to the board tonight, 1-22-18, and a survey for certified staff will follow if approved.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

- All Special Education additional licensure are in compliance.
- We have 273 students in special education.
- We have 20 preschool students per class.
- Mrs. Williams did needs assessment training. I learned several things that I was not aware of.
- What we were lacking will do well with audit.
- Working on lowering out-of-school suspension rate. Tracking student referrals, grades, infractions. There is lots of intervention for students.
- We are going to train teams instead of a few people (Assistant Principals, PBIS Coaches, ALE Teachers, Behavior Interventionists). After 6-week training they will be Board Certified Behavior Analyst. We are doing all we can do. We are going beyond to train teachers with behavior management.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- D. November 13, 2017, Meeting
- E. December 11, 2017 Meeting not held; quorum not present
- F. December 19, 2017, Special Meeting
- G. January 8, 2018 Special Meeting
- H. January 16, 2018 Special Meeting
- I. January 18, 2018 Special Meeting
- J. November Financial Report
- K. December Financial Report
- L. Two Year Master Plan
- M. Recommendation for Calendar Amendment, Policy 3.29

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept items as listed in D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L. & M.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 9:18 p.m.

8. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resignation of Certified Employee (January 12, 2018)

Chanel Moton	Teacher	BMS
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B. Resignation of Classified Employee (January 10, 2018)

Syreeta Dawkin	Paraprofessional	BPS
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C. Resignation of Classified Employee (End of 2017-2018)

Angela McGee Thomas	Secretary	BPS
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept resignations as listed in A., B. & C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 9:32 p.m.

President Ritchey told the Board there will be CRSS training Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Board will hear from a search firm on January 31, 2018.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary