

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, June 28, 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 June 28, 2010, 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: Tommy Abbott, Clarinda Abbott, Jean Cole, Donald Davis, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Christie Kennedy, and Danny Quick.

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

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

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

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Candidates for school board positions may begin circulating petitions on June 23. Petitions may be filed from July 16 until noon on July 23. Board members for Mrs. Jerome's and Mrs. Hixson's zones will be decided at the September 21 election.
2. Tracy Plunkett was selected as the 2010 Arkansas Mentor of Year. Mrs. Plunkett, who is a teacher at Blytheville Primary School, will receive a \$1,000 award.
3. A Parental Involvement/Technology Integration Calendar for 2010-2011 was distributed to Board members. The calendar, which begins with a Back-to-School Bash on August 15, provides for many opportunities to get involved in district activities.
4. Sixty students have already applied for the after-school program sponsored by Tenaris. The program, which begins on September 7, is an intervention program to improve student success and test scores. Students must attend each day on Monday through Thursday from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Snacks and transportation will be provided.

5. Projects have been completed at Blytheville High School, as follows: plumbing repair in the cafeteria, floor replacement in the library, asbestos removal and floor repair in the science lab, and installation of wiring in the computer lab.
6. The walk-through has been completed for the roofing project at Blytheville Intermediate School.
7. The outside walls at Blytheville Kindergarten Center and Blytheville Primary School will be sealed to prevent water seepage, which has been occurring since the buildings were constructed.
8. A new air conditioner compressor will be installed at Blytheville Middle School.
9. The playground at Central Elementary School is 75 percent complete.

B. Safety Report

Ron Self, Safety Coordinator

1. A new fire alarm system is being installed at Blytheville Intermediate School. A new sound system is being installed in the Blytheville High School Auditorium. These projects were funded with stimulus money.
2. The district has saved \$250,000 by using district employees to install security cameras.
3. The GREAT and DARE programs will be more visible in schools. The Blytheville Police Department has seized a truck and re-designed it as a DARE vehicle.
4. It may be possible to save the district money by changing security systems. The new system could be armed, disarmed, and monitored remotely. The system could also be tied to fire alarms and security alarms. There will be 80 cameras added this year and an additional 25 next year.

C. Instructional Reports

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

- a. The district has a comprehensive K-12 literacy program, which includes reading, writing, and English. The district's teachers are very well trained in comprehensive literacy strategies.

- b. Students receive hands-on mathematics instruction. The curriculum is standards based.
- c. JBHM Education Group is working with academic coaches and teachers at Blytheville High School, Blytheville Middle School, Blytheville Intermediate School, and Central Elementary School to improve test scores.
- d. Several administrators and academic coaches will be attending a four-day workshop in San Antonio in July entitled, "Teaching with Poverty in Mind." Information learned at the workshop will be presented to the staff during the pre-school workshops. Books have been purchased for all teachers. On October 29, the book's author, Eric Jensen, will be in Blytheville for staff development and will also hold a session for parents at noon.
- e. Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative will conduct Classroom Walk-through training for monitoring strategies on a daily basis. The training will be held at Blytheville Middle School on July 26-28. Administrators, principals, assistant principals, and academic coaches will attend the training.
- f. Test scores for 2009-2010 were given to the Board. Improvement is being made at every grade level because of programs which are in place. The district is headed in the right direction.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

The district is awaiting final approval from the Arkansas Department Education for the Arkansas Better Chance Grant. Blytheville Kindergarten Center is currently enrolling students for the 40 pre-school slots.

5. 2011-2012 BUDGET

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Lori Hixson to adopt the Proposed Budget of Expenditures with Tax Levy for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2011, to and including June 30, 2012, as printed.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the May 24, 2010, Meeting
- B. May Financial Report

C. Appoint Superintendent Atwill Ex-officio Financial Secretary for 2010-2011

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

8. OPEN SESSION

After discussion, the board came back into open session and took the following personnel actions:

A. Resignation of Certified Employees (2009-2010)

Ruth Banta	Literacy	BMS
Melanie Bell	Grade 3	CES
Jackie Camp	Math Coach	BPS
Ashley Gallant	Grade 4	CES
Michael Nave	Mathematics	BHS
Matthew Page	PE/Coach	BIS
Christopher Pegg	PE/Coach	BHS
Anita Shemwell	Grade 5	BIS
Charlie Sullivan	Social Studies	BHS
Robert Tucker	Asst. Band Director	BHS
Erica Wilson	Kindergarten	BKC

B. Retirement of Certified Employee (2009-2010)

Sue Jeffers	Counselor	BHS
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C. Appointment of Certified Employees (2010-2011)

Tayotis Caldwell	Grade 6	BIS
Erika Easley	Literacy	BMS
Ryan Easley	PE/Coach	BMS
Natalie Fant	Science	BHS
Carlecia Gentry	Grade 4	CES
Donna Harris	Counselor	BMS
Codie Huffman	Grade 1	BPS
Keelen Newsom	Mathematics	BMS
Mary Poppelreiter	Asst. Band Director	BHS
Sean Puckett	Science	BMS
Mark Quearry	Social Studies	BHS
Rachel Redican	Art	BPS
Charlie Sullivan	Dean of Students	BHS
Chad Wheeler	English	BHS
Shane Wright	Health/Coach	BHS

D. Resignation of Classified Employees (2009-2010)

Lori Ellis	Nurse	CES
Chad Wheeler	Paraprofessional	BCS

E. Retirement of Classified Employee (2009-2010)

Fannie Mitchell	Cafeteria	BMS
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F. Appointment of Classified Employees (2010-2011)

Kim Burton	Bus Driver	SVC
Adolfo Gonzalez	ESL Tutor	DIST
Rhonda Hodges	Nurse	BKC/BPS
Michael Pearce	Bus Mechanic	SVC

G. Appointment of Classified Employee (2010-2011, one year only)

Cassandra Quearry	Math Interventionist	BPS
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H. Termination of Classified Employees (2009-2010)

Tommy Coleman	Scholarship Foundation Coordinator	ADM
Demetria Hursey	Literacy Clerk	BPS

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marietta Jerome and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board accept the appointments, resignations, retirement, and terminations as listed in A. – H. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. STUDENTS
ATTENDING
OUT OF
DISTRICT
SCHOOLS

The Board discussed students who live in the district but who are attending schools out of the district. Board members will get the names of those students to Superintendent Atwill, who will address the issue with the appropriate superintendents.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary