

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administration Building
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2017
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 23, 2017 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: Eileen Garris, Kris Williams, Sharon Jackson, Essence Brimlett, Alfred Bremlett, Jana Wilson, Jennifer Bennett, Dettris Poole, Matt Perrin, Adron Poole, Jerry Vaughn, Sandy Gillespie, David Gullic, Allison Turner, Tracy Plunkett, Felicia Lee, Pamela Beal, Felice Williams, C.M. Ausher, Aaron Lassel, and Brandon Harper.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the month of January 2017 to order at 6 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with all eight members present.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

Blytheville Primary School, Jana Wilson, Principal
Eileen Garris, Assistant Principal

Primary School Ambassadors: Essence Brimlett (Mrs. Bennett), Shalen Gillespie (Mrs. Poole), Kimberly Olvera-Sanchez (Mrs. Watson), Paicyn Pankey (Ms. Novalick), and Makayla Thompson (Ms. Fulling).

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, BPS School Ambassadors passed out Board Appreciation Certificates to Board Members.

Board Members were also presented a gift bag from Southern Bancorp by LaRay Cloud, Business Development Officer.

Two videos were shared with Board Members. The first video included Blytheville Primary students and staff showing off their classrooms and activities. The second video was of last week's visit to Arkansas Leadership Academy by BPS Leadership Team Members: Sally Cooke, Jana Wilson, Diane Jenkins, Jennifer Bennett, Michelle Hepler and Shayla Adelowa. Mrs. Garris gave progress report which is turned in to the state each quarter.

Mrs. Wilson thanked the Board for letter her show off her students and teachers and told them she is very proud of Blytheville Primary School.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Atwill passed out Statement of Financial Interest to all Board Members. Forms must be filed at Courthouse before January 31st.
2. I attended AAEA Superintendent Symposium last week in Little Rock. Wednesday, I will be sitting in on Legislative Session. House and Senate have interesting bills coming out. Democratic Representatives invited superintendents from their district to attend the Democratic Caucus on Thursday.
3. We have begun to collect policies from ASBA models. Policies have to intergrade with all students.

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Arkansas Department of Education will be here Friday. Dr. Wilde, Head of School Improvement is bringing a group that want to see what programs and trainings are being done to help us grow, and where we are and where we are going. They may use our district as the alpha group. If ADE didn't know we were in academic distress; they never be able tell from what all we are doing. We will continue to grown and we can be reflective.

2. I want to commend the primary leadership team for the work they did at Arkansas Leadership Academy last week. They were dedicated to working on group development in order to become a high performance leadership team. The focus was on building leadership capacity and to do that they looked for strengths in our team and also in all staff in the building in order to help everyone grow, whether they are a veteran teacher or they are brand new. Another goal of the team is to Increase capacity for continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all staff. This will help with Teacher Retention. As we are able to provide professional growth opportunities for all our staff gets stronger and every kid will benefit from that strength.

We have said all along that we must work on the foundational level at primary and elementary in order to see the benefits in academic improvement at BMS and BHS.

Primary leadership team is working on this year: (1) Setting Clear and Compelling Direction (2) Shaping Culture for Learning.

Elementary leadership team is in Year 2 and is focusing on the following: (1) Leading and Managing Change (2) Managing Accountability Systems (3) Strand 4 is embedding throughout the process- transforming teaching and learning- this is what we focus on in all of our buildings: Expect high quality teaching and learning, observe teaching practice and provide actionable feedback for professional learning, ensure all learners engage in rigorous, relevant, and student-centered learning experiences, become literate as a leader of digital learning environments, and ensure alignment of standards, curriculum, teaching, assessment and professional learning.

Mrs. Wilson assembled a group of individuals that she trusted to go to ALA to learn how to lay the foundation for our students. I think what they are doing at Blytheville Primary School is exciting. Everything our teachers do has a purpose and plan. This group will share-out what they have learned one grade at a time.

3. Jerry Vaughn, ALA Coach was with us last week. Mr. Vaughn complimented Mrs. Cooke by saying she was right there, ready to listen; Mrs. Wilson did an excellent job showing leadership and transparency.
4. We want to support and observe our teachers to help them learn. Constantly in classrooms for support; looking to see how can we help move to next level.

5. We provide our students with digital learning.
6. 45 day plans on all schools will be sent out before next meeting.

Jean Cole, Director of Director of Support Services

1. State monitoring visit is coming up. We are the first school ever to be monitored on discipline.
2. We need to go back and do professional development again. On February 10th there will be district-wide training on Discipline of Disabled for administration and teachers.

State will be on site February 13th. We will do well. We have really decreased our discipline. Area of non-compliance is due to the high rate of out of school suspensions in special education. We want to get 100% on following the state.

3. We have District/Community Response to Invention for Behavior (RTIB) meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.
4. Dr. Willie J. Greer Kimmons, spoke at our January 18th RTIB Meeting. Dr. Kimmons is one of America's leading authorities on education, leadership, parental involvement, and health related issues. His book "A Parenting Guidebook" discusses the roles of schools, family, teachers, religion, community, local, state and federal government assisting parents with rearing their children. Dr. Kimmons was raised in the same high poverty and geographic area as our students.
5. Teaching coping skills to special educations students will help lower suspensions.

B. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. State Department just monitored our transportation. They emailed us to tell us how well we are doing. Carolyn Barnes and Tamera Jones do a great job. Don Jenkins is a dedicated employee. He is battling cancer, goes to Memphis takes treatment and then returns to work. Brandon Harper, CSSO, is working diligently with different agencies to make sure we get everything done that we need to do.

2. We realized the Administration Building was the only building that is not secure. We are going to install a lock security at door.

Superintendent Atwill discussed the new athletic facility and options for upgrade. New gym, re-turf football field and teacher raises. Atwill asked the Board if they wanted to proceed. Options given all include 2.5% raise for teachers. To calculate millage we need to know the Board's wishes.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tommy Bennett to move forward with the first rendering, scheme A.

Motion passed by 5:3 vote at 8:03 p.m. with Erin Carrington, Desmond Hammett and Barbara Wells casting the nay votes.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. December 12, 2016, Regular Meeting
- B. January 3, 2017, Special Meeting
- C. January 19, 2017, Special Meeting
- D. December Financial Report
- E. Change March 27th Regular Board Meeting to the 28th (Modified to move Regular Board to Thursday, March 30th)
- F. Purchase 26 computers from Dell Marketing, L.P. \$23,568.97

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tobey Johnson to accept items as listed in A., B., C., D., E., & F. Action Item E. was modified to change March 27th regular board meeting to Thursday, March 30th instead of March 28th due to board members who will be traveling from NSBA Conference.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:08 p.m.

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

Personnel Recommendations

A. Resignation of Certified Employee

Drake Jackson	Teacher	BMS
Christina Hudson	Teacher	BMS

B. Resignation of Classified Employee

Suzanne Jones	Paraprofessional	BES
Christine Sanders	Food Service	BHS
Percy Wright	Behavioral Interventionist	BHS-ALE

C. Recommendation of Classified Employee

Bonnie Dixon	Paraprofessional	BMS
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8. OPEN SESSION After discussion, the Board came back into open session. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Erin Carrington to accept resignations and recommendation as listed in A., B. and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 9:22 p.m.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION The Board went into executive session to discuss extension of superintendent's contract.

10. OPEN SESSION After discussion, the Board came back into open session.

D. Extension of Superintendent's Contract

A motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Billy Fair to extend the contract of Mr. Richard Atwill, as superintendent of the Blytheville School District, for one year. The new, three year contract will begin July 1, 2017 and end June 30, 2020.

Motion passed by 7:1 vote at 9:41 p.m., with Erin Carrington casting the nay vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary