

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, October 26, 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 October 26, 2009, with the following members present:

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

The following member was absent: Tommy Bennett, Jr., President

Others present for the meeting: James Bragg, Kim Brown, Jean Cole, Dianne Diamond, Priscilla Fowler, Jennifer Haley, Bruce Hay, Diane Hay, Jay Henderson, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Ken Jackson, Idell Jenkins, Curtis Johnson, Priscilla Johnson, Shannon Jones, Gregg Kemp, Suzanne Kenner, Susannah King, Mary Helen Moody, Ron Self, Carolyn Stewart, Carolyn Stokes, Veda Struble, Kelvin Tisdale, Carol White, Joy Wicker, and Sharon Young. (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                      Vice President Hixson called the regular meeting for the month of October to order.
  
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM                      A quorum was established with six members present; however, Steve White arrived during 4. B., making seven members present.
  
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE                      The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  
4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION
  - A. On behalf of the Board and Executive Director of the United Way of Greater Blytheville, Jay Henderson presented a wood-carved Chickasaw head to the Blytheville School District.
  
  - B. Kathy Byers, Blytheville High School teacher, presented choir members who performed "Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones" and "Together We Are One" for the Board and guests.
  
  - C. Principal Veda Struble introduced Shannon Jones, Blytheville Primary School art teacher. Ms. Jones showed the Board a PowerPoint presentation outlining the school's art program.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

### A. Superintendent's Report

1. The Board was given a copy of a report from a meeting held with Doug Eaton, ADE Facilities and Transportation Director, to discuss the failed millage and the district's master plan. The district will be able to continue with the planned projects, except the cafeteria and kitchen at Central Elementary School.
2. Pam Pruettt has been selected as the PRIDE Award recipient by the National Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences. She will be honored at the FACS Division Awards Ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday, November 20. She will receive a \$300 compensation for her outstanding work.
3. There were 68 in attendance last Thursday for the Arkansas School Boards Association Region 7 Meeting at the district's multi-purpose building on Byrum Road. Horace Smith, ASBA Director of Board Development, showed a DVD outlining new Arkansas school laws.
4. The October 1 enrollment count was 3,022, which was down 78 students from last year's count.
5. In the past, raises were recommended in November and given in December. Since the amount of trust fund allocation is subject to change by spring, raises will not be recommended until then. When given, raises will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2009-2010 contract.

### B. Report to the Public

#### 1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

The district's primary academic focus is in literacy and math with reading, writing, and comprehension strategies being emphasized in all content areas. Three priorities have been set for this year—improving student academic performance, improving student attendance, and improving student behavior. Information regarding goals, academic progress, AYP status, district accreditation, federal allocations, special needs funding, the Challenge Program, competitive beverage contract, body mass index, and wellness, was shared with the Board. Board member training hours for January 1–December 31, 2008, were reported in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-629.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

The goal of the Title I program is "No Child Left Behind." This year's estimated budget is \$3,204,417. The program supports administrative costs, the parent/teacher center, five support staff, 49 paraprofessionals, five teachers, three literacy coaches, 1.5 math coaches, and the preschool program. The program also supports various activities and staff development, as well as other district programs.

C. Instructional Report

Suzanne Kenner updated the Board on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. To date, 51 percent of the Title I funds have been spent, 62 percent of the IDEA funds have been spent, and 47 percent of the stabilization funds have been spent.

D. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt—Executive Director of Operations

1. Bids were awarded last Thursday for the electrical receptacles project.
2. Bids will be opened this week for the windows and HVAC projects at Blytheville Charter School/ALC.
3. Bids will be opened next week for the windows and HVAC projects at Blytheville Intermediate School.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the September 28, 2009, meeting
- B. September Financial Report
- C. Gifted and Talented Policy Handbook
- D. Revised Budget for 2009-2010
- E. Change November Meeting Date to November 16 and Meeting Place to Blytheville Charter School/ALC
- F. Change December Meeting to December 14

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Steve White that the Board approve the items as listed in A. (with corrections), B., C., D., E., and F. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Resignation of Classified Employees

Barbara Howard	Paraprofessional	BKC
Amy Parks	Interventionist	BKC/BPS

### B. Appointment of Classified Employees

Tina Parks	Clerk	BPS
Amy Parker	Paraprofessional	BKC

### C. Appointment of Classified Employee (2009-2010 only)

Lou Riggs	Interventionist	BKC/BPS
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Steve White and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board accept the resignations and appointments as listed in A., B., and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary