

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2009

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 2009, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tommy Bennett, Jr., President | (2) Lori Hixson, Vice President |
| (3) Billy Fair, Secretary | (4) Gene Henton |
| (5) Marrietta Jerome | (6) Steve White |
| (7) Carlony Lewis | (8) Tracey Ritchey |

Others present for the meeting: Jean Cole, Donald Davis, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Diana Holmes, Priscilla Johnson, Eric Miles, Bryan Ryals, Ron Self, Kelvin Tisdell, and Carol White. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet, and others whose names were illegible.)

1. CALL TO ORDER President Bennett called the meeting for the month of December 2009 to order at 6:10 p.m., following a serenade of Christmas songs by the American Red Cross singers, given to the Board by the Greater Blytheville Chamber of Commerce.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with all members present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

 A. Sharon Turney, Blytheville Middle School teacher, introduced following members of the school's Bible Club: Marcia Ferguson, Jalyn McDonald, Quanisha Taylor, and Seth Thompson, and parent, Sandra Winfrey. The students and parent told something about the club. The club meets on Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

 A. Superintendent's Report

 1. The Christmas luncheon will be served at the school cafeterias on Wednesday, December 16. Meal cards were placed in Board folders.

 2. On Wednesday, December 16, the superintendent will be a guest on the Mighty Mike Show at 7:30 a.m. on the KAMJ radio station.

3. The next State of the Schools Address will be given on Thursday, December 17, at 6:00 pm. at Nehemiah Temple at 124 West McHaney Street.
4. Each school has a data wall showing student progress. There has been a shift from the number of students who scored below basic to those who scored basic and proficient. This shows our instructional practices are working. Everyone is working hard toward improvement and being accountable. Board members may contact academic coaches for additional information.
5. The district's Gifted and Talented Program Application has been given conditional approval, awaiting final verification of the October 1 enrollment counts.
6. The superintendent is checking curriculum logs at Central Elementary School, Blytheville Intermediate School, Blytheville Middle School, and Blytheville High School to make certain that everyone is doing their part in school improvement. JBHM Education Group is requiring principals to make a minimum of twenty visits per week to classrooms. Instruction is most important.
7. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Gene Henton that the Board authorize the school board president and the superintendent to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sign the agreement on behalf of the school board allowing the Blytheville School District to participate in Race to the Top.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Baldwin & Shell Construction Company will refund the district approximately \$44,000 due to differences between the estimate on bids received and actual cost.
9. Due to a decrease in the district's wealth index, the percent that the district will have to pay for facilities partnerships went from 41 percent to 36.6 percent.

B. Instructional Reports

Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

1. Central Elementary received a School Recognition Award grant in the amount of \$14,615 for growth made in mathematics and literacy scores. The grant will be used to purchase laptop computers so that teachers can work on test data at home rather than during school instructional time.

2. Board members were encouraged to see the data walls so that they can see how our students are progressing in each class.

C. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

Board members were given a copy of the capital project summary, which is a part of the district's Ten-Year Master Plan. The procedure and tool used for submitting the Master Plan to the Arkansas Department of Education were outlined. Nine percent of the total budget must be used for maintenance and operation. Many of the projects in the summary cannot be done without a millage increase; therefore, we must continue to do maintenance and preventive maintenance to the existing facilities. Superintendent Atwill stated that the district will need to wait until 2012 to consider a millage increase for a new cafeteria at Central Elementary School.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the November 16, 2009, Meeting
- B. Minutes of the November 17, 2009, Special Meeting
- C. November Financial Report

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve items as listed in A., B., and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- D. Resolution for Ten-Year Facility Master Plan

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Steve White that the Board approve the item as listed in D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Resignation of Certified Employee

Candice Darnell	Grade 5	BIS
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- B. Appointment of Certified Employee

Rachel Lynn	Grade 5	BIS
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C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Louis Bedford	Custodian	BMS
Billie Fernandez	Paraprofessional	BIS

D. Appointment of Classified Employee

Kizzie Lucas	Bus Driver	SVC
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Tracey Ritchey that the Board accept the resignations and appointments as listed in A., B., C. and D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary