

**BLYTHERVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, July 22, 2019**  
**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 July 22, 2019, with the following members present:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) Barbara Wells, Vice President | (2) Erin Carrington |
| (3) Billy Fair                    | (4) Desmond Hammett |
| (5) Tracey Ritchey                | (6) Michelle Sims   |

The following members were absent:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Tobey Johnson, President | (2) Henrietta Watt, Secretary |
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Others present: Casey DeFord, Chanda Walker, Jennifer Johnson, Phil Gephardt, Jana Wilson, Ashley Whitley, Paul Jenkins, Jennifer Blankenship, Jacqueline Burton, Carolyn Barnes, Lori Hixson, Bebe Gillespie, J. Benson, Penny Sims, Shannon Langston, Melisa Logan, Donna Aldridge, and Larrie Bell.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER                | Vice President Barbara Wells called the regular meeting for the month of July 2019 to order at 6:00 p.m.   |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF<br>A QUORUM | Vice President Wells called roll. A quorum was established with five members present. Erin Carrington arrived at 6:03 p.m. making six members present. |
| 3. PLEDGE OF<br>ALLEGIANCE      | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  |

#### 4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

##### A. Superintendent's Report

##### 1. Special Recognition

Superintendent Ashley recognized David Hixson, Athletic Director as one of our retiring employees. Coach Hixson has been here for thirty five years, his whole career. He came to Blytheville from Paris, Arkansas in northwest Arkansas. He had a number of opportunities to coach anywhere in the state he wanted to. He has won and been a part of several state championships. Not only am going to miss you but everyone, including the kids will miss you. We have been friends and our friendship will forever carry on. Congratulations on your retirement! The difference you made in Blytheville, I cannot put into words; you are a Chickasaw, through and through.

Hixson thanked the board for the opportunity to teach and coach.

2. Raymond "Bo" Johnson, Baldwin and Shell Jobsite Superintendent gave a construction update. Exterior masonry cleaning up, getting ready for brickwork. Interior masonry finished, metal studs 95%. Started on installation of metal panels on north-end of building. Curve roof materials will be here August 5<sup>th</sup>. Hanging sheetrock, portion of plumbing done. Call into goals people to request a meeting with scoreboard people.
3. Contract Disclosure Information forms were handed out to all Board Members to be completed and returned by the next Board Meeting.
4. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report
5. Moving forward with center-hung scoreboard update on funding opportunities. Coach Hixson was recognized and he passed out copies to Board and discussed his conversation with Pepsi for a \$50,000 opportunity.

##### B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Hopefully, as of tonight, we will hire the last of the people we are going to need. We may have one or two positions after moving people to one place or another. We lost more teachers than we did last year; we did not rehire as many.
2. Preliminary scores, so we will not release all the data because we have not had time to go in and do the checks on each building to corrections based on students. We can tell you by looking at it across the board, it was not what we were hoping for, looking for, or not what we were expecting.

Casey DeFord, School Improvement Specialist

When the results are published you can see percentages of students who are ready or exceeding in their subject area. When we look and see that we are not where we need to be in subject area, we need to look at that cohort. When we look at student growth which is what the state is monitoring. This is an important diagnostic factor.

Mrs. Cooke told the Board the information will be sent out as soon as we go over the preliminary results and each building has a chance to take a deeper dive into their data before we give official data. We will receive a finalized report in the fall and you will receive this information. What we have now is what Ms. DeFord has pulled together. Specific goals were set and we did not meet these goals.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. ELL students, special ed students, 504 students are involved in state testing that Mrs. Cooke is talking about.
2. We are seeing growth in our special education students.
3. We had a Special Ed Academy spend a day together. Our training was on social skills, gathering data on test we give, and now we will have something showing growth. Statistics show we need to teach social skills as much as anything else. If you used the first five minutes of each class to teach social skills you will see a change.

4. The State requires us to have special training for paraprofessionals including a pretest and a post test. It helps both teachers and paraprofessionals with responsibilities. I like to have teachers in to hear what the paraprofessionals are being trained on and what the states say is a paraprofessional job duties are.
5. We had a wonderful training day, jammed packed, refreshments, and give-aways.

### C. Operations Report

Supt. Ashley read report from Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security is not present because he is attending training.

#### **ALE:**

Construction for ALE expansion should be completed by the end of the week (week ending 07/26/19).

Also, we are attempting to resolve a controller issue with the access control system. We have a service contract with Elliott Data Systems and are working with them to resolve the issue. We hope to have the system repaired by the end of the week (week ending 07/26/19).

#### **BHS:**

Maintenance will be working on a project to install a gate between the main building and the cafeteria, in order to provide a safe walkway for students to travel to and from the bus loading area.

Maintenance will be working on a project to patch and repair areas on the 10th street parking lot. We anticipate starting this project after the ALE expansion has been completed.

Safety & Security will be replacing some of the exterior cameras around the cafeteria and bus loop. The new cameras will have better coverage of the new gym and the bus loop. In addition, the new cameras will have a better field of view, and will have better resolution in low light.

SG360 is nearing completion of floor stripping and waxing. All BHS campus floors should be complete by the end of the week.

**BMS:**

Maintenance will be working through work orders at BMS for grounds clean up, trimming of trees, sapling removal, etc.

All floor stripping and waxing has been completed at BMS.

**BES:**

Safety & Security will be adding approximately five (5) internal classroom cameras to areas as designated by Mrs. Walker & Ms. Adelowo.

Safety/Security & IT is working on a project to replace the existing camera server at BES. BES has the oldest camera server in the district and is currently operating at near maximum capacity.

We will be researching the cost to raise, level, and pave the east parking lot of BES. A paved parking lot would be beneficial to special needs students accessing the special needs building.

All floor stripping and waxing has been completed at BES.

**BPS/BKC/MPB:**

The Maintenance Department completed a project during the first week of July in which they resealed the exterior of the Multi Purpose Building. The building has cut center block on the exterior and was experiencing flooding when rain occurred.

All floor stripping and waxing is nearing completion and should be complete by the end of the week.

**Service Center:**

We are working with Marmac Fire & Safety to begin repairs to a riser system at the Service Center. The risers are part of the fire suppression system located at the Service Center. The district is required to have this system since buses are stored at the Service Center. During the last fire inspection,

certain aspects of the riser system were indicated as needing repair or replacement. The current project is anticipated to cost slightly over \$7000 dollars.

### **Food Services:**

The Food Services Department was inspected last week by the Arkansas Department of Education. Inventory, storage methods, servings, nutritional requirements, equipment, and records keeping were evaluated. Mrs. Snyder and her department passed all inspection requirements.

### **Transportation:**

Ms. Barnes has requested that we evaluate a fuel injection cleaning system for diesel engines, for the buses. This system costs between \$7000-\$8000. According to Ms. Barnes, cleaning and maintenance of the injections systems is crucial to the proper operation of the bus motors. Ms. Barnes anticipates the machine would pay for itself within the first year of purchase versus contracting for this service.

Ms. Barnes has requested consideration for the purchase of diagnostic software to address miscellaneous motor issues and coding for the buses. Ms. Barnes stated this software would be beneficial for diagnosing issues which occur with the buses. Ms. Barnes is researching the cost for the software, and will have an update soon.

## **5. STUDENT TRANSFER REQUEST**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Erin Carrington and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to accept the student transfer request.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:12 p.m.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. June 24, 2019 Meeting
- B. June Financial Reports
- C. Purchase 25 computers for BHS Computer Lab \$24,251.17
- D. Strategic Action Plan

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair to accept items A. – D. as listed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:14 p.m.

## 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

## 9. OPEN SESSION

After discussion, the Board came back into open session at 8:08 p.m.

## 10. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Appointment of Certified Employee (2019-2020)

Seane Clifton	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Lisa Douglas	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Holly Engle	Director Tenaris Afterschool	
Tomako Fisher	Teacher	BES
Timothy Johnson	Teacher	BMS
Dasnee McChristian	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Ludivine Miles	GT Teacher/Coordinator	BPS
Cametriss Spann	Teacher	BHS-New Tech

### B. Resignation of Certified Employees (End of 2018-2019)

Jeremy Bryan	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Casey DeFord	School Improvement Specialist	
Krista Pauley	Teacher	BES
Amanda Ramey	Teacher	BES
NaShaunna Rogers	Teacher	BES

### C. Retirement of Certified Employees

Diane Hay	GT Administrator	District
David Hixson	Athletic Director	District

D. Resignation of Classified Employee

Brandi Robertson

Food Service

BES

A motion was made by Erin Carrington and seconded by Desmond Hammett to amend the personnel recommendations to include that GT Program remain the same as 2018-2019 school year including a GT Administrator as well as a GT Teacher/Coordinator.

The vote tied 3:3 with Barbara Wells, Tracey Ritchey, and Billy Fair casting the nay votes at 8:14 pm.; therefore, the motion was defeated.

A motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair to accept personnel recommendations A-D as listed.

The vote tied 3:3 with Erin Carrington, Desmond Hammett, and Michelle Sims casting the nay votes at 8:18 p.m.; therefore, the motion was defeated.

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

  
Bobby Ashley  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary