

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, October 28, 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 October 28, 2019, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tobey Johnson, President | (2) Barbara Wells, Vice President |
| (3) Henrietta Watt, Secretary | (4) Erin Carrington |
| (5) Desmond Hammett | (6) Tracey Ritchey |

The following member was absent:

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| (1) Billy Fair | (2) Michelle Sims |
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Others present: Rick Terry, Todd Welch, Tom Csicsila Michelle Walling, Jana Wilson, Ashley Whitley, Chanda Walker, Mike Wallace, Brad George, James Odom, Lindsey Carter, Jennifer Johnson, Carolyn Barnes, John Blair, Jr., Johns Blair, Sr. Tiffany Snyder, Jerry Guyton, Matt Jones, David Gullic, Jennifer Blankenship, Bo Johnson, Todd Welch, Curtis Smith, Sr. Tony Hollis, Teresa Miner, Shayla Adelowo and Larrie Bell.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Johnson called the regular meeting for the Month of October 28, 2019 to order at 6:00 p.m. |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with five members present. Erin Carrington arrived at 6:04 p.m., making six members present. |
| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Led by McKinley Walker, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. McKinley is the daughter of BES Principal Chanda Walker. |

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT: Educate all learners to high levels of academic performance while fostering positive social and emotional growth to develop leaders for tomorrow.

All members of the board are reminded to be recognized by the chair in order to speak.

Members of the audience, as well as the board are reminded to put all cell phones away. If you must take a call or need to text, please excuse yourself and leave the board meeting area.

Dates to remember:

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| Nov. 8 | BHS plays their last home football game. It is also designated as Senior Night |
| Nov. 14 | Mid Term Parent- Teacher Conference and BHS National Society for High School Scholars at 6:00 pm |
| Nov. 18 | School Board Meeting |
| Nov. 21 | BHS Student-Directed One Act Play at BHS Auditorium |
| Nov. 25-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday |

President Johnson welcomed Blytheville Leadership Institute and Chamber members.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Five to Thrive Recognition

Letter from Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance was read recognizing Blytheville School District as a Five to Thrive district. Five to Thrive, a campaign supported by the Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign and Arkansas Children's Hospital's Natural Wonders Innovation Fund was developed to encourage school districts across the state to offer a variety of nutritional and physical activity programming to improve student health and academic outcomes. The Child Nutrition. The District received \$750 for the Child Nutrition department.

2. Baldwin and Shell

Bo Johnson, Job Superintendent, Baldwin and Shell, we should be finished hanging all the sheet rock by end of week, the finishing by the middle of next week, painting, ceiling grid at 90%, installing light fixtures, HVAC, getting ready for above ceiling inspection, gas meter should be installed this week, then we can start on our finishes, laying ceiling tile, hanging wood doors where we won't have a moisture issues, storefront glass and glazing should be finished this week, painting ongoing, we lack one set of frames on the front side and one on the east side. Painting is ongoing. We will fire up northwest and southeast units to get circular motion of air going and get moisture out, we do have humidifiers to get ready to get air conditioned to start all the finishes. If meter is installed, a lot of things will get kicked on November 11th. Court floor, ceiling tile, metal building trim, hang rails in stairwells, sanding down and getting ready to paint. Scoreboards are hung. We are pushing as hard as we can to get you in there.

Rick Terry, President, Baldwin and Shell, we have an issue with block, brick masonry; color was power washed out of brick. It will have to be replaced. We will work around you all. We will continue like all is well, but brick will be replaced.

Track update: when we get approval to proceed with track, we will put out advertisement to solicit bids for the track and all the other items that go with it.

What we have a now is design development budget. It is a good budget, but we want it to come down instead of being where it is.

Superintendent Ashley stated that the money to do the track would come from the second lien bond and that it could not be done until the sale of the bonds and the approval of the state. Projected date is January. We do have a little bit of time to make decisions before we are ready to move forward.

3. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report

4. Review enrollment for the past 10 years

Comparing enrollment for the past 10 years, where we were 2009-2010 compared to 2019-2020, we our down 1,162 students. That's a lot of students but that's also a lot of funds. I just want to discuss with you for a minute, where this can always be on your minds about where we are our district is standing, where we are and what we are attempting to do. Ten years ago, we were getting \$7,901,000 more a year

funding than we are getting right now. This year we lost 140 students which is \$952,000 less funding than we received last year.

I am bringing this up, where you will have an understanding as we move forward. Unless we keep up with what we are spending, make adjustments, absorb positions. Since July, we have absorbed about 24 positions. That's about \$900,000 that we have saved. We stayed even this last year. Moving forward, I am going to try to do a better job keeping you informed of numbers and finances. We think it is about to level off. We are working really hard to get spending under control with what we have with student loss.

5. Report on State Report Card

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

Primary and Elementary have a D- attendance is what separates the two scores because primary doesn't take the ACT Aspire and their attendance is better. Both schools use the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade scores for the report. Middle school also has a D. High School score remained an F (.09 from being a D) even though our NWEA assessment indicated that our scores would be much higher.

It is disheartening to have to report the scores, especially when I see the attention and effort being made by principals, instructional leaders, teachers, and paraprofessionals and it may seem that we are reporting the same thing as the last few years when actually we are doing more work with less resources.

We still have quality support services being offered, but we have tightened up and absorbed a lot of staff as we have lost students so many classes are larger than we have had creating a more difficult environment for both academics and behavior.

We have a tremendous gap when our students enter school due to the number of students in poverty, a lack of parental support and exposure to words (conversation and books being read aloud) and print (books) prior to coming to kindergarten. Many don't know how to sit at a table, hold a pencil, or even know their real name.

This gap and the time it takes to catch kids up (considering the backwards slide they have over the summer) causes too many students who are not able to catch up to the norm during the first 3 years of school. More than we want are leaving 2nd grade still not proficient as readers which has a big impact on 3rd grade because they should be reading to learn, but many are still learning to read, but we

are making changes that are increasing the number proficient in reading after 2nd more than in the past. We are making efforts to work with preschools to share information on expectations for kindergarten and we are preparing for the possibility of adding more seats for another class of the ABC preschool on our campus.

I could spend time reviewing pages of technical documents showing how each ESSA score is calculated, but I think it would be better to share with you what we are doing differently this year to impact the scores for the spring.

The PLC- Professional Learning Community process is being embraced at each of the campuses. We Learn BY DOING. This began at primary last year when they were accepted into Cohort 2 through the application process. Our PLC coaches tell us they are farther than 90% of the schools who are doing the work. We are not where we plan to be, but we are making gains because of the deep work our teachers and instructional leaders are doing. This is the first time we have been offered something from DESE that puts all the processes together in something that has evidence that it works. Prior to this we have done all they suggested, but those things have been fragmented. Now it is all coming together in one package. This is very difficult time intensive work, but it should provide such a strong process for teachers that we will retain more because they are satisfied with the learning they get and the support they are able to provide students.

Quotes from teachers in the PLC at primary showing the positive impact.

One thing I'm learning is that this isn't just about my kids and what they can do. It's about all the kids and we are working together for them all.	We actually know during the unit what our students need help with instead of finding out at the end so we have time to help them.
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We are duplicating the work in the other three buildings because they have asked to participate and want to make these changes to improve teaching and learning. If we had funding, we would contract more PLC coaches to work with them, but because of budget constraints, we are sharing the work between schools with principals collaborating, and I am going into each building to support the process. It will be slower in the other buildings without the 50 or more days of support we get

at primary from experts from all over the country who come in but they are committed to the work.

- Groups of teacher leaders are stepping up in each building creating a guiding coalition along with the IF's and principals and meet every two weeks
- Teacher collaborative teams meet at least weekly.
- BES/BMS leadership teams are attending a PLC Academy for 6 days of training this year.
- BES leadership and BMS guiding coalition have both visited primary.
- The BPS team is very helpful and is sharing all they know to help the others. We are partnering with a team from Little Rock and DESE to allow us early access to teachers in the pipeline at schools across the state through a job search platform.

B. Principal's Report

Shayla Adelowo, BES Assistance Principal, presented a slideshow on Demonstrating Appropriate Behavior (DAB). DAB's Mission: to provide the necessary support for students and teachers of students with behavioral, and academic, and environmental concerns. Vision: Empower staff and students to become the best version of themselves. Core beliefs: We believe all students should receive a fair chance every day (throughout the day), receive differential interventions, receive and follow PBIS P.R.I.D.E. expectations.

C. Instructional Report

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. I want to commend all the principals on what they are doing and all the things Ms. Adelowo is talking about. Hats off to all the hard work we do. We still have high numbers of behavior problems ----14.9 dropped to 4.23%. We will be off list at 4.0%.
2. I would like to commend, all the things you heard and saw from Ms. Adlowo, I want to commend the principals and assistant principals for all they are doing. The State is really working with us. We are still on the list for having a high rate of out-of-school suspensions. Suspensions are down from 14.9 to 4.23% but the magic number to get off the list is 4.00%. We are doing great; we are working hard on

behavior. The state is reaching out and want to help us as much as they can. They want us to have all of the resources we need.

Behavior Interventions on every campus, we have a RTI Committee and PBIS Committee. Check-in, check-out is an excellent program. We check in with child each morning to see what they need and do the same before they go home. We want them to have a good day. Training us to work together, how to work better with students, and help us know how to train our teachers to work with students with disability concerns and to have more empathy for students. We know we have students with ADHD but we have students have been diagnosed with bipolar and schizophrenia.

We were asked by Research Data Analysis IDEA if they could use Blytheville's data to do a documentary. Permission granted by Superintendent, then UALR Review Board – go ahead, you have been approved to use Blytheville's data. They are looking at all the resources we have and we are still having problems. Disproportionality concern, we are right at number to get off list. Everything we do is working. I am excited and I will keep you enlightened. What else can they do to help us? We are doing everything we can but we still have low test scores. How can we use this data? What can I do? We have a team per campus. We have school based mental health with a group on every campus. We haven't gotten there yet but we are getting there. We are going to be doing some great things with behavior; we are already doing a lot. We just ran a report on out-of school suspension rate and from August 13, 2018 to August 12, 2019: BHS 11 days of OSS – increase from last year, BMS 33% decrease and BES 10 days decrease from 2018 – 2019. We are seeing great improvement. Our goal we are shooting for is 4.0% Six years ago we had the highest out of school suspension rate in Arkansas.

D. Operations Report

Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security

Transportation:

- One minor bus crash on East State Highway 18, at approximately 6:00 a.m., Monday, October 21, 2019. No students were on board.
- Still averaging approximately 690 students per day.
- Ms. Barnes has done an excellent job training her drivers. Overall, this has helped reduce accidents, and has also helped reduce the amount of claims. The

representative with Risk Management recognized Ms. Barnes for the District's overall low volume of accident claims versus other school districts.

Maintenance:

- I've contacted Entergy and will be working with one of their engineers to assess exterior lighting needs (replacement of exterior lighting with LED units, as well as additional lighting needs at campuses).
- Entergy does not offer any programs for retrofitting interior lighting. There are vendors that offer this type of service.

BPS:

- On Monday, October 21, BPS experienced damage to awnings located on the north and south side of the building. Our maintenance personnel were able to remove the damaged sections. Currently working with a vendor to replace some of the damaged sections. Installation should be complete within the next two weeks.

Food Services:

- Mrs. Snyder reports that Food Services numbers remain consistently higher than this time last year. Mrs. Snyder attributes this to the 2nd chance breakfast, as well as expanded choices for lunch.
- Blytheville School District is one of 11 Arkansas school districts to have completed the requirements to qualify as a Five to Thrive District. The program was developed to offer students a variety of nutritional and physical activity to improve kids' health.

Safety & Security:

- We received quotes for a repair to the camera server at BES and have determined we can save on costs by building this system in house. Our IT Department will be assisting with this project.
- Safety & Security along with the IT Department are partnering for the installation of the access control system mentioned last month for BES. The area of installation will be on the 5th grade building, as well as the west doors located on the main building.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. September 23, 2019, Meeting
- B. October 21, 2019, Special Meeting
- C. September Financial Report

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to accept items as listed in A. - C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:05 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resignation of Classified Employees

Erica Anderson	Paraprofessional	Chickasaw Academy (ALE)
Beverly Fisher	Food Service	Blytheville Primary
Brad Hardesty	Bus Mechanic	SVC

B. Appointment of Classified Employees

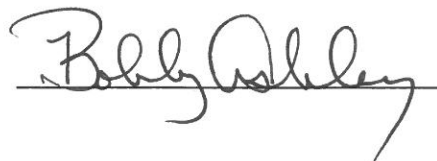
Thomas Anderson	Maintenance	SVC
Yvette Chambers	Paraprofessional	BHS- New Tech

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept appointments and resignations As listed in Items A. – B.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:05 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

 Bobby Ashley
Ex-officio Financial Secretary