

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular School Board Meeting

Administration Building

Monday, June 22, 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 June 22, 2020 via ZOOM with the following members present:

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

The following member was not present:

- (1) Tobey Johnson

Others present: Tommy Bennett

VIA ZOOM: Jennifer Blankenship, Mike Wallace, Sally Cooke, Jana Wilson, Danielle Dodd, Chanda Walker, Jennifer Johnson, Jean Cole, Kris Williams, Danny Lovelady, and Jonet Washington

1. CALL TO ORDER                      President Erin Carrington called the regular meeting for the month of June 22, 2020 to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A QUORUM                      A quorum was established with five members present via ZOOM. Carlony Lewis joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m., making six members present. Barbara Wells joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m. making seven members present.
3. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Board Donation for Henrietta Watt Scholarship

We spoke about doing something to honor Henrietta Watt. Tracey Ritchey got information for establishing a scholarship. You may send your donation to Blytheville High School Scholarship Foundation, Attention: Dr. Michael Williams, PO Box 1169, Blytheville, AR 72316. Once the scholarship is established we can figure out the requirements to move forward.

#### 4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

##### A. Superintendent's Report

###### 1. Danny Lovelady, Beardsley Finance - Refunding Bonds Final Recap

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Ashe, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delivery of the \$8,080,000, Blytheville School District No. 5 of Mississippi County, Arkansas, Refunding Bonds dated July 1, 2020 and other documents pertaining thereto as prepared by the Friday, Eldredge & Clark Law.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:38 p.m.

###### 2. New Gym Construction in Progress Financial Report

Danielle Dodd, Baldwin & Shell updated the Board on construction. New gym is substantially complete; working on issue with upstairs flooring. Working on the roof and installation of humidifiers. Shadowing was resolved with a new finished floor in that area.

Track has been converted from a yard track to a millimeter track. New asphalt has been laid and will take thirty days to cure. Next, textural spray, painting and field events will be built and placed. There will be a long jump, triple jump, pole vaulting, high jump (south end of track), shot put and discus (outside of main fencing.)

###### 3. Graduation 2020

Plan has been submitted to the State to hold graduation July 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the football field. They have guidelines that have to be in place. With 66% capacity, there will be social distancing on field as well as in the stands. Each student will receive ten tickets for guests.

###### 4. Superintendent Ashley and Sally Cooke, Curriculum Director updated the board on the multiple phases the leadership team is working on for reentry and the beginning of the 2020/2021 school year: we are having to decide what reentry will look like. Principal and Leadership have been meeting and our plan is that the school will be open and we will do the best we can to use safe practice.

Our second option will be virtual classes. Parents will select for their students to be educated at home. Parents will have to commit for the semester; they will not be able to switch back and forth.

We will be prepared if the Governor says we will be using virtual classes. All kids will have computers and know the platform.

Three schools in our county will be offering traditional education like us.

An online survey was sent out and paper copies were available through feeding stations. We had 416 total responses for 566 students.

What we will provide will be very different from AMI packets. All students will have chromebooks for learning at home if sick or suspended.

There will be an option for live interaction with teachers. Many classes will be prerecorded and can be accessed at at time.

Survey: 51.5% preferred in traditional class instruction and 48.5% preferred 100% virtual.

Principals will go over all information with parents for virtual signup

Virtual students can participate in extracurricular activities.

COVID has propelled us up five years. One size does not fit all. We see a lot of opportunities for students and parents.

Teachers will have a heavy load because of all of the changes. All is new with COVID and we will work out the best situation for each building. Everyone will have a role to play with online curriculum and recording videos. Everyone has to be prepared to be a virtual teacher in case school shuts down again. We want everyone to be comfortable uploading and downloading information. We will provide as much support as possible to our teachers.

If you do not choose virtual learning, you will be face to face.

Documents will go out for online virtual school by radio, paper, social media and callout.

B. Instructional Report  
Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

There will be automatic virtual learning for suspended students. It could be on campus in another room, or at home. Finding the fit each student needs gives us a variety. We were working on improving our suspension rate before COVID to 4.00%; our out of school suspension rate has improved more since then.

Principals are working very hard on restorative justice practices to help the student understand why they were disciplined and help them restore their standing back in the classroom.

C. Operations Report  
Brandon Harper, Director of Operations/Security Facilities

- Child Nutrition: Vent/hood replacement will be starting at the BHS cafeteria within the next couple of weeks. The vent/hood replacement project should be complete by the end of July. Ms. Snyder is coordinating with her counterparts with the Arkansas Department of Health, and USDA for tentative meal preparation plans for the 2020/2021 school year.
- Transportation: Preparing a preventive maintenance schedule for all buses which will help the district with annual inspections. The transportation department is preparing for the 2020/2021 school year (stocking, training, and proper usage of PPE: masks, face shield, gloves, hand sanitizer, and sanitization of buses). PPE will be provided for all students who ride buses.
- Maintenance: Closing out year end maintenance inspection items (gas line, asbestos, plumbing and water heaters). The maintenance department has been assisting with the distribution of PPE to the campuses.
- Safety & Security: Assisted with ordering and distribution of PPE to the athletics department (neck gaiters, face masks, fogger, and disinfectant). We are in the process of ordering additional fogger units for athletics, as well as all campuses, and the service center. Completed year end fire inspections with the Blytheville Fire Department during the week ending June 20th. This process was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All campuses passed and there were no major issues to report.

#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

- A. May 18, 2020, Meeting
- B. June 9, 2020, Special Meeting
- B. May Financial Report
- C. 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar
- D. Resolution for Suspension of District Policy to Align with Emergency Covid-19 Legislation and Statutory/Rule Waivers
- E. 2020-2022 Facilities Designation Form
- F. SHI - purchase of 200 Lenovo Touchscreen Chromebooks for Kindergarten \$78,105.15

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:45 p.m.

#### 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel.

Billy Fair left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

#### 6. OPEN SESSION

##### Personnel Recommendations

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

|                   |         |              |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| Ebony Wells-Brown | Teacher | BPS          |
| Christie Kennedy  | Teacher | BES          |
| Brett Shrable     | Teacher | BHS-New Tech |


##### B. Appointment of Certified Employees (2020-2021)

|                |         |                   |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|
| Zachary Perrin | Teacher | Chickasaw Academy |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:35 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

  
Bobby Ashley  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary