

BLYTHERVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular School Board Meeting

Administration Building

Monday, April 27, 2020

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020 via ZOOM with the following members present:

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

The following member was not present:

- (1) Henrietta Watt

Others present: Artur Wierzba, John Blair, and Tommy Bennett.

Via ZOOM: Jennifer Johnson, Brandon Harper, Jennifer Blankenship, Danielle Dodd, Whitney Raul, Jean Cole, and Sally Cooke

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Erin Carrington called the regular meeting for the month of April 27, 2020 to order at 6:05 p.m. |
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| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with six members present. Barbara Wells joined the meeting via ZOOM at 7:31 p.m. making seven members present. Tracey Ritchey left meeting at 8:06 p.m. leaving five members present. |
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3. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Tobey Johnson made a special presentation to Dr. Michael Williams on behalf of Jan Sinclair. Ms. Sinclair was a teacher and counselor for the district for thirty- five years. Ms. Jan Sinclair established a living trust and to fulfill her

wishes a check for \$203,468.59 was presented to Dr. Michael Williams, Chairman of the BHS Scholarship Foundation. A endowed scholarship will be established in her name for future Blytheville High School seniors.

2. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report
3. Danielle Dodd, Baldwin & Shell gave information to the Board that six humidifiers had been placed in gym as a moisture barrier in the gym. There was discussion about putting a facid around humidifiers for cosmetic reasons.
4. Whitney Rail, Entergy Arkansas (via ZOOM) gave information to the Board on Solar Entergy Purchasing Option and potential savings to the District.
5. Danielle Dodd, Baldwin & Shell gave information on the track restoration. fFour bids were received. After reviewing, GEO was going to be the best company to go with. The track will meet AAA standards to hold meets, 8-lanes, asphalt base, textured spray and will be terra cotta in color.

Track will be completed in 100 days with good weather. It will have a five year warranty. There will no problems getting supplies related to COVID-19.

Layout could be changed for best fit. GEO will complete the project. No subcontractors and W-9 employees.

Same track surface as Arkansas State University.

Action Item G. Baldwin & Shell Track Restoration (GEO) \$554,721

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Desmond Hammett to accept the bid from Baldwin & Shell (GEO) for track restoration for \$554,721

Motion passed by 5:1 vote with Erin Carrington casting the nay vote at 7:05

6. Board Travel

President Carrington stated that in light of the recent RIF that the

A motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Erin Carrington that each Board Member be allotted \$1,500 each for Board travel for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion passed 5:1 with Billy Fair casting the nay vote at 7:25 p.m.

B. Instructional Report
Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

AMI and grading update

After much discussion with the principals and hearing recommendations from DESE, we have decided to send a letter home to parents regarding grades for the 4th quarter. This is a brief explanation of it.

In K-8 students grades for the Spring semester will be determined by using the third nine weeks grades which were finalized prior to the initial closure of schools due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The same grade earned by the student in the third nine weeks will be assigned as the student's grade for the fourth nine weeks. Therefore, the third nine-week grades earned by students will become their Spring semester grades in each subject. We will not use AMI work to negatively impact a students grade, therefore your child will not receive a grade any lower than they had when school was closed due to the COVID-19 virus.

We realize that the AMI work that our children are working on cannot replace the face to face teaching in the classroom, but it can prevent them from getting behind their peers and losing ground before we begin school in the fall. Practice with school work just like in a sport is what makes a student progress, so it is important to keep them working on a regular basis so they won't lose the skills they already have. These AMI assignments WILL NOT BE GRADED FOR CONTENT, but when combined with the ongoing engagement and support of our teachers will provide skill reinforcement and engaging learning opportunities for our students for the remainder of the school year. It is vital that you encourage your children to practice their academic skills, so they will not fall behind their peers. This will certainly make an impact in how far behind the others they will be when we return to school in the fall.

For high school students, the AMI assignments are being graded as their courses all count for graduation credit. Students are to continue the work and are encouraged to participate in the ZOOM meetings.

An update will be given at May meeting on charter review after we visit with teachers and principals.

Jennifer Blankenship, BHS New Tech Principal reported that she and Ms. Parker will be verifying seniors tomorrow determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor graduates. We have one hundred forty-nine seniors. DESE allows us to use third nine week grades but if a student is failing, AMI data will go toward grade and could improve their overall grade.

We are planning a virtual graduation. Chris Thomas and Wellspring Church volunteered to take pictures. We are looking at an alternative date in July.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

We are doing all the things Mrs. Cooke talked about; we have low cognitive students that are doing other things. I first I wasn't all in with the online therapy but parents are very satisfied.

Very pleased with ELL program. Tutors have watched webinars and are excited about purchasing curriculum program. I want to commend our tutors. They are doing a great job.

C. Operations Report

Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security Facilities

Child Nutrition: Averaging 1000 meals per day. As of Monday, April 20 started serving the following: Monday - meals for Monday, Tuesday. Wednesday - meals for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Each meal includes breakfast and lunch items. Serving out of BHS, BMS, BPS. Renovation on vent-a-hood taking place at BES.

Transportation: Members have assisted the Child Nutrition Department with meal distribution. Some members have been deep cleaning buses as well as the Service Center.

Maintenance: Working on outstanding work orders throughout the district. Some members are performing routine preventative maintenance items (light bulb replacement, air filters for HVAC, etc.). SG360 members have been performing deep cleaning in certain areas of the campuses (bathrooms, floors, etc.). I have advised Ms. Edward to visit with campus principals in order to prepare for floor stripping/waxing.

New gymnasium: Very near completion. Waiting on a project to strip, and re-stain floors (downstairs foyer, mezzanine areas, etc.).

Safety & Security: Assisted with distribution and security service for the Child Nutrition Department. Ordered 140 cloth masks for distribution to essential workers throughout the district. Have placed a second order for more cloth masks. We have placed an order for actual masks that filtrate virus, bacteria, mold, etc. However, the estimated ship date for these items is not scheduled until late May, or possibly early June. I will keep you posted regarding these items.

4. Action Items

- A. March 30, 2020, Meeting
- B. Special Meeting, April 20, 2020
- C. Special Meeting, April 20, 2020
- D. March Financial Report
- E. Purchase 425 Chromebooks, License & Service Agreement (SHI Quote \$140,911.79)
- F. Lawn Care/Spraying Proposals: Wierzba Lawn Care, B & B Lawn and Landscaping & Pierce Commercial Lawn Service LLC.
- G. Baldwin & Shell Track Restoration \$554,721
- H. Resolution to add Blytheville Book Company as vendor

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept items A.- D. with corrections to March 30, 2020 minutes.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:22 p.m.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Billy Fair to accept item E. Purchase 425 Chromebooks, License & Service Agreement (SHI Quote \$140,911.79)

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:30 p.m.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Erin Carrington to accept Weizba Lawn Care with lowest bid of \$28,000.

Motion failed 3:3 with Barbara Wells casting the nay vote and Michelle Sims and Desmond Hammett abstaining, therefore cast nay votes at 8:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Desmond Hammett and was seconded by Barbara Wells to accept B & B Lawn Care bid of \$36,000 for lawn care.

Motion failed 2:4 with Billy Fair, Erin Carrington and Tobey Johnson casting nay votes and Michelle Sims abstaining, therefore casting a nay vote at 8:39 p.m.

Motion was made by Desmond Hammett and was seconded by Barbara Wells to accept B & B Lawn Care bid of \$36,000 lawn care.

Motion failed 3:3 with Billy Fair and Tobey Johnson casting nay votes and Michelle Sims abstaining, therefore casting a nay vote at 8:55 p.m.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Billy Fair to accept Wiezba Lawn Care with lowest bid of \$32,000 for spraying.

Motion passed 4:1 with Desmond Hammett casting the nay vote and Barbara Wells abstaining because of conflict of interest at 9:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept B & B Lawn Care for lawn service.

Motion failed 3:3 with Tobey Johnson and Billy Fair casting nay votes and Michelle Sims abstaining, therefore casting a nay vote at 9:03 p.m.

Motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Tobey Johnson to accept B & B Lawn Care for lawn service.

Motion passed 4:2 with Billy Fair casting a nay vote and Michelle Sims abstaining, therefore casting a nay vote at 9:05 p.m.

At this time, Erin Carrington left ZOOM meeting.

Motion was made by Desmond Hammett and seconded by Michelle Sims to accept item H. Resolution to add Blytheville Book Company as vendor.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 9:17 p.m.

At this time, Erin Carrington resumed ZOOM meeting.

5. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Resignation of Certified Employees (end of 2019-2020)

Casey Bice	BHS-New Tech	Teacher
Chris Gregory	BMS	Teacher
Joyce Jacks	BES	Teacher

B. Appointment of Certified Employee (2020-2021)

Tomako Renee Fisher	BES	Librarian
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- C. Termination of Classified Employee (Did not ask for a hearing and deadline has passed)

Teri Coleman

BES

Food Service

- D. 2020-2021 Non-Renewal of Contracts (Reduction in Force/Partial Reduction in Force)

See attached list.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashley, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept items A. – D. personnel recommendations as listed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 9:20 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.


Bobby Ashley
Ex-officio Financial Secretary