

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, March 29, 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 March 29, 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: Jean Cole, Donald Davis, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Jennifer Hopper, Ezell Jackson, Wanda Kemp, Suzanne Kenner, Cathy Lee, Florence McDowel, Gloria Richardson, Kristi Rose, Juanita Russell, Bruce Shaffer, Taryn Smith, Kevin Snow, Anna Treadway, Courtney Votaw, Amie Wells, and Deotha Young. (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 March 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. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

 A. Kristi Rose, Media/Communications Specialist for the TRiO program, updated the Board regarding programs available to area students. The program, which serves disadvantaged students in grades 6-12, is designed to encourage students to finish high school and enroll in post-secondary institutions. In addition to counseling, students receive assistance with college admissions, scholarships, and financial aid programs. Board members were given a brochure outlining the various programs.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

 A. Superintendent's Report

 1. Ron Self, School Safety Coordinator, updated the Board on what is being done to keep students safe. He included information on the crisis plan, bus safety, Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T), automated external defibrillator training, metal detectors, crossing guards, student identification card tracking system, and cameras. He also stated that on September 8, the Criminal Justice

Institute in Little Rock will present a program regarding gang intervention and prevention at the multi-purpose building.

2. Tenaris will partner with the Blytheville School District in an after-school program to be held at Blytheville Primary School. The program will meet four days per week for three hours per day and will include character education and improving academic skills. Tenaris will hire a coordinator for the program, which will begin in August with 150 first-grade students. The program will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a waiting list available.
3. Participation in Parent-Teacher Conferences was seventy-five percent in the fall, but only sixty-five percent in the spring. Parents of students in kindergarten through fourth grades, who did not attend the conferences, will be contacted.
4. Benchmark testing will begin on April 12 for grades 3 - 8. End-of-course exams will be given later in the month.
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. Interviewing for the head high school football coach is going well.
7. The next State of the Schools Address will be given on May 13 at 6:00 p.m. Location has not yet been determined.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services
 - a. The district received a passing grade of 5.43 on a recent monitoring visit for the pre-school program.
 - b. Budget training for the Arkansas Better Chance Grant was held during spring break. Next year's application will be submitted within the next three weeks.
2. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent
 - a. Tomorrow, the district leadership team will attend a workshop in Jonesboro presented by Dr. Howie Knoff entitled, "Facilitating School Improvement and Strategic Planning for Student Success."
 - b. Norm-referenced tests for grades K, 1, 2, and 9 will be given on April 5 - 9. Benchmark testing will

be given for grades 3 - 8 the following week. These tests are considered high-stake tests because they determine if a school will meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Good results are expected.

- c. "All that Jazz", a K-12 fine arts program, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, at Arkansas Northeastern College. The program will feature student art, music and band. Flashbax Cafe will provide refreshments.
- d. Family Literacy Night will be held on Thursday, April 1, at Blytheville Middle School. Mr. Atwill will be in the dunking booth.
- e. School will be in session on Friday, April 2. This is a make-up day due to snow.

C. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

- 1. Work continues on the canopies at Blytheville Primary School and Central Elementary School.
- 2. The new roof at Blytheville Charter School looks nice. Work is progressing on the windows.
- 3. The HVAC units are being installed at Blytheville Intermediate School.
- 4. The new fire alarm systems for the T& I and band buildings at Blytheville High School will be bid tomorrow.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the February 22, 2010, Meeting
- B. Minutes of March 16, 2010, Special Meeting
- C. February Financial Report
- D. District-Wide School Safety and Crisis Plan
- E. 2008-2009 Certified Salary Schedule (\$25 underpayment)
- F. 2009-2010 Certified Salary Schedule
- G. 2009-2010 Paraprofessional Salary Schedule 60-96
- H. 2009-2010 Paraprofessional Salary Schedule 24-48 (with this schedule being eliminated after June 30, 2010)

- I. 2009-2010 Nurse Salary Schedule
- J. One Percent Increase for Administrators
- K. One Percent Increase for Classified Employees, excluding Paraprofessionals and Nurses
- L. 2010-2011 School Calendar

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marietta Jerome and seconded by Tracey Ritchey that the Board approve items as listed in A. – L. 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 personnel actions:

A. Reappointment of Principals (2010-2011)

Bobby Ashley
 Geneva Harris
 Ann Lewis
 Veda Struble
 Mike Wallace
 Gregg Yarbrough

B. Reappointment of Assistant Principals (2010-2011)

Willie Branch
 Alvin Clay
 Donald Davis
 Louise Davis
 Dee Keiter
 Paul Stubblefield
 Paula Tiffany
 Chanda Walker

C. Retirement of Administrator (end of 2009-2010)

Emma Gathen	Principal	CES
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D. Retirement of Certified Employees (end of 2009-2010)

Janis Holder	Grade 3	CES
Oma Robbins	Literacy	BMS
Mary Jane Van Horn	Counselor	BMS

E. Resignation of Certified Employee (end of 2009-2010)

Rachel Lynn	Grade 5	BIS
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F. Appointment of Certified Employee (2010-2011)

Deborah Patterson	Special Education	BIS
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G. Resignation of Classified Employees

Anita Cox	Cafeteria	BKC
Diana Davis	Paraprofessional	BMS
Rebecca Simmons	Cafeteria	BPS
Viola Smith	Cafeteria	BHS
John White	Paraprofessional	BHS

H. Appointment of Classified Employees

Amanda Bloodworth	Bookkeeper	ADM
Sholonda Thompson	Paraprofessional	BMS

I. Retirement of Classified Employees (end of 2009-2010)

Norman Kemp	Warehouse Manager	SVS
Ruth King	Nurse	BKC/BPS

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Marrietta Jerome that the Board approve items as listed in A. – I. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary