

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, August 22, 2016
6:00 p.m.

The Blytheville Board of Education met in a special meeting at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on August 22, 2016, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tommy Bennett, President | (2) Tracey Ritchey, Vice-President |
| (3) Barbara Wells, Secretary | (4) Erin Carrington |
| (5) Billy Fair | (6) Desmond Hammett |
| (7) Tobey Johnson | |

The following member was absent:

- (1) Henrietta Watt

Others present: Paul Jenkins, Geneva Harris, Dorothy Anderson, Nina Watson, Linda Williams, Chanel Moton, Joseph Fowler, Lori Hixson, Johnny Wright, Tamiki Jenkins, Ben Fisher, J. Benson, Tracey Plunkett, Jennifer Bennett, Brice Leaks, Allison Turner, Sherry Prunty, Chavis Spann, Cametriss Spann, Cecil McDonald, Chelsea Grimes and Brandon Harper.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of August 2016 to order at 6:04 p.m. |
| 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 | A. Allison Turner, Community Development Coordinator
Open House Report |

Mrs. Turner introduced Lori Hixson, parent of BHS New Tech student, Maddie Hixson to speak on her experience at First Things First. Mrs. Hixson thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to attend more meetings and to be involved. Mrs. Hixson expressed how glad she was that BMS had implemented a similar event.

The day began in the cafeteria, and then parents, mentors and students moved to the auditorium. Mr. Bobby Ashley, Principal gave expectations from the staff for the new school year. There were over three hundred guardians/mentors in attendance. We have to be there

as a community. We need to be there for our children. Mrs. Hixson went over Echo, a tool parents can use to keep up with their children and the possibility of working to train parents while the students are at homework hotline.

Mrs. Turner expressed how proud we what our school district offers. Our teachers are invested, we are proud of how this school year has begun and support will continue.

B. Ben Fisher, Head Football Coach

We had a great season last year. We had eighteen seniors out of which fifteen who will be attending college. This year we have ten seniors and we are up by eleven kids for a total of fifty six players. Four years ago we had twenty-eight. We have big, fast players, just not as experienced.

Strength of team is offensive line that is where your success is. Three out of five students started last year. Four have experience and our juniors. They are doing well grade wise and being respectful. We want our guys to be a good example in the hallways. We want to keep our kids from getting down, keep their heads, and stay positive.

Tomorrow night is a pre-scrimmage game at Pocahontas.

We received the 5A Sportsmanship Award this year, which was very special since we also had a great season last year.

Sports help with discipline and grades.

Four years ago the "Peanut Butter Locker" was started my Coach McCrosky. We are always accepting peanut butter and gift cards for bread. We do not want anyone going home hungry.

Thursday nights is family night. Courtney Fisher, Tracey Plunkett, and Misty Manrique help and have sponsors for each meal. It is wonderful!

Coach Fisher was recognized as 5A Coach of the Year - All Star Football.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Thank you for your prayers for Markita Jackson. Mrs. Jackson passed away yesterday. She ran the Parent Center. Anything you need for students is available and is free. It will be very hard to replace someone as wonderful

as Mrs. Jackson.

2. School Board cooks for the Chicks on September 2nd.
3. The first four games are home games. Tailgating is allowed at BMS. No alcohol is allowed. You can set up tents, have fun and support the Chickasaws.
4. Funding for last year was received the first week of August.
5. Football schedules have been forwarded to Board Members and paper copies are also available.
6. Erin Carrington requested a copy of the 2016-2017 calendar, on behalf of Lt. Governor Tim Griffin who appeared in the calendar this year.
7. I cannot sing the praises to the Leadership Team and Principals. The beginning of school has been incredibly smooth, fantastic and I am very pleased.
8. Superintendent Atwill invited Board Members and community to visit schools. Children have taken responsibility about wanting to come to school.
9. Marshal Hughes, Beardsley Finance, will come and do a two hour financial training that will count toward Boardsmanship.

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Working with Leadership Academy, principals, and teachers. Joe Franks, Arkansas Leadership Academy has already given us a glowing report. We have an incredible organization here to support adults as well as students. Mr. Franks would like to report to the Board at the September meeting.
2. It is very important that we support our staff. We had fewer new teachers this year. Thirty eight out of two hundred sixty. We work hard to support them prior to school starting. The first year is a very difficult transition as a new teacher. We will survey them to find any gaps. We do not want anyone slipping through the cracks. Instructional facilitators are strong; mentors have been assigned.
3. I have met nonstop every day, all day. The five core beliefs we want to focus on throughout the year are strategies that benefit out students, relationships are

essential, collaboration as standard operating procedure, community is a vital partner in our process, and innovation and creativity are the norms.

4. Information will be coming in as we start to analyze ACT Inspire. Mr. Paul Jenkins and I are going to a meeting in two weeks and hope to get solid information. More detailed report will be coming.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. We are in 100% compliance with Arkansas Department of Education. Self contained one on one in all areas Medical fragile students (one teacher per ten students.) We meet the needs of our students.
2. 504 Students modifications and accommodations are annually reviewed.
3. This is my twenty-eighth year; the first that we have had five different languages in our English Language Learners. We have Arabic, West African, Vietnamese, Hispanic and English.
4. Rosetta Stone has a new program, a translation app that will translate student. Still learning English, but we can use for emergency.
5. We want to set-up in the Parent Center where ELL parents can also learn English.
6. Would like to look at data on discipline and figure out why the students act the way they do. Focusing in on implementing reports that will be given on progress.

Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Mr. Jumper wanted to tag in on the behavior piece. I always do team building and classroom management skills in the schools.
2. I am really excited about our faculty this year. You can feel the atmosphere changing for the better.
3. Kids have to feel that you care for them. They want to please you, not fear you.
4. In my five years as being Director of Facilities, it was best of years. Everything was without a hitch.

5. We get two thousand students to and from school every day.
6. From facility standpoint, everything is amazing. Everything was ready when school started. Great, great start to the school year.
7. We still need bus drivers. The pay is twenty dollars an hour and we train.

6. ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. July 25, 2016, Meeting
- B. August 4, 2016, Special Meeting
- C. August 15, 2016, Special Meeting
- D. July Financial Report
- E. Professional Services Agreement
- F. Policy 7.5 Purchases and Procurement

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fait to accept items as listed in A., B., C., D., E. and F. There was no second motion.

A motion was made by Erin Carrington and seconded by Barbara Wells to exclude item E and to vote on items A., B., C., D. & F.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:54 p.m.

A motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept items as listed in A., B., C., D., & F (excluding item E.)

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:54 p.m.

E. Professional Services Agreement

Superintendent Atwill stated he had submitted the contract with Mrs. Spears to promote transparency, that we are still providing the necessary educational scope and doing the right thing. It is in the best interest of the children.

A motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Desmond Hammett to table Item E. until there was more information.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:03 p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel recommendations.

A. Resignation of Classified Employees

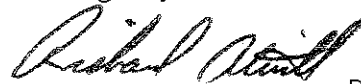
Tiffany Byrd	Food Service	BHS-New Tech
Tanya Ellis	Paraprofessional	BHS-ALE
Lucille Harris	Bus Driver	SVC
Rhonda Hodges	RN	BPS
Barbara Johnson	Paraprofessional	BES
Rhonda Lee	Paraprofessional	BPS
Sherry Williams	Food Service	BPS

B. Recommendation of Classified Employees

Angela McGee	Secretary	BPS
Tabitha Sawyer	Paraprofessional	BPS

8. The Board came back into Open Session at 8:45 p.m. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tracey Ritchey to accept items as listed in A. & B.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary