

BLYTHERVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular School Board Meeting
Administration Building
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on February 25, 2020 with the following members present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Barbara Wells, Vice President | (2) Billy Fair |
| (3) Desmond Hammett | (4) Michelle Sims |
| (5) Tracey Ritchey | |

The following members were not present:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Tobey Johnson, President | (2) Erin Carrington, Secretary |
| (3) Henrietta Watt | |

Others present: Norman Hill, Jay Hill, Kris Williams, Paul Jenkins, Michelle Walling, Jennifer Spurlock, Janet Bennett, Felice Williams, Lauren Starks, Megan Lambert, Jennifer Blankenship, Michelle Walling, Jana Wilson, Stephanie Razor, Ashley Whitley, Chanda Walker, Teresa Miner, Shayla Adelowo, Carolyn Barnes, Frederick Clay, Curtis Smith, Sr., Erica Weathers, and Tommy Bennett.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | Vice President Barbara Wells called the regular meeting for the month of February 25, 2020 order at 6 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. 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:

February 25 - BHS Mardi Gras Family Night 5-7 p.m.
February 27 - BHS Boys Regional Tournament at Valley View
February 27 – BMS Family Night 5-7 p.m.
February 28 - FFA Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – 7 a.m.
March 5 – BHS Pride of the Chickasaw Tribe Banquet
March 23 -27 Spring Break
March 30 – Board Meeting

Vice President Wells welcomed anyone attending from BLI or any other organization and thanked everyone for coming.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Audit Financial Report 2018-2019
Megan Lambert, Thomas, Speight and Noble highlighted the 2018-2019 Audit that was given to each Board Member. No exceptions noted.
2. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report
We have enough to finish the arena. We will have to do fencing and landscaping. Second lien bonds will cover track and roof repair.

3. Update on Construction

Bleachers are in place. We should be proud of our new arena; it's a place of beauty. A plaque with all Board Members names will be made and hung in arena.

Looked at paper towels, soaps and supplies and will save on costs with current vendor.

Looking at resurfacing old gym parking lot. Our elementary parking lot needs work also.

We will send track information out. Bid process will start soon with more information at next meeting.

4. Mr. Norman Hill, Financial Consultant

Information presented attached.

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

Solution Tree Associate Diane Kerr who supports our primary school in the Professional Learning Community cohort 2 grant gave a program to the Rotary club on Thursday, February 13th. Kerr shared how the company, which works worldwide to transform education to ensure learning for all, has a huge presence in Arkansas creating Professional Learning Communities. Alex Brownstein who supports the 34 schools in Arkansas was present and was also at primary that morning for Project Planning along with Kerr and John Yost.

Kerr explained that a major part of the process is changing the culture of the school so that each person owns the process of ensuring learning for all students. Instead of focusing on teaching, teachers learn the standards deeply and work collaboratively to create lessons that focus on student learning. If a student does not progress, teachers take ownership collaboratively to support the students often sharing the responsibility to intervene because the students don't belong to one teacher or one team; instead student success is owned by every teacher and each seeks a way to best provide support until every child masters the learning targets. Mrs. Wilson also spoke sharing that the mindset of the staff has changed so that

they no longer make excuses about the deficits students arrive with, their behavior, or other issues- Instead their mindset is what do we need to do as teachers to ensure that every kid who walks through our door masters their learning.

State Representative Monte Hodges was present to hear about the success Blytheville Primary is having as a PLC at Work School in increasing reading scores and raising their expectations to ensure every student in Blytheville succeeds. Representative Hodges was very impressed with the process, especially the growth mindset, and stated that he would contact DESE and/or Commissioner Key to express his support. This is the foundation we have been working to create for our students, and is what we must be able to do in each school in the district.

Each of the other schools in our district are learning about the PLC at Work process and plan to apply for the grant which would give them the kind of intensive support primary has received. The grants are due March 20th and the state expects to award 8-12 schools statewide.

The leadership teams in each building are putting in a lot of work because we have seen evidence that this works with Blytheville students and we know it provides a great foundation for new teachers who are still learning as they partner with veterans in collaborative settings.

We can ensure that all students have access to essential grade level curriculum as we continue to include special education teachers in collaboration/training with regular education teachers and make sure that our ALE teachers also get the same training and support.

In our Feb 10th monthly meeting with assistant principals and behavior interventionists, we reviewed how to identify and teach essential academic and social behaviors and our PBIS coaches and behavior teams are completing a Tiered Fidelity Inventory to monitor their progress so we can have safe and orderly environment which is conducive to both teaching and learning.

This is an extremely busy time of year so much is happening daily district-wide.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

Yield time to Mrs. Cooke because her information included special education and 504 students.

C. Operations Report

Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security Facilities

Transportation:

1. On February 3rd, shortly after 6am, Ms. Barnes drove to a residence located north of Walmart and possibly helped save the life of a student that was suffering an asthma attack.
2. Still averaging under 700 students per day. No injuries or accidents to report.
3. I'm supposed to meet with Ms. Carolyn and review routes for next year. We may be looking at trying to reduce the number of routes. We'll consider cost savings, timeliness, etc.

Food Services:

1. Converting a deep freeze at the service center over to a refrigerator.
2. Numbers are actually increasing. Breakfast is averaging 300, lunch numbers are close to 400. Chicken and waffles, and chicken, cheese and rice are a couple of the more popular items.

New Gym:

1. Installation of bleacher seating has been completed.
2. Waiting on mill work to be completed.

Maintenance:

1. Maintenance members participated in training and familiarization at the new gym for HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc.

Safety & Security:

1. Currently working on best practices for emergency preparedness training. We will

partner with the Mississippi County Office of Emergency Management in order to review. Each campus will go through safety drills throughout March.

2. Nearing completion of motion sensors for our access control systems at BHS, BMS, and BES.

All items for lawn care bids have been gone over with Tripp Walter, APSRC. Lawn care will be split into (1) lawn care – mowing, edging and light tree trimming and (2) spraying.

6. Action Items

- A. January 27, 2020, Meeting
- B. January 27, 2020, Special Meeting
- C. February 10, 2020, Special Meeting, Cindy Smith, DESE
- D. January Financial Report
- E. 2020-2021 School Calendar

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to accept items A. – E. as listed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:19 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resignation of Certified Employee (End of 2019-2020)

Elizabeth Robinson	Librarian	BES
--------------------	-----------	-----

B. Resignation of Certified Employee

Shondra Wright	Teacher	BHS-New Tech (2/28/20)
----------------	---------	------------------------

C. Retirement of Classified Employee (End of 2019-2020)

Norma Valley	Counselor Secretary	BHS-New Tech
--------------	---------------------	--------------

D. Resignation of Classified Employees (End of 2019-2020)

Ivy Bruner	Food Service	BPS
------------	--------------	-----

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:19 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.


Bobby Ashley
Ex-officio Financial Secretary