

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular School Board Meeting
Administration Building
Monday, December 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on December 13, 2021 with the following members present:

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| (1) Barbara Wells, President | (2) Billy Fair, Vice President |
| (3) Tracey Ritchey, Secretary | (4) Erin Carrington |
| (5) Desmond Hammett | (6) Carlony Lewis |
| (7) Tobey Johnson | (8) Michelle Sims |

Others present: Michael Dobbs, Lance Nettles, Idell Jenkins, Ebony Brown, Jennifer Johnson, Chanda Walker, Ashley Whitey, Mark Brasfield, Jana Wilson, Carolyn Barnes, Lauren Starks, Lucretia McDonald, Anes Abraham, Sue Jeffers, Linda Frost, Jesse Dean, Curtis Smith, Sr., Cliff Miller, Donald Davis, Mike Wallace, Shayla Adelowo and Johnny Buchanan.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Barbara Wells called the regular meeting for the month of December 2021 to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with eight members present.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. BOND REFUNDING

Michael Dobbs, Beardsley Finance

A motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Desmond Hammett to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of the \$2,755,000, Blytheville School district No.5 of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Refunding Bonds dated January 1 2022 and other documents pertaining thereto as prepared by the Friday, Eldredge & Clark Law Firm.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:15 p.m.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. ZOOM presentations by hiring firms for superintendent search were presented by:

1. Ray and Associates, Inc.
2. McPherson & Jacobson LLC
2. BWP & Associates

At 7:06 p.m. Erin Carrington left the meeting leaving seven board members present.

B. SCHOOL ZONES

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to change the number of school zones from eight to five zones.

Motion failed 2:5 with Barbara Wells, Desmond Hammett, Carlony Lewis, Barbara Wells and Michelle Sims casting the nay votes at 7:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Tobey Johnson to change the number of school zones from eight to seven zones.

Motion failed 2:5 with Barbara Wells, Desmond Hammett, Carlony Lewis, Barbara Wells and Michelle Sims casting the nay votes at 7:37 p.m.

Motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Billy Fair to exempt changing the number of school zones and to leave eight zones.

Motion passed 5:2 with Tracey Ritchey and Tobey Johnson casting the nay votes at 7:41 p.m.

At this time Erin Carrington rejoined the meeting making all eight members present.

6. STUDENT TRANSFERS

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to accept three student transfers to Gosnell Schools.

Motion passed 7:1 with Carlony Lewis casting the nay vote at 8:02 p.m.

7. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Master Board Member, Pinnacle Award & Master Board Award

Master Board Member award was presented to Michelle Sims for receiving 50 training hours, the Pinnacle Award was presented to Tracey Ritchey for receiving 200 training hours and the Master Board Award was presented to the Blytheville School Board. Master Board is earned when all members have achieved the individual Master Board Member award.

2. COVID Update
Primary

1 positive staff
0 staff close contact
1 positive student
3 student close contacts

Elementary

1 positive staff
0 close contacts for staff
14 close contact students
2 positive students

Middle School

0 close contact staff
0 positive staff
2 staff out for testing with symptoms
2 positive students
10 close contacts students
1 student out for testing with symptoms

High School

0 close contacts staff
0 positive staff
3 positive students
13 close contacts students

B. Instructional Report

1. Lauren Starks, Director of Curriculum

On November 29th, Ms. Blankenship, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Starks participated in a virtual book study hosted by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. The book study is based on the book *Leading PLCs At Work Districtwide: From Boardroom to Classroom* and is led by Janel Keating.

The first session highlighted the importance of the school board and the superintendent and his/her team. There was discussion about building shared knowledge and the emphasis on expectations and requirements. The book states (pg14) the school board and superintendent team provides direction and support for districtwide efforts to improve student success. The tasks should include the following:

- Collaboratively develops operating principles
- Sets directions and focus areas for the district
- Establishes short - and long-term improvement goals
- Aligns policies with the learning mission of the district
- Models research-based and data-driven decision making
- Routinely analyzes improvement data
- Monitors annual learning goals
- Models behaviors expected of others
- Celebrates improvement

School board members are invited to attend future sessions at the district administration building.

Future Dates/Times:

- December 16, 2021: 8:30 am - 9:45 am
- January 26, 2022: 8:30 am - 9:45 am
- February 22, 2022: 8:30 am - 9:45 am
- April 26, 2022: 8:30 am - 9:45 am
- May 26, 2022: 8:30 am - 9:45 am
- June 23, 2022: 8:30 am - 9:45 am

DESE Plan of Support: The Blytheville School district team (district/building administrators, literacy instructional facilitators, and Dyslexia coordinator) met with DESE team and coop literacy specialists on Thursday, November 18th via zoom. The meeting was the first of monthly meetings that will be conducted in an

effort to support literacy instruction as we are receiving directed support for reading due to last year's ACT Aspire scores in reading. Plans of actions are listed next to each goal.

Goal 1: Goal 1: Utilize CFA data to drive instruction.

Goal 2: Goal 2: Provide support for secondary teachers in the Science of Reading components.

Goal 3: Goal 3: Implement K-2 curriculum to support the "bottom of the rope" skills in literacy.

Vacancies

- 11 certified vacancies
 - Highest need at the middle school with 6 certified positions that need to be filled (3 are core content areas)
- 1 classified position

BSD Plan for licensure

Ebony Brown, School Improvement Specialist

In October, unlicensed staff meet with the licensure team from DESE. The purpose of the meeting was to help staff determine the best route to licensure as possible, along with determining which praxis exam to take.

As a district follow up from the DESE licensure team meeting, Lauren Starks and Ebony Brown met with Melissa Jacks, Licensing Manager from DESE to review and discuss the track of all unlicensed staff. As a follow-up from the meeting with Mrs. Jacks, Starks and Brown has sent an email to all unlicensed staff confirming their track along with a working digital document to track their progress towards licensure.

As of today, we have a total of 46 unlicensed staff.

BPS	BES	BMS	BHS
12	9	9	16

Free praxis support available to staff:

- 240 Tutoring- available through the co-op
- DESE Praxis Study Sessions- available through DESE

All services provided have been shared with all unlicensed staff and building Administrators.

C. Operations Report

Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security

Food Services:

- The District averaged approximately 19,000 meals for lunch, and 16,000 meals for breakfast throughout the month of November.
- The three year inspection by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Child Nutrition Unit began November 15 and continued through November 18. This was an administrative review that looked at best practices by the school's food service department. On November 22, the CNU began the process of procurement review. This is an audit which reviews procurement procedures, financial matters (how the budget is being utilized, spending, and making certain purchases are being completed within requirement guidelines). Ms. Ronna Segraves with CNU reported to Ms. Blankenship and I that there were no major findings and Blytheville Public Schools met or exceeded all requirements. We will forward a copy of the written report when it is received.

Transportation:

- No accidents or damage to report since last month.
- We are having a new radio installed on bus 58.
- Averaging 1050 students per day

Maintenance:

- 110 work orders have been generated since December 1. 81 are preventive maintenance items (fire inspections, emergency lighting inspections, HVAC filter changes, interior building inspections, etc.)
- PPE inventory:
 - Masks -1 8,000 Youth & 21,500 Adult masks
 - Disposable nitrile gloves - 9,800
 - Disposable gowns - 2000
 - Acrylic face shields - 2000
 - Hand sanitizer - 360 bottles
 - Disinfectant Spray- 1,100 cans
 - Disinfectant wipes- 753 containers.
 - DMQ (liquid disinfectant used in the foggers, rated to kill coronavirus within 5 minutes of application)- 40 gallons.

Facilities:

- We will be starting a project to install a video doorbell system at the middle school welcome center. This project will assist with added safety and security for the front entrance to the school.
- The district is in the process of completing semi-annual fire inspections with the Blytheville Fire Department. The results of the fire inspection should be available during the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
- Waiting for results of an environmental indoor air quality survey that was conducted prior Thanksgiving Break. The survey was conducted throughout 500 hall of BHS as well as Chickasaw Academy. The results of the survey could be useful in securing ESSER funds for roof renovation, if needed.

Safety/Security:

- During the evening of December 3rd, an individual fired several shots towards another individual while at the BHS parking lot. The two individuals were not Blytheville students. Shortly after, information was developed that several students were present and possibly involved in the events from Friday night. On Monday, December 6th, school personnel conducted a safety check for weapons on these individuals. As a result of the search, a weapon was found in a vehicle. The Blytheville Police Department was contacted shortly thereafter. The police department collected the firearm, and an individual was arrested. I can't comment any further since the events from December 3rd as well as from December 6th are still under investigation by the police department.

8. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM SELECTION

A motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Carlony Lewis to hire BWP & Associates to conduct the superintendent search.

After discussion, Desmond Hammett amended his motion and was seconded by Carlony Lewis to hire BWP & Associates to conduct and to complete the superintendent search.

Motion passed 5:3 with Billy Fair, Tobey Johnson and Tracey Ritchey casting the nay votes at 8:38 p.m.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. November 15, 2021, Meeting
- B. Financial Report
- C. Revision Policy 1.21 Date of Annual School Board Election

Upon the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Blankenship, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Desmond Hammett to accept Action Items A. - C. as listed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:46 p.m.

10. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Resignation of Certified Employee

Sydney Marie Clevenger	Teacher	BMS (12/31/21)
Brett Kirk	Teacher	BPS (12/17/21)

A. Retirement of Certified Employee

Janet Bennett	Teacher	BMS (12/17/21)
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B. Resignation of Classified Employee

Johnathon Bynum	Computer Technician	ADM (12/31/21)
Nancy Goodman	Attendance Clerk	BMS (12/17/21)

C. Retirement of Classified Employee

Dezzie McKeever	Bus Driver	SVC (12/17/21)
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Upon the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Blankenship, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Desmond Hammett to accept Action Items A. - C. as listed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:49 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

 Jennifer Blankenship
Interim Superintendent