

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, August 27, 2012

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2012, 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) Carlony Lewis | (6) Tracey Ritchey |
| (7) Barbara Wells | (8) Tobey Johnson |

Others present for the meeting: Vera James, Ron Self, and Taura Taylor. (There were others present at the meeting who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet.)

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of August 2012 to order. |
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| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with all members present. |
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| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
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4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

Teryn Spears, Parental Involvement Coordinator/Technology Integration Specialist, gave a presentation regarding the Back-to-School Bash held on Sunday, August 19, on the Blytheville Intermediate School campus. There was a great response from parents, students, volunteers, staff, and sponsors.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. At this time, 2,565 students are enrolled in the Blytheville Public Schools. This represents a loss of approximately 240 from last year.
2. The district is a pilot school for ADE's new student management system, eSchoolPlus. There have been some technical issues, but the State is currently working to correct the issues.
3. The community has shown increased interest in getting involved in the schools. It is wonderful to see the community getting on board to support the schools.

4. "Meet the Chicks," a program to introduce the community to the coaches and players, was held on Monday, August 20.
5. The schools have expressed a desire to have School Spirit Day on Fridays. Pride could be promoted in the district by wearing school colors on those days. The Board agreed. School employees and students are encouraged to wear maroon shirts on Fridays.
6. Board members chose to cook for the team before the Homecoming game on Friday, October 12. Members were asked to be at Haley Field by 2:30 p.m.
7. Kudos to Barbara Wells for her recent "Letter to the Editor" in the *Blytheville Courier News*.

Instructional Reports

1. Principal Bobby Ashley reported on the positive aspects and benefits of the new Ninth Grade Academy. He stated that this had been the best start to school that he had ever experienced.
2. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum
 - a. There has been an overwhelmingly positive start to the school year.
 - b. Informational handouts were given to the Board regarding the new Common Core. The content is rich and engaging and provides project-based learning. Teachers and students are being trained in a new mindset. The Common Core website is www.commoncore.com.
 - c. Blytheville Primary School and Central Elementary School are out of School Improvement due to improved test scores. Blytheville High School and Blytheville Middle School are categorized as focus schools. Blytheville Intermediate School and Blytheville Charter School are categorized as priority schools. Blytheville Intermediate School made a 24-point gain in literacy. Blytheville Middle School met year-one exit criteria.
 - d. Information night for the College Prep Academy of the Delta will be held on Tuesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Arkansas Northeastern College. Kickoff for this year will be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 6:00 p.m. Classes will begin Saturday, October 6. Last year's freshmen will continue as sophomores. Four additional teachers have been added. Students

will attend nine Saturdays during the school year and two weeks during the summer.

3. Teryn Spears and Sally Cooke gave a presentation on the New Tech Network. Since funds are available at this time, Superintendent Atwill would like for the district to submit an application to open a conversion charter school for a New Tech High School.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Billy Fair to approve and support the New Tech Network and to submit to the Arkansas Department of Education a letter of intent to apply for a conversion charter school.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. There was a tremendous amount of work done during the summer to prepare for the beginning of school.
2. A new standard has been set with the cleaning crew. There is now accountability, and the schools are in great shape.
4. The district is working with Arkansas State University this year on PBIS. Coaches are being paid a stipend.
5. Bus 7 burned last Saturday. Fortunately, it was outside on the lot rather than in the bus shop.
6. Henson Fire Extinguisher Company is doing training for bus drivers.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the July 19, 2012, meeting
- B. July Financial Report
- C. Athletic Budget
- D. Policy 4.35—Student Medications

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board approve the items as listed in A., B., C. and D. above.

Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to consider the appointment and resignation of personnel.

8. OPEN SESSION

The Board came back into open session and took the following action:

A. Appointment of Licensed Employee

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| Debbie Cleveland | Special Education | BIS |
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B. Appointment of Classified Employees

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| Cathy Brown | Paraprofessional | CES |
| Nancy Hall | Paraprofessional | BCS |
| Celina Horner | Cafeteria | BPS |
| Blanton Jones | Bus Driver | SVC |
| Renetha Jordan | Cafeteria | BPS |
| Deborah Page | Bus Driver | SVC |
| John Robinson | Bus Driver | SVC |
| Pamela Washington | Paraprofessional | BHS |

C. Resignation of Classified Employees

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| Nancy Hall | Paraprofessional | BCS |
| Stevie Patton | Paraprofessional | BPS |

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board accept the appointments and resignations as listed in A., B., and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary