

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, August 28, 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 August 28, 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: Adron Poole, David Hixson, Dorothy Blankenship, Greyson Williams and others.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the month of August 2017 to order at 6:01 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. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS | |

A. Superintendent's Report

1. In response to Mr. Hammett's inquiry into athletic expenditures; there are no hard dollar limits to each athletic area that would prevent any coach from getting the necessary equipment for the children. The coach will present a requisition for equipment to the AD and the AD will produce a purchase order, which the superintendent approves/denies. Therefore, without having a limit on each sport, we are able to provide for all children's needs. I will provide a copy at the board meeting.
2. ADE letter dated August 22, 2017; Notice of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
3. State Aide Notice reductions from 2016-2017.

4. Board Travel attachment
5. Bond money issuance; Beardsley letter
6. Federal Grant funds; Title monies allocations and decrease chart
7. State Foundation Funding Schedule

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Instructional Facilitators will meet this Friday, August 25th at 1:00 and we will discuss the plans for academic reporting and parental notification.
2. Monthly Learn and Grow dates for principals have been set and the first one is next Tuesday, August 29th at 8:30. Assistant principals will meet that afternoon. Casey DeFord and Sally Cooke will facilitate.
3. All teachers will have a full day of professional learning on Friday, September 1st. This is part of the plan created last year to provide extended periods of time for teachers to dig deeper into learning throughout the year and provides time for teachers to have a plan in place to discuss student progress with parents at the Mid-term conferences which will be September 12th and 14th. I am working with Sharon Coburn from the co-op to ensure that we are providing the appropriate support on topics that ADE suggested for all novice teachers. We are planning specific trainings to meet their needs in small groups and principals are observing in the classrooms to ensure everyone has a good start. There will be a webinar for teachers hired with waivers to help with specific needs of those who have a Bachelor's degree, but have not had an education background.
4. Students from 4th grade through 12th grade had the opportunity to view the solar eclipse. Parents were sent home permission slips to sign to allow their children to go outside with NASA approved glasses on. Those in pre-K-3 watched the live streaming of the event from their classrooms and precautions were taken to keep students from going outside between buildings without protection. All schools had access to live stream as part of the learning from this event, so even those in the upper grades whose parents did not want them to go outside had a chance to view it online. Teachers at all levels used the eclipse as a learning event because students were engaged with all the publicity around it.

5. Project Launch and the PBIS team from ASU have offered to send two team members from our district to the national PBIS conference in Chicago in September in order to support the implementation in the K-3 grades. The schools are sharing the new PBIS matrix and rolling out the process with students in a variety of ways with the purpose of setting high expectations for behavior that supports academic achievement from the start of school.
6. Tenaris has 276 students enrolled in K-5th grade and the goal was 250. The program will have an Open House at the primary school on Thursday, August 31st at 5:30 with 12 rotation stations to show parents the expectations for students and the academic activities for the program.
7. Primary school choose Istation as the K-2 assessment that will be used for the next three years. It has a great connection for intervention and allows teachers to enter data for the RTI process. The purpose of the K-2 Assessment is to provide data pertaining to student performance levels in reading and mathematics.
8. Primary school choose Istation as the K-2 assessment that will be used for the next three years. It has a great connection for intervention and allows teachers to enter data for the RTI process. The purpose of the K-2 Assessment is to provide data pertaining to student performance levels in reading and mathematics.
9. It has been clarified that the K-2 Assessments can not be used in place of DIBELS for the dyslexia law: Dyslexia legislation, A.C.A. § 6-41-603, requires schools to conduct an initial screener for all students in K-2 and others in grades 3-12 who are experiencing difficulty as noted by a classroom teacher. The screening shall include: phonological & phonemic awareness, sound-symbol recognition, alphabet knowledge, decoding, rapid naming, and encoding using DIBELS or an equivalent screener.
10. Arkansas Leadership Academy Performance Coach, Jackie Smith, did an overview for the BES staff during PD regarding ALA core beliefs, vision and mission and the staff reviewed the BMS Mission "Engage Everyone Everyday" and the Vision "BES will educate the whole child through all engaging curriculum preparing them for the next journey." They reviewed research models Theory of Change and Logic Models along with all the ALA Performance Strands, Rubrics, and Skills which will help the school improve adult learning and student achievement.
11. BMS has had two visits from their Arkansas Leadership Academy Performance Coach, Kim Starr and are working on the introduction and communication of the strategic action plan

with stakeholders using a common language for ease of understanding. The team is observing collaboration in math and literacy and working to ensure that quality planning takes place with an agenda to focus the work so teachers are well prepared to support students in the classroom daily which will translate into stronger test scores.

12. BMS took around 65 students to Six Flags on Saturday, August 19th as a result of their performance on ACT Aspire Interims. 15 of the top performers from BMS last year have moved out of district.
13. Kelly McLaughlin, the Program Advisor from the Charter School Unit at ADE, visited BHS Wednesday from 1:00-4:00. She reviewed examples of the waivers that we are using to hire teachers under Act 1240, the integrated courses at BHS and BMS, and the district calendar showing how we are using the waivers for extended learning for teachers with PD days built in. After meeting with Mr. Ashley, Mr Atwill, Robin Sneed, Casey DeFord, and Sally Cooke she was taken on a tour by two student ambassadors who did an exceptional job of explaining all that BHS has to offer. There was discussion about the drop in test scores at BHS and the work it will take to improve them. Ms. McLaughlin stated that BHS had strong academic programs in place and the instruction is there. She was impressed with the number of AP certified teachers and courses offered, the number of blended courses offered, and the unique extracurricular opportunities such as a French teacher and French club on campus and ballroom dancing. Typically when all those things are in place you have to look at the whole child and support provided for them outside of academics which she saw evidence of at BHS. She stated that college bound kids exist in this district and it boils down to a high teacher turnover rate and the importance of time to help grow teachers into teacher leaders. She offered to send further ideas for support from her office throughout the year.
14. BHS has already had two webinars from New Tech to support teachers. One was on creating a strong project rollout for all teachers and the other for math teachers who want to know more about using problem based learning. Teachers are encouraged to choose professional learning that supports their specific needs because as teachers learn and grow the overall student learning in the school improves.
15. Mr. Ashley, building principal is deconstructing state testing data from school year 2016-2017 to identify gaps in instruction and areas where we can push student achievement and remediation even further. There is a specific focus on building the math content knowledge, with the new addition of Tyler

Isbell, Instructional Facilitator more in depth analysis of math classrooms and scores can take place.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Don Jenkins, his crew, and SG 360 cleaning crew did an outstanding job having our schools ready to go for the first day of school!
2. Carolyn Barnes and her staff did an outstanding job the first week of school transporting our students to and from school. It is a huge task to get all of the bus routes and schedules ready for a new school year and the transportation team has done a great job getting this organized and rolling.
3. The state department did a surprise visit to food services the first week of school. However, even with the start of a new school year Tiffany Snyder and her staff passed with flying colors!
4. Thanks to many prayers it finally stopped raining and the construction on the football field is in full swing. The retaining wall is scheduled for completion Monday August 28; the soil cementing should start the next day. Soil cementing takes between three to four days and then we will be laying turf. The progress taking place is exciting and we should be ready for our first Blytheville High School home game! GO CHICKS! and please no more rain!

5. ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. July 24, 2017, Meeting
- B. July 31, 2017, Special Meeting
- C. July Financial Report
- D. Statement of Assurances
- E. Farm Lease
- F. Air Evac Renewal

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:20 p.m.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION At this time the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

7. OPEN SESSION After discussion, the Board came back into Open Session.

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Appointment of Certified Employees

Yolanda Taylor	Teacher	BPS
Raeven Thomas	Teacher	BMS

B. Recommendation of Classified Employees

Ernest Fowler	Crossing Guard	BMS
Sholanda Gates	Crossing Guard	BPS
Floyd Jean Moore	Paraprofessional	BPS

C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Veronica Spencer	Paraprofessional	BES
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D. Voluntary Resignation due to job abandonment

Yvette Chambers	Paraprofessional	BPS
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Barbara Wells and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept appointments and resignations as listed in A., B., C., and D. above.

7. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary