

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Administration Building**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, February 27, 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 February 27, 2017 with the following members present:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Tracey Ritchey, President | (2) Tommy Bennett |
| (3) Desmond Hammett           | (4) Tobey Johnson |
| (5) Henrietta Watt            |                   |

The following members were absent:

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Erin Carrington, Vice-President | (2) Barbara Wells, Secretary |
| (3) Billy Fair                      |                              |

Others present: Aaron Matthews, Steve Taylor, Shirley Taylor, Connor Frazier, Ben Rutherford, Cody Meyers, Melisa Rutherford, Marshall Hughes, Sharon Nash, Linda Williams, Chanel Moton, Rushawn Taylor, Whodina Sing, Samya Sing, Hayden Mims, Kylan Rogers, Sarah Crawford, Kiara Vaden, Tyasia King, Kameryia Tride, Kenedee Nash, Tyerra Richardson, Kiara Vaden, Kylan Rogers, Alisha Williams, Chelsey Grime, Mike Wallace, Erica Rogers, Debra Siegler, Jennifer Johnson, Louise Davis, Carla, Cassidy, Jesse Cassidy, Chloe Cassidy, Becky Cooper, and Melissa Brothers.

1. CALL TO ORDER      President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the month of February 2017 to order at 6:16 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM      A quorum was established with five members present.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE      The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

- A. Blytheville Middle School, Mike Wallace, Principal introduced BMS Teacher, Chanel Moton, to the Board. Ms. Moton led a group of BMS students who sang three songs: Negro National Anthem (Lift every

Voice), Wake Up Everybody and Rise Up. The performers were Samya Sing, Whoodini Sing, Hayden Mims, Sarah Crawford, Kameryia Tride, Rushawn Taylor, Tyasia King, Kenedee Nash, Tyerra Richardson, Kiara Vaden, and Kylan Rogers

B. BHS- New Tech, Ben Rutherford, FFA Advisor

We have a new recruitment tool for FFA. Arkansas Game and Fishing is offering youth shooting sports. There are about 2300 juniors (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and 3400 seniors (9-12<sup>th</sup>) of which over 100 are girls. Shooting sports are very popular across the state. Arkansas game season runs from February 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 31<sup>st</sup>. We have a partnership with Chickasaw Shooting. We must abide by AAA rules: be a FFA Member, academic eligible, excellent discipline, responsible, take random drug testing and passed Hunter Education Program. Mr. Rutherford is a certified Hunter Education Instructor. We recently went to Jacksonville to watch others who have been shooting for years. Mr. Rutherford introduced FFA Members: Cody Meyers 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Jesse Cassidy 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Conner Frazier 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Aaron Matthews, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, President. Students provide their own guns and headwear. FFA Members volunteer about 4000 hours per year. We are trying to figure out what it is going to cost and working on ways to raise funds. Guns can be donated; they must be the required twelve or twenty gauge.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Audit Financial Report 2015-2016

Becky Cooper, Thomas, CPA Speight and Noble reported on the 2015- 2016 audit to the Board. The audit showed the district was clean and in compliance.

2. Marshall Hughes, First Security Beardsley Public Finance discussed  
Action Item C: Application for a Permit to Issue Bonds and  
Action Item D: Proposed Budget of Expenditures with Tax Levy.

Superintendent Atwill recommended that Board request election for June 13<sup>th</sup>. Election has to occur second Tuesday of month. City Council has called for a tax election.

Upon recommendation from Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Tommy Bennett to submit an "Application for a Permit to Issue Bonds", with related documents, for \$12,680,000 in Construction Bonds to the State Department of Education and to employ First Security Beardsley as Fiscal Agent.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:17 p.m.

Upon recommendation from Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Henrietta Watt to adopt the Resolution with the attached Proposed Budget of Expenditures with Tax Levy for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and including June 30, 2019 as printed and to adopt the Petition setting the date of the Election for June 13, 2017.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:18 p.m.

After a short break, The Board returned to open session at 7:26 p.m.

3. Chicks leave tomorrow morning at 9:45 a.m. to go to Magnolia, will play Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. and winner plays 2:30 p.m. Thursday.
4. Our District is no longer in Academic Distress; BMS is still in Academic Distress. We are working on waivers we want to request for the beginning of the school year. Is it necessary to rehire all teachers? Our numbers have decreased from 3,100 (2009) to 2,078 (October 1, 2016) to last week 2,102. We have gained 24 students back. I expect population to stay around the same. We may gain students but our money will always be behind.
5. Superintendent Atwill and Jennifer Johnson, Director of Finance met with Fiscal Services in Little Rock. From decline to increase, it is a financial issue to keep all teachers. Money is not available until year after; State Department will work with us.
6. We have placed Interventionist based on State Department recommendations.
7. We are at leveling out point and should be heading back up.

8. Superintendent Atwill will meet with all students who will be 18 years old and voting in the election. District cannot spend a dime on campaign. Entities are willing to step up and help with campaign.
9. Possible Town Hall Meeting in April for public input for propaganda to distribute.
10. Chamber Banquet is two weeks from tonight, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We have four teachers of the year: Bridgett Jones, BPS, Lorna Curtis, BES, Veda Struble, BMS and Candice Groves, BHS

B. Instructional Reports

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. CPAD graduation is Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30- ASU Carl Reng Center Auditorium- 27 seniors will be recognized for completing the program which increases their ACT scores and provides them with a stronger college ready foundation.
2. I went to the UCA Career Fair on Friday. ASU Career Fair is Wednesday. UAPB is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Contacting Jackson State for more information. I would love to work with any local stakeholders who could help me connect with any other historically black colleges and universities in order to recruit teachers. (Concerns with teacher shortage and number of recruiters from Tennessee and Texas who are also there needing teachers)
3. BES leadership team attended their year 2 training at Arkansas Leadership Academy last week. This training has provided great structure and alignment for shaping the culture for learning and using data to monitor progress.
4. A team from the BHS ALE will be visiting Lake Hamilton and the Little Rock Academy ALE programs on Thursday and Friday.
5. ACT Aspire Interim testing is continuing and the teachers are working diligently to support students and encourage them as we prepare for the actual testing in April and May. We are able to follow the growth of each student from one interim to another and have conversations with them regarding goals for where they need to be. There are quite a few students who are

just one or two points away from moving to ready or exceeding. Teachers discussed student progress with parents at the mid-term conferences to keep them involved in the process.

6. Teachers of the year from each school will be invited to attend the Chamber Banquet on March 13th. BPS-Bridget Jones, BES-Lorna Curtis, BMS- Veda Struble, and BHS- Candace Groves.
7. 45 day reports- Most meaningful decisions made by leadership team and why, data on teacher and student absence, reports on progress with assessments, discipline data, and climate data.
8. Mrs. Cole is taking a team to Denver this week to the PBIS National Conference. The grant that Project Launch uses is paying for the primary and elementary representatives to attend. The work we are doing at each school is going well as we are following the directions from the meetings we are attending and working to align our processes across the district.

#### C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Operations

1. Baldwin and Shell will help with campaigning. Teacher raise is huge. People ask all the time if I am excited about gym but mainly I am most excited for teacher raise.
2. Met with Villagers last week. As always, they are willing to help and chomping at the bit to get things rolling. It is about educating people on how much this is going to affect them. Getting teachers on board, identifying those who are 18 years old and can vote and getting them to the poles. Villagers will help get people to the poles.
3. We will soon have a security system in this building. Doors will be locked at all times. There are two cameras with badge pass access pad.
4. Richard Atwill, Brandon Harper, Chelsea Grimes, Tommy Bennett, Vanessa Stewart, Eileen Garris and Randy Jumper completed training for Certified School Security Officer (CSSO) on Blytheville School District Property only. This puts us with a CSSO on every campus. There were six days of training including seat work, shooting, active training and live active

training with Sheriff's Department. We are going to start a second group. Tommy Bennett spoke on praise received at meeting.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. January 23, 2017, Meeting
- B. January Financial Report
- C. Application for a Permit to Issue Bonds
- D. Proposed Budget of Expenditures with Tax Levy

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Tobey Johnson to accept items as listed in A. & B.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:04 p.m.

Action Items C. & D. passed by unanimous vote during the Superintendent's Report.

## 7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Reappointment of District-Level Administrators/Directors (2017-2018)

Jean Cole	Director of Support Services
Sally Cooke	Director of Curriculum/ School Improvement Specialist
Diane Hay	GT Administrator
Jennifer Johnson	Director of Finance
Randy Jumper	Director of Operations
Allison Turner	Community Development Coordinator
Kris Williams	Director of Technology/Support Services
David Hixson	Athletic Director

### B. Appointment of Certified Employee (2017-2018)

Jordan McBride	Teacher	BMS
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### C. Retirement of Certified Employee (End of 2016-2017)

Melinda Allison	Teacher	BMS
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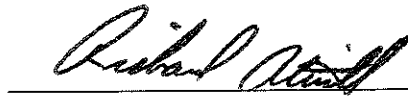
D. Appointment of Classified Employee

Keisha Adair	Bus Driver	SVC
Sheila Brown	Paraprofessional	BES

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept the reappointments, appointments and retirement as listed in A., B., C., & D.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:04 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT      The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary