

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2020
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 27, 2020, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tobey Johnson, President | (2) Barbara Wells, Vice President |
| (3) Erin Carrington | (4) Billy Fair |
| (5) Desmond Hammett | (6) Tracey Ritchey |
| (7) Michelle Sims | |

The following member was absent:

- (1) Henrietta Watt, Secretary

Others present: Kris Williams, Jennifer Johnson, Gordon LLOYD, R. Blaylock, Dale Hinson, Jana Wilson, Ashley Whitley, Idell Jenkins, Tamantha Dudley, Tyrone Davis, Carolyn Barnes, Chanda Walker, Mike Wallace, John Blair, and Marshall Hughes.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Johnson called the regular meeting for the Month of January 2020 to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with seven 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.

Cell phones are prohibited in this meeting. Emergency call must be taken outside. Please put your phone on silent and put it away.

Roberts Rules of Order specifies that board members must be recognized by the chair in order to speak. Members of the audience may not speak unless addressed by the board.

Announcements:

Blytheville High School has been having class meetings on Thursday mornings. The focus of these meetings is TRUST. A panel discussion is allows the student to ask questions pertaining to their school and its effects upon them. Desmond Hammett and Tobey Johnson have been the panel members. GOOD THINGS are happening at BHS.

On Friday, January 31, BPS will have community members and board members reading to their kids. If you have not been contacted yet and want to volunteer about an hour of your time, contact Melissa Moriarity.

The board would like to thank Mr. Bobby Ashley for the great steak dinner provided to the board tonight in honor of SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION. Special thanks goes out to Tommy Bennett for cooking the steaks to perfection.

The Chickasaws Senior night as well as their last home game will be January 31. Come support this fantastic winning team and their coaches.

FEBRUARY REMINDERS:

February 14- Teacher's Professional Development- no school

February 17- President's Day- no school

February 24- School Board Meeting

February 28- BHS' FFA Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. An email from Henrietta Watt, Board Secretary to Superintendent Ashley advising she was resigning her position as Board Secretary immediately but was not resigning from the Board.

Tobey Johnson nominated Tracey Ritchey to fill the position as board secretary vacated by Ms. Watt.

Desmond Hammett nominated Erin Carrington to fill the position as board secretary vacated by Ms. Watt.

A vote was taken at 6:09. Billy Fair, Tobey Johnson and Barbara Wells voted for Tracey Ritchey to fill the position as Board Secretary. Tracey Ritchey, Michelle Sims, Desmond Hammett and Erin Carrington voted for Erin Carrington to fill the position as Board Secretary.

By a vote of 4:3, Erin Carrington was elected Board Secretary.

2. School Board Recognition

Superintendent Ashley recognized the Board and thanked them for all they do and how much time they give. Kim Byrd, BHS-New Tech and India Miller brought desserts for board meeting, Debra Siegler, BMS, Tyrone Davis, BMS Student made treat trays, Jana Wilson, BPS Principal gave each board member insulated cups with Chickasaw emblem, BMS Art Teacher, Brianna Franklin's students made thank you cards, and Chanda Walker, BMS Principal provided Sonic gift cards.

3. Marshall Hughes, Beardsley Finance presented the final recap of 2nd Bond Issue to the Board.

a. Adopt Application to Issue Refunding Bonds

Upon a recommendation from Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Michelle Sims and seconded by Billy Fair to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of the \$785,000, Blytheville School District No. 5 of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Construction Bonds dated February 1, 2020 and other documents pertaining thereto as prepared by the Friday, Eldredge & Clark Law Firm.

Motion passed by vote of 6:1, with Erin Carrington abstaining, therefore casting a nay vote at 6:18 p.m.

b. Final Motion Authorizing Second Lien Bonds

Upon a recommendation from Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Barbara Wells to submit an "Application for a Permit to Issue Bonds", with related documents, for \$8,195,000 in Refunding Bonds to the State Department of Education and to employ First Security Beardsley as Fiscal Agent, and to authorize the Superintendent of the Schools to accept or reject the best bid submitted in connection with the public sale of the proposed bonds in consultation with the fiscal agent.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:24 p.m.

4. United Way Report
5. BHS 2021 Presidential Inauguration Trip
6. Statement of Financial Interest must be filed at County Clerk's Office by Jan. 31st
7. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report
8. Letter from Cindy Smith, DESE - Identification of Early Intervention and response from Superintendent Ashley was read. We had a meeting with Cindy Smith last week. She suggested setting up a workshop and potential dates will be emailed to you. \$1.3 million will need to be absorbed in some capacity.

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

Mrs. Cooke was not present and Superintendent Ashley read her report to the Board.

Applications for the PLC Grant for the 20-21 year are coming up with Letters of Intent to apply due on January 30th. Because of the great success that we have seen with the primary school each of the other three buildings is applying for the grant. It is a very competitive process across the state, and we are very thankful that primary will have that continuing support for another year. BES, BMS, and BHS applied last year and didn't receive it but we are determined to implement these best practices in the district regardless and have looked at ways to do that with our limited funding.

Without the grant our guiding coalitions in each building have still dedicated themselves to work with the essential standards which strengthens the core curriculum and the knowledge of teachers, which in turn is strengthening what is taught across all grades. That along with the training all teachers are getting from the Science of Reading (RISE) is also making an impact on the support we have available for students in reading. This focus on improving reading will make a positive impact in

all other content areas. If any of the schools were to also get the grant that would allow us to move more quickly because of the amount of support it would provide.

I am working closely with the reading specialists from Crowley's Ridge Co-op to ensure that we are able to provide the needed follow up support in each building for the Science of Reading and also Dyslexia needs. We are also reviewing the needs of all students who are struggling in reading so that we can make sure each is getting assistance from their core teacher, an interventionist, or through a Strategic or Critical Reading class. The co-op has been very helpful with all of this and have spent time in our buildings to assist.

The BHS meeting with the Charter Panel has been rescheduled for March 17th. That gives us time to make some adjustments to the presentation as we review staff loads and schedules at BHS for next year after talking with Cindy Smith and Norman Hill.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. Mark your calendars for Friday, February 21st, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Our District will be hosting Special Olympics – Run, Dribble and Shoot in the Boy's Gym. There will be twelve districts participating.
2. Budgets are balances and children are being served.
3. Our Out-of- School Suspension rate has dropped from 11.49% to 4.23%. The magic number is now 4% but may change to 3%.

C. Operations Report

Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security

Transportation:

1. No accidents, crashes, or damage to report since last month
2. Averaging approximately 690 students per day
3. Ms. Carolyn Barnes attended a clearing house training and has found a way to cut new driver testing costs by approximately 40% per test. This will offer tremendous savings throughout the year.
4. Adding a camera to the front entrance of the Service Center.

Maintenance:

1. Our maintenance department will be replacing some of the exterior lighting at
2. Primary School. The weather seems to have affected some of it.
3. Processed approximately 300 work orders since last month.

New Gym:

1. Former district employee and alumnus Randy Jumper will be hosting tours of the new gym facility.

Food Services:

1. Mrs. Snyder reports that Food Services numbers are averaging around the same as December 2019.
2. Mrs. Snyder attributes the increased numbers to expansion of items offered, as well as second chance breakfasts (approximately 300-350 students at BHS daily)

Safety & Security:

1. Mr. Bell stayed with the buses at Batesville Southside and assisted with loading and transportation to Blytheville after the game.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. December 16, 2019, Meeting
- B. December 16, 2019, Special Meeting
- C. December Financial Report
- D. A.C.A. § 6-13-629 Board Training and Instruction
- E. Revised Farmland Lease
- F. End Service with Pierce Lawn Care
- G. Rescind Contract B & B Lawn Care
- H. Adopt Application to Issue Refunding Bonds
- I. Final Motion Authorizing 2nd Lien Bonds

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Billy Fair to accept items as listed in A. – G. above. Items H. - Adopt Application to Issue Refunding and Item I. – Final Motion Authorizing Second Lien Bonds were approved under Superintendent's Report.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:26 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resignation of Certified Employees

Bouvier Hive	Teacher	BPS (1/6/20)
Lewis Minnie	Teacher	BES (1/31/20)

B. Retirement of Certified Employee (End of 2019-2020)

Debra Siegler	Teacher	BMS
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C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Raven Pointer	Food Service	BHS (1/6/20)
Casey Randolph	Technician	Admin (1/10/20)
Lisa Wright	Bus Driver	SVC (1/31/20)

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Desmond Hammett to accept resignations and retirement as listed in items A. – C.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:28 p.m.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Extension of Superintendent's Contract.

9. OPEN SESSION After discussion, the Board took came back into open Session.

10. EXTENSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

Upon the recommendation of President Johnson, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Billy Fair to extend the contract of Mr. Bobby Ashley, Superintendent of the Blytheville School District, for one year.

The new, three year contract will begin July 1, 2020 and end June 30, 2023.

Motion passed by 6:1 vote, with Desmond Hammett abstaining, therefore, casting a nay vote at 8:49 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

 Bobby Ashley
Ex-officio Financial Secretary