

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, April 24, 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 April 24, 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: Kris Williams, Lorna Curtis, Allison Turner, Jana Wilson, Eileen Garris, Jennifer Bennett, B Hall, Heather Ward, Paula Pitts, Chanda Walker, Jerry Vaughn, Diane Jenkins, Bridget Jones, Veda Stuble, Candice Groves, Michelle Sims, Venita Nichols, Katryce McDonald, Kendah McDonald, Irene Nichols, Valencia Purtle, MD, and Vanessa Stewart.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the month of April 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with eight members present.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. SCHOOL PRIDE

- A. Teachers of the Year
Allison Turner, Community Development Coordinator

Mrs. Turner introduced teachers of the year Bridget Jones (Blytheville Primary School), Lorna Curtis (Blytheville Elementary), Veda Stuble (Blytheville Middle School), and Candace Groves (Blytheville High School.) Bridget Jones was chosen as Blytheville School District Teacher of the Year. Lorna Curtis – Described by her peers and her principal in her nomination letter to the Chamber as, "An enthusiastic

teacher who believes that every student has the ability to learn. She is the epitome of hard work and determination, someone who has the ability and drive to do whatever she sets her mind to. She is an asset to our school, students, and community."

Veda Struble – "She has gained a reputation for being helpful and kind, with an infectious laugh that is appreciated by all. Her commitment to students with learning disabilities is honorable and commendable, and our campus is blessed to have someone of her stature working with our students. Her intelligence and work ethic have made her indispensable to the middle school."

Candice Groves – What stands out most about her nomination letter is the attention to her community service. Candice has an excess of 200 volunteer hours just this year, and she encourages her students to do the same. She is a positive role model for volunteerism and promotes cultural awareness in and out of her classroom. Candice is dedicated to being a lifelong learner who helps her students grow their capabilities and reach that next level of success, no matter where they are in that process. Candice takes the time to get to know her students, and for these reasons she is our BHS teacher of the year!

Bridget Jones – Described by her principal as a leader during collaboration and professional learning after school, Ms. Jones is a highly regarded teacher at BPS who holds her students to high standards and achieves growth with each of them. When parents of Ms. Jones' students were asked why they are glad to have her teaching their child, they answered, "She has high expectations and will only accept my child's best work. She's stern, but always positive. Mrs. Jones enjoys her job and it is evident. She reads confidently from the Bible! We had a concern we brought to Mrs. Jones about our daughter...not only did she listen, she made suggestions, we put a plan in place AND she continues to follow it! She has encouraged our daughter with verbal encouragement, written notes, and rewards for excelling. I truly wish we could keep Mrs. Jones another year!" And for this reason and so many more, we award Ms. Bridget Jones not only as our BPS teacher of the year, but also our Blytheville School District Teacher of the Year!

President Ritchey thanked all teachers for serving our District and students.

B. Blytheville Primary School, Jana Wilson, Principal

Mrs. Wilson gave a presentation of things that they were working on and proud of.

We just completed our vision; the whole process of where we are and where we want to be. We have a committee working on our mission statement.

When we start the 2017-2018 school year, we will be living and breathing our mission.

Our teachers have worked very hard. We could not do without our paraprofessionals. They work hard on group skills all day.

At this time Mrs. Wilson had a video presentation, "We Love BPS" spotlighting students and teachers at Blytheville Primary School.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Atwill introduced the Mississippi County Juneteenth Committee, Valencia Andrews Purtle, M.D. who spoke to the Board.

This year's theme is "Lifting as We Climb". (Unity, education, family and love.)

We are looking for youth to be a part of the Youth Oratorical Contest sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Mighty ETA Chapter. This year, \$1,200 in cash prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants in two age groups (9-12 years old and 13-18 years old.) A Scholarship will be given out to a senior.

There are vendor slots available and club/organization volunteer hours available for the Juneteenth celebration.

2. Testing time starts tomorrow and will run thru May 9th.
3. Excited about growth at our Primary School.

4. Ongoing work with Baldwin and Shell on building projects, flyers and strategies. Teachers and students are working on the flyers. We wanted the students to be involved.
5. Superintendent Atwill handed out vehicle list to the Board that had been requested at prior meeting.

B. Sally Cooke Director of Curriculum

1. Kris Williams and his technology team have done a lot of Preparation for upcoming testing.
2. ACT Aspire Summative testing starts this week: BMS tomorrow-April 25th through May 2nd, BHS April 27 through May 3rd, and BES May 2nd through May 5th.
3. Various assemblies to encourage students to take ownership of their learning and to put out their best effort. Students have had 4 interims at this point.
4. This Thursday, April 27th is the last day for the AEAP this semester. They will be taking the students to the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock on Saturday May 6th. The summer session will be June 19- July 27th. Yvonne Furniss and Becky Cezar from the ADE State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) which supports the use of Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) came for two days in early May to tour all four buildings, walk into classrooms, and visit with teachers, students, and leadership to get a feel for all the work that is going on in Blytheville. They met with each RTI leadership team and helped each school began work on an RTI Implementation Fidelity Self-Assessment which we will use as a guide while working with them next year. They were very impressed with the positive culture and climate in the buildings and said that "hard work, leadership and commitment are evident." They took note of our organizational alignment and the systems we have in place and will be partnering to help us continue to improve instruction and expectations for our students. What we learn from the grant will help us combine RTI for academics AND behavior into one system to help us support any students who need assistance in either or both areas. (Mrs. Cole and I are working together on this since it covers what we both do.)

5. Debra Bailes, ADE Alternative Learning Director, visited BMS to help refine the processes and paperwork. Then we met with BPS/BES ALE to work on transition pieces, day to day operations and placement. Michelle Walling has been a great help to make sure that all the programs are aligned:

1. All ALE students can and will be encouraged to participate in organized school sports.
 2. All ALE students are to eat in the cafeteria with the other students.
 3. All ALE students can and are to be encouraged to participate in after school tutoring and, if they do, are to be allowed to ride the tutoring bus home.
 4. All ALE students are to have weekly social lessons.
6. Working with the schools on a calendar for professional learning so we can offer what teachers need during 12 FLEX hours based on teacher Professional Growth Plans this summer.
7. College Preparatory Academy of the Delta (CPAD) had a parent night last Wednesday for Freshman parents to get information on the upcoming summer ACT CPAD session that Arkansas State University partners with BHS to do. Students will 26 total hours of class: 11 in Reading/English and 11 in Math/Science and 4 hours of testing. We provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks. These students will sit for the June ACT right after class is over. The Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores have their sessions on a rotating basis during the school year. Raising the ACT scores through CPAD is helping our students get more scholarships and get accepted into more colleges and universities. Our senior CPAD class graduated in April at ASU and Japhne Gray from KAIT spoke to them at the ceremony along with several ASU professors. They received an iPad to use in college and ASU sent someone from their staff to BHS the next week to provide training on the kinds of apps that will be helpful to college Freshmen.
8. The Athletic Banquet will be Monday, May 8th at 6:00 in the cafeteria. Then they will go to the auditorium for awards. Conference baseball tournament Saturday- weather permitting.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. March 30, 2017, Meeting
- B. March Financial Report
- C. Approve 2017-2018 School Calendar (Option 3 revised)
- D. Transfer \$1,500,000 from Building Fund back to Operating Fund
- E. Purchase 300 HP Chromebooks including a 3 year warranty \$80,685
- F. Annual renewal of the Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions licensing program \$17,662.47.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tobey Johnson to accept items A., B., C., D., E., & F.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:20 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL

A. Resignation of Certified Employee (End of 2016-2017)

Larrie Bell	Teacher	BHS-New Tech ALE
Phyllis Myers	Interventionist	BPS
Brittany Nettles	Teacher	BMS
Shannon Page	Teacher	BPS
Jamie Lee Rolland	Teacher	BES

B. Resignation of Certified Employee

Zandra Johnson	Teacher	BMS (Hired for 2017-2018)
Allene Kirk	Teacher	BMS (April 3, 2017)
Deerick Smith	Teacher	BHS-New Tech (May 1, 2017)

C. Reappointment of Certified Employees (2017-2018)

See attachment A

D. Retirement of Classified Employee (End of 2017-2018)

Shirley Eskin	Crossing Guard	BPS
Dorothy Jenkins	Custodian	BHS-New Tech

E. Reappointment of Classified Employees (2017-2018)

See attachment B

F. Appointment of Classified Employee (2017-2018)

Larrie Bell	CSSO	
Kayla Brown	RN	BPS
Phyllis Myers	Paraprofessional	BPS
Sarah Russell	RN	BES

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Desmond Hammett to accept reappointments, resignations, recommendations and retirements as listed above in A., B., C., D., E., & F.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:24 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary