

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2010

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on January 25, 2010, with the following members present:

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

The following member was absent: Billy Fair, Secretary

Others present for the meeting: Alexis Bivens, Carla Bivens, Carla Bowers, Thomas Bowers, Kim Brown, Don Burns, Dwayne Culp, Donald Davis, Venice Evans, Mayor Barrett Harrison, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), James Tony Hollis, Mary Hopkins, Brenda Hubbard, David Humphrey, Marva Jackson, Vera James, Priscilla Johnson, Alexandra Jones, Carter Jones, Holden Jones, Matthew Jones, Shannon Jones, Bailee McCustion, Cynthia McCustion, Amy McGrain, Beth McGrain, Rose Nichols, Chaudhu Panda, Tracy Plunkett, Sandra Spikes, Veda Struble, Kim Tate, Paula Tiffany, Kelvin Tisdell, Dr. Tommie Westbrook, Jr., Inez Whitaker, Mikylon Weaver, David Wohl, and Janie Wohl. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet.)

1. CALL TO ORDER President Bennett called the meeting for the month of January 2010 to order.

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

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

4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION
 - A. Sandra Spikes, Gifted and Talented Program teacher, and several Blytheville Primary School students showcased the program. Second-grade students—Alexis Bivens, Thomas Bowers, Holden Jones, and Amita Panda—read from a copy of the “Declaration of Independence” penned in their own words using blueberry ink. First-grade students—Bailee McCustion, Amy McGrain, Mikylon Weaver, and Carlos Wells—demonstrated science experiments for the Board.

 - B. Superintendent Atwill told Board members that five students qualified for the All Region Band and participated in the All Region Band Clinic last weekend at Arkansas State University. The students were: Pershauna Johnson (flute), Shawnequa Clark (clarinet), Nikcole Merritt (bass clarinet), Marvelous

White (clarinet), and Londyn Payne (clarinet). Last year, only two students from Blytheville qualified, showing progress is being made in band.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. In recognition of School Board Appreciation Week, Mayor Barrett Harrison read a proclamation proclaiming January 24-30 as Blytheville School Board Member Week.
2. Blytheville Primary School's Parent/Teacher Organization had a cake made to honor the Board. Principal Veda Struble presented each Board member with a folder of thank you notes, which were completed as a second-grade literacy project. Board members also received a gift bag from the school.
3. There was good community support for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program held at Arkansas Northeastern College on Monday, January 18.
4. The superintendent will give the next State of the Schools Address on Thursday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ritz Civic Center.
5. Arkansas Supreme Court Judges will hear oral arguments on the morning of April 8 at Arkansas Northeastern College. In the afternoon, they will visit the district's schools.
6. The district is in the process of preparing an athletic handbook. It should be completed by the end of the semester.
7. The Facilities 10-year Master Plan has been sent to Chad Davison, who will review the plan and make the final submission to the Arkansas Department of Education.
8. Governor Beebe spoke about American Recovery and Reimbursement Act funds at the Superintendent's Symposium in Little Rock last week. The Title I and Title VI-B portions of the funds will not change; however, the stabilization funds will take quite a hit. The district is on schedule in spending the 67 percent allocated for this year, but will not spend or encumber any of next year's funds at this time.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

- a. The district will have a Standards Review on Tuesday, February 9. An eight-member team will visit the schools and administrative offices. The schools and administration have been preparing documentation for the Review. A positive report is expected.
- b. The report from the Blytheville Middle School Scholastic Audit Report is expected to be given to Superintendent Atwill on Monday, February 1.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

There are six Supplemental Education Service Providers tutoring students after school and on weekends.

C. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

- a. New canopies are up from the building to the front drive at Blytheville Kindergarten Center.
- b. A canopy for the front of the building and two in the back of the building will be bid on Tuesday for Blytheville Primary School.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the December 14, 2009, Meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 19, 2010, Special Meeting
- C. December Financial Report
- D. Change March Meeting Date to March 29

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Steve White and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board approve items as listed in A., B., C., and D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

8. OPEN SESSION

The Board came back into open session and took the following actions:

A. Appointment of Certified Employee

Kelly Hearn	Speech Pathologist	BIS
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B. Retirement of Certified Employee (end of 2009-2010)

Jo Ann Van Pelt	Mathematics	BMS/BHS
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C. Retirement of Classified Employee (end of 2009-2010)

Wanda Kemp	Director of Finance	District
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion as made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board accept the appointment and retirements as listed in A., B., and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Extension of Superintendent's Contract

Upon a motion by Marrietta Jerome and a second by Tracey Ritchey, the Board voted to extend the contract of Mr. Richard Atwill, as superintendent of the Blytheville School District, for one year. The new, three-year contract will begin July 1, 2010, and end June 30, 2013.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary