

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 28, 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 September 28, 2009, with the following members present:

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

Others present for the meeting: Amanda Atwill, Norma J. Bell, Kathy Bobo, Lynette Bowman, K. Brown, Effie Collins, Dora Conley, J. C. Crain, Jean Cole, Donald Davis, Louise Davis, Jennifer Haley, L. C. Hartsfield, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Kevin Hilton, James Tony Hollis, Margaret Holloway, Vera James, Idell Jenkins, Priscilla Johnson, Mary A. Jones, Suanne Kenner, Ann Lewis, Ollie Lofton, Tracy Marshall, Jill Mazar, Inez McWhitaker, Rose Nichols, Venita Nichols, Janice Owers, Kurt Palmore, Regina Reynolds, Jackie Seals, Ron Self, Penny Sims, Carolyn Stokes, Bill Sullivan, LaShonda Sutton, Kelvin Tisdell, Mark Warren, and Barbara Wells. (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 Jerome called the regular meeting for the month of September 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

Ann Lewis, Principal, Blytheville Charter School/ALC

Blytheville Charter School/ALC has grown from ten students in 1999 to 103 students this fall. The school is a model in the state. It is successful because it incorporates three elements: the charter program, the alternative program, and the Department of Workforce Education.

A clip of a KAIT-8 news story highlighting the Pro-Start Program was shown. Students Kurt Palmore and LaShonda Sutton shared with the Board what it has meant to them to attend Blytheville Charter School/ALC.

5. HONORING
BOARD
MEMBERS On behalf of the Blytheville Board of Education, Ollie Lofton was honored with a plaque for 12 years of service, and Bill Sullivan was honored with a plaque for 22 years of service.

. WELCOMING
BOARD
MEMBERS

Carlony Lewis and Tracey Ritchey were welcomed as newly-elected Board members. Billy Fair was welcomed as a re-elected Board member. President Jerome read an excerpt from the Arkansas School Boards Association Handbook for Arkansas School Board Members regarding Board member duties and responsibilities.

7. CITIZEN TO ADDRESS BOARD

James Hollis requested to speak to the Board regarding the district's hiring and selection process. He distributed copies of the district's 2008 Minority Recruitment Plan and copies of Arkansas Statute 6-17-1901, Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan and Arkansas Statute 6-17-1902, Equity Assistance Center—Coordination and Contents of Plan. His concern was the recruiting and hiring of minority teachers and administrators for the district.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. The Blytheville High School Chickasaws will play Nettleton at the Homecoming game on Friday, October 2. The Board was given a listing of the week's activities.
2. Author Dr. Michael Shoulders spoke to the students at Blytheville Primary School, Central Elementary School, Blytheville Intermediate School, and the Chamber of Commerce today. Students in grades 3-6 received a book and backpack through a U.S. Census Bureau program. Mary Gay Shipley and Charles Betts were instrumental in arranging Dr. Shoulders' visit.
3. An AdvancEd Conference was held on September 21 in Little Rock, at which time the district was among 22 districts to receive certificates for obtaining AdvancEd accreditation. The accreditation visit was held last March. Sandy Hughey and Suzanne Kenner were commended for work done which allowed the district to receive district-wide accreditation.
4. Baldwin and Shell Construction Company will install electrical outlets in 178 classrooms to power projectors and Smart Boards purchased with stimulus funds.
5. The Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is going well at Blytheville Kindergarten Center, Blytheville Primary School, Blytheville Middle School, and Blytheville High School. The program will be added at Central Elementary School in the spring.

B. Instructional Reports

A. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

1. Work is nearly completed on the district ACSIP plans which are due on October 1.
2. The district's annual report to the public will be given at the October Board meeting.
3. The district received a technical visit to help with SMART Accountability for schools in Year 4 and Year 5 of School Improvement.
4. JBHM Education Group continues to assist the district in the School Improvement process.
5. Superintendent Atwill, Bobby Ashley, Mike Wallace, and she will attend a meeting in Conway on Wednesday, September 30, to discuss SMART Accountability.

B. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Operations

1. The district is finalizing ACSIP plans.
2. The district's Minority Recruitment Plan will be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education by October 15.

C. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

1. The Blytheville High School Gymnasium floor is finished. The floor is beautiful, and we are proud of it.
2. The Arkansas Department of Education approved a partnership for the roof at Blytheville Charter School/ALC in the amount of \$267,000. The bid for the project was \$212,140, of which the district will pay approximately \$90,000.
3. The new fire alarm system is being installed at Blytheville High School.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The minutes of the August 24, 2009, meeting were approved as written.

- B. The minutes of the August 31, 2009, special meeting were approved a written.
- C. The August financial report was approved as presented.
- D. Election of Board Officers

- 1. Office of President

Lori Hixson nominated Tommy Bennett for the Office of President.

Gene Henton nominated Steve White for the Office of President. Mr. White declined the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, President Jerome called for a vote to elect Tommy Bennett as President by acclamation, which was approved by unanimous vote.

At this time, Tommy Bennett took over as President of the Board.
(correction 10/26/09)

- 2. Office of Vice President

Billy Fair nominated Lori Hixson for the Office of Vice President.

As there were no other nominations, President ~~Jerome~~ Bennett called for a vote to elect Lori Hixson as Vice President by acclamation, which was approved by unanimous vote.

- 3. Office of Secretary

Steve White nominated Billy Fair for the Office of Secretary.

Gene Henton nominated Carlony Lewis for the Office of Secretary.

President ~~Jerome~~ Bennett called for a vote for Billy Fair. Tommy Bennett, Billy Fair, Lori Hixson, Marrietta Jerome, Tracey Ritchey, and Steve White voted for Billy Fair.

President ~~Jerome~~ Bennett called for a vote for Carlony Lewis.

Gene Henton and Carlony Lewis voted for Carlony Lewis.

Billy Fair was elected Secretary by a vote of 6-2.

~~At this time, Tommy Bennett took over as President of the Board.~~

E. Resolution to Appoint Primary Board Disbursing Officer

Upon a motion by Marrietta Jerome and a second by Billy Fair, the Board approved a resolution to appoint Tommy Bennett to serve as primary board disbursing officer of the district pursuant to Act 671 of 2003.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

F. Budget for 2009-2010

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve the 2009-2010 budget as presented.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

G. Title VI-B Budget

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Marrietta Jerome that the Board approve the 2009-2010 Title VI-B (special services) budget as presented.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

H. Farm Land Bids

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Tracey Ritchey that the Board accept the bids of \$44,017.80 per year for Bid No. 1 and \$35,988.75 per year for Bid No. 2, which were submitted by Langston Gin Company for the school land rent, commencing January 1, 2010, and ending at midnight, December 31, 2012.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

I. Beverage Agreement

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marrietta Jerome and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board approve the beverage agreement with Pepsi MidAmerica Company, entered into on August 12, 2009, for four years.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

J. ACSIP Assurance Statement

Upon a motion by Marrietta Jerome and a second by Tracey Ritchey, the Board approved the set of assurances

and authorized Superintendent Atwill to sign such assurances as required by Section 9306 and approved to submit an Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (application) to the Arkansas Department of Education as required by Section 9305.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

K. Policies for Consideration

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve revisions, deletions, and additions to the district policy manual as presented.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Appointment of Certified Employees

Lisa Austin	Counselor	BHS
Marcie Woods	Grade 6	BIS

B. Resignation of Certified Employee

Melanie Key	Grade 6	BIS
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C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Angie Hill	Clerk	BPS
Frankie Potts	Secretary	BPS

D. Appointment of Classified Employees

Billie Fernandez	Paraprofessional	BIS
Angie Hill	Secretary	BPS

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Marietta Jerome and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board accept the appointments and resignations as listed in A. – D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary