

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, March 26, 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 March 26, 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: Jessica Tubbs, Megan Hill, Idyll Jenkins, Phillip Dever, Kyle Cook, Jana Wilson, Sheila Gale, Jamie Gale, Aileen Garris, Lykesha Buckley, Paula Pitts, Allison Turner, Mike Wallace, Dasnee McChristian, Chanda Walker, Bobby Ashley, Amanda Haynes, Harriett Jumper, Scott Ferrell Jr., and Vera James.

1. CALL TO ORDER      President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the month of March 2018 to order at 6:04 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. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Teachers of the Year Recognition

Allison Turner, Community Development Coordinator

Each year we take a few moments out of a regularly scheduled board meeting to honor teachers from each campus who exemplify the characteristics of model teachers. This doesn't just mean they are exceptional at conveying the various parts of their frameworks to their students, ensuring that they fully understand the concepts and can

apply them. The teachers who we honor with the title of "Teacher of the Year" go far beyond their classroom expectations. These teachers involve themselves in the lives of their students, because they understand that this is how we help them succeed. Because they see their students as our future, they know to deeply invest and care for their students. It is my honor to present our 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year this evening.

The Blytheville Primary School Teacher of the Year is Coach Paula Pitts. Coach Pitts has been teaching for 18 years in the Blytheville School District. She has recently stepped in as a behavior interventionist, mentoring students and helping them grow not only academically, but in their social and emotional learning. Coach Pitts is truly all about the students. She is constantly looking for more ways to help our students out, as is evident from her work in creating a school-wide food pantry and facilitating the morning meetings every day! According to her principal, Coach Pitts is everyone's "go-to" person, providing advice, a good laugh, or even a tire gauge – I'm sure there's a story behind that one! Congratulations Coach Pitts, BPS Teacher of the Year!

The Blytheville Elementary School Teacher of the Year is Lekeysha Buckley. Mrs. Buckley has taught for four years at BES and has given above and beyond the required time in all four of those years! She spends her afternoons with the Tenaris students, co-facilitates Parental Involvement on the BES campus, and has joined the BES Arkansas Leadership Academy team. Mrs. Buckley arrives to work early to greet students and build relationships with them and their families. In her nomination letter, Mrs. Walker said Mrs. Buckley is the epitome of hard work and determination, and is truly an asset to the BES family. Congratulations to Mrs. Buckley, BES Teacher of the Year!

The Blytheville Middle School Teacher of the Year is Dasnee McChristian. Ms. McChristian, a BHS alumna, has taught four years at BMS. To quote Mr. Wallace, "Ms. McChristian has become the consummate teacher-leader" on campus. She has become an invaluable technological asset to the middle school, as she's stepped up to be Process Manager and Tech Integration Specialist. Beyond technology, Ms. McChristian is constantly working to build rapport with the students and create a positive, friendly environment where students can thrive. Ms. McChristian is greatly respected by her peers and students. Her work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is evidence of her commitment to not only educating, but protecting our children. Congratulations to Ms. McChristian, BMS Teacher of the Year!

The Blytheville High School Teacher of the Year is Amanda Haynes. Ms. Haynes has taught for four years at BHS. Anyone who has encountered Ms. Haynes can tell you of her diligence and hard work. She is constantly advocating for our students and challenging them to be more than they ever dreamed they could. Her involvement in DKG is testament to her advocacy for women's empowerment in education. One of Ms. Haynes' newest endeavors has been to ensure that each of our 18 year olds is registered to vote. She has even organized transportation for the students in recent elections. Ms. Haynes is genuinely dedicated to her students and their success. I'd love to share this quote with you from Ms. Haynes: "BHS has given me the opportunity to have a small role" – although no one else deems it small – "in empowering students to develop their voices and practice those skills necessary to shake the world. I am passionate because of my students. It is important for me to teach them how to fight for themselves, to teach them that their lives matter, and that there are no excuses when it comes to hard work." Anyone who knows Amanda will agree that this is her passion and that she remains devoted to the task of empowering her students. With this in mind, it is my great joy to announce to you that Amanda Haynes has been selected as our 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year for the Blytheville School District! Congratulations to Ms. Haynes!

2. Dancing For A Cure will be held April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Ritz. Harriett Jumper is working with students from Blytheville High School who will be paired with community members to dance to raise money for American Cancer Society.
3. "All That Jazz" will be performed at the Multipurpose Building on the seventeenth.

#### B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

##### Professional Learning/Collaboration:

- Our principals and the instructional facilitators at each building have met with the State Personnel Development Grant team (SPDG) from the department of education this semester regarding several items.
- Each school is completing the process of aligning the curriculum by creating an outline of updated expectations for literacy at each grade level. We will have documents completed before the end of the summer so we can start with everything included for all new teachers. This is part of the three year process we have been working on which included unpacking the standards, identifying

any areas where there might have been a gap to close the gap, and to have teachers take ownership of the standards as they worked in collaborative teams writing and perfecting units of instruction that include solid assessment for learning. We have laid the foundation for this across the district as we have trained every teacher K-2 in the Connections multisensory process for phonics instruction which is providing a stronger foundation in literacy for all students. This summer we will continue training teachers in literacy practices through the co-op and state with the availability of LETRS for K-1 teachers and RISE training for 2-6 teachers, both of which will continue to build strong reading foundational skills to teachers. We will also be following up with content area strategies in grades 3-12 to continue to provide support for students as they grasp new vocabulary and content across science, social studies and math classrooms. This should not feel like an add on to our teachers or students, but a natural part of the learning in the day- or as tools that they can use to tackle the text they read.

- We are reviewing and aligning assessments in each building and throughout the district to ensure that we are able to track student, grade, and school data in the most effective ways and that we can use the data to help identify student and teacher needs quickly in order to respond with appropriate re-teaching or interventions as needed.
- Each school is also working on an initiative analysis as well to streamline the work that we do throughout the district and make sure that there is a logical flow from grade to grade, school to school, and that everything is moving in the right direction. An example of this would include partnering PBIS which provides clear positive behavior expectations with the New Tech Agency Rubrics that promote a growth mindset in order to provide a better climate for learning across the district. We want to be sure that if we are using something like either of these that they work together and are not competing for time or conflicting in their goals.
- Tomorrow Zoom for administrators with ADE regarding Every Student Succeeds Act- ESSA during our Learn and Grow professional time with the principals and on Thursday we will go with administrators to the co-op for a training from the state regarding ESSA in which we should get the details of expectations for each district.
- Great PLC meeting at co-op with primary and elementary; primary has submitted the application for the grant to be a PLC school
- Novice teachers are getting updates and solid support in their buildings and Mrs. DeFord has taken the lead in creating a plan of support that we will use next year as we onboard new people. Our hope as always is to make the transition as beneficial as possible

and provide any new staff with all the resources that are available with support personnel so they won't be overwhelmed.

- ACSIP meetings begin with school on April 6th
- AEAP meeting: Mrs. Quearry will be out this summer due to pregnancy, but she has things covered.

Jean Cole, Director of Director of Support Services

1. Budget is going great.
2. Better Beginnings Preschool received a 3-star status at BPS.
3. In the last few years, we have had a high out-of-school suspension rate for black males/special education students (11.49%). We are working on innovative things to reduce our numbers. We are at 4.24% but we want to reduce to 4%.
4. ALA Team is going to Little Rock to share what we are doing with other districts. Each campus has a team consisting of assistant principal, due process specialist, interventionist, PBIS coach and a representative. They will earn an Applied Behavior Certification after completing 98 webinars and tests on how to handle Tier 1 & 2 students. We will come off the CEIS out-of school non-compliant list; hats off to all principals and assistant principals.
5. We have career coaches from ANC on BMS and BHS campuses.

President Ritchey reported on the Tenaris Afterschool Program Curriculum. Both principals, Sally Cooke and Ms. Ritchey have reviewed the Inspire Science Curriculum that will be purchased and for use next school year. The curriculum includes literacy (fiction and non-fiction), science journals, hands-on material and will use STEM individuals and videos to introduce careers to students.

#### C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. We have lost two bus mechanics. Mrs. Barnes, emphasized drivers, went way beyond their duties and stepped up to help. Also, Bill West came out of retirement to help out. We get two thousand kids back and forth to school each day.
2. Mr. Jumper introduced Mark Waterbury, Director of Business Development K-12 for Aramark who introduced their student dining –partner capabilities. Menus and food would be different

at each school and marketed for each age. They offer five year contract, one year renewal. All employees must pass drug test and background check. Aramark services 17 districts in Arkansas and works with many other districts, including Atlanta and Chicago schools, serving 700,000 meals a day. Aramark will be happy to cater a board meeting, student taste test and an assessment.

Tiffany Snyder, Food Service Director

The District has a contract with thirty districts and we receive a huge discount on items from Sysco Foods. We use Ben E. Keith for the fresh fruit and vegetable program. We buy only the best, not cheap.

\$120,000 a year from USDA for commodity to buy food and we use local farmer in Lake City for fresh romaine.

We receive funding for fresh food and vegetables and we are in the black.

No food is wasted; students can ask for extra trays. Salads have been added at Blytheville Elementary.

BHS started parfaits that they can grab and then go to class. We hope to have Second Chance Breakfast between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period for those who didn't make it to school at time for breakfast. Some students are starting out without breakfast and it causes problems. We do want anyone to be hungry. There will be a five minute rule, eat or trash.

We are adding new scanning systems that will get students through the lines faster. We have added new items and working with students to find out what they like to eat. At BES students, for a week, students were able to decide that they wanted to eat and we saw an increase in parents coming to eat with their children.

Mr. Jumper stated that poverty is not a money problem, it is a mindset. We have to make sure our kids are safe and fed first, before we start educating.

Board Member Tobey Johnson added that before we make any decisions to outsource, we need to go to all schools and see if the meals are eye appealing and how the meals taste.

Harriett Jumper, Wellness Committee

Wellness Committee meets quarterly. There is a cross-section of community members from the extension office, parents and students.

Spring 2017 the Wellness policy was revised from 1-2 pages to 13-14 pages.

We have a "go noodle" time for grades with recess that is used when students cannot go outside and a smart board is used to get kids moving and stimulate brain.

Coach Jumper is able to see what the kids like and don't like on her assigned lunch duty and lets Mrs. Snyder know. For the most part, kids eat what we serve.

Menus are listed in the newspaper and we also have a Blytheville Nutrition Facebook page where pictures of lunches are posted each day. The page was highlighted at state meeting.

Eric Euler and Todd Welch, Baldwin Construction gave an update on construction. Parking lot is going great and concrete work will be done by end of week. We are waiting on lights. Asphalt will be added at the end of month. Biddings have gone to agency for review; we have to have final approval to start building.

Mr. Jumper added the 10<sup>th</sup> street an ally gate will be open for big games.

Scott Ferrell, BHS Drama Teacher

The Wiz will be performed April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00

Broadway, Our Way will be the last production and will include dancing, singing and theater. The Drama Club has 120 members. For productions we use 20 students backstage, 10-15 students for choral parts and 10 for main parts. The Musical will be judged in the high school musical category.

The musical was judged the Orpheum High School Theatre Awards. Last year, Paris Harvey was nominated for Outstanding Featured Actor and Lydia Sparks was nominated for Outstanding Scenic Element.

At this time, the Board took a short break.

Board resumed and President Ritchey introduced two chamber members, Phil Dever and Matt Perrin.

President Ritchey read a thank you card to the Board for the plant sent to the family of Melisa Rutherford.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year for the Tenaris Merit Awards which have expanded to include Armored, Gosnell and Kipp. The reception will be held at ANC on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Committee of Tenaris employees and community members are working on winners.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

- A. February 27 2018, Meeting
- B. March 1, 2018, Special Meeting
- C. March 13, 2018, Special Meeting
- D. February Financial Report
- E. Policy Revisions
- F. 2018-2019 School Calendar Revisions

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept items as listed in A., B., C., D., E. and F. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:25 p.m.

## 6. STUDENT TRANSFER REQUEST

- A. Student Transfer Request

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Billy Fair to accept student transfer request.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:29 p.m.

## 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

## 8. OPEN SESSION



After discussion, the Board came back into open session at 9:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Tobey Johnson to appoint Mr. Bobby Ashley as the new superintendent for Blytheville School District.

Motion passed with 6:2 vote at 9:40 p.m. with Desmond Hammett and Erin Carrington casting the nay votes.

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Barbara Wells that all certified and non-certified employees except drivers be paid a \$300 bonus before the end of school.

Motion passed with 6:2 vote at 9:40 p.m. with Desmond Hammett and Erin Carrington casting the nay votes.

At this time, Board Member Tommy Bennett submitted his letter of resignation from the Board, effective immediately.

Mr. Bennett removed himself from the Board for further actions.

## 9. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Reappointment of District-Level Administrators/Directors (2018-2019)

Chanda Walker	Principal
Mike Wallace	Principal
Jana Wilson	Principal
Jennifer Blankenship	Assistant Principal
Donald Davis	Assistant Principal
Louise Davis	Assistant Principal
Shayla Adelowo	Assistant Principal
Eileen Garris	Assistant Principal
Michelle Walling	ALE Director

### B. Appointment of Certified Employee (2018-2019)

Megan Sellers	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
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### C. Retirement of Certified Employees (End of 2017-2018)

Paul Hamilton	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Susan Stonner	Counselor	BHS-New Tech

D. Resignation of Certified Employees (End of 2017-2018)

Michael Davis	Teachers	BHS-New Tech
Naomi Duff	Teacher	BPS
Jason Riggs	Teacher	BHS-New Tech

E. Appointment of Classified Employees (2018-2019)

Tommy Bennett, Jr.	CSSO	
Brad Hardesty	Bus Mechanic	SVC
Jackie Hartsfield	Food Service	BHS-New Tech
Brianna Miner	Food Service	BES
Monica Robinson	Food Service	BMS

F. Resignation of Classified Employee (End of 2017-2018)

Joanne Waterford	Paraprofessional	BHS-New Tech
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G. Resignation of Classified Employees

Christina Andrews	Secretary	BMS (March 30, 2018)
Casandra Brooks	Food Service	BHS-New Tech (March 6, 2018)
Shirley Johnson	Food Service	BHS-New Tech (March 9, 2018)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Billy Fair to accept items as listed with the removal of Bobby Ashley as BHS Principal and accept resignations, retirements and appointments as listed in A. - G. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote (7:0) at 9:45 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT      The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary