

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2013

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on January 28, 2013, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tommy Bennett, Jr., President | (2) Tracey Ritchey, Vice President |
| (3) Barbara Wells, Secretary | (4) Gene Henton |
| (5) Lori Hixson | (6) Billy Fair |
| (7) Tobey Johnson | |

The following member was absent: Carlony Lewis

Others present for the meeting: Kim Burton, Mary Burton, Richelle Carter, Vera James, Diane Jenkins, Ann Lewis, Crystal McCandless, Anita Self, Ron Self, Emma Sparks, Paula Tiffany, Johnny Wright, and Gregg Yarbrough. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet and others whose names were illegible.)

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Bennett called the meeting for the month of January 2013 to order. |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF
A QUORUM | A quorum was established with seven members present. |
| 3. PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| 4. BOARD
APPRECIATION | January is School Board Appreciation Month. Some of the schools have done things to show their appreciation for the Board and others have things planned. |

5. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

- A. Gregg Yarbrough, Principal of Blytheville Primary School, introduced Anita Self. Mrs. Self brought four students who demonstrated how iPads are being used to enrich instruction.

Mr. Yarbrough thanked the Board for their dedication to the staff and students and presented them with placemats made by art students.

- B. Food Service Director Tiffany Snyder showed a video, "Bring Healthy Back." Students from Blytheville High School produced the video in Kara Eagle's classroom.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. On Wednesday, there will be a rally in Little Rock regarding upcoming education legislation. Board members may attend with Mr. Atwill. One bill would create a State Public Charter School Commission to replace the ADE in granting, denying, and revoking charters of open-enrollment charter schools.
2. The link to the State Board of Education meeting on January 14, 2013, was sent to the Board in an email.
3. The next "From the Schoolhouse" will be published in the *Blytheville Courier News* on Wednesday of next week.
4. The superintendent and Teryn Spears were guests of Mike Lester during the "Mighty Mike in Morning" radio show last Friday to discuss the New Tech High School.
5. The Board will have a retreat on Saturday, March 9, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room. Lunch and snacks will be provided.
6. Board members were reminded that the "Statement of Financial Interest" must be in the County Clerk's office no later than January 31, 2013.
7. The Blytheville Police Department has placed an additional School Resource Officer in the district. The officer is located at Blytheville Charter School three days per week and at Blytheville Intermediate School two days per week.
8. Ron Self and Superintendent Atwill reviewed lockdown procedures with the Board.
9. The superintendent met with Hazel Burnett, Fiscal Distress Coordinator at ADE, to obtain information to avoid fiscal distress.
10. The Blytheville Band Parents presented a proposal to sell advertising signs at Haley Field as a fund-raising project. No action was taken on the matter at this time.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

The children are being supported and served within budgets.

2. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

- a. The presentation before the State Board of Education for the New Tech High School went very well. Many compliments were heard from across the state.
- b. An email was received from Dr. Rick Hux, ERZ Director at Arkansas State University, regarding the outstanding job done by Blytheville Primary School teachers, Michelle Hepler and Lavanda Newsom, during a presentation regarding PBIS. Dr. Hux stated that the teachers represented the district very well.
- c. Teryn Spears will serve on the County Workforce Committee. This will allow the district to place students in internships. The district has a great relationship with Arkansas Northeastern College.
- d. The district has received a \$70,000 STEM grant to be used for programs within the New Tech High School.
- e. Our teachers are already well-prepared for the new Common Core Standards.
- f. Blytheville High School, Blytheville Charter School, Blytheville Middle School, and Blytheville Intermediate School have received 50,000 Title I—1003A grants for training for project-based learning.
- g. Principals and leadership teams are meeting to discuss the progress that has been made this year and to plan for next year.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Blytheville is looked at as the model for PBIS in the state. Soon, PBIS will be used state-wide.

2. Maintenance employees are keeping busy with preventative work orders.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the December 17, 2012, Meeting
- B. Minutes of the December 17, 2012, Special Meeting
- D. December Financial Report

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve items as listed in A., B., and C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to discuss resignations, retirement, and appointment of personnel.

9. OPEN SESSION

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

A. Resignation of Licensed Employees

Jessica McCormick	Kindergarten	BPS
Luetta Pulliam	Special Education	BIS

B. Retirement of Administrator (June 30, 2013)

Ann Lewis	Principal	BCS
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C. Retirement of Classified Employees

Fannie Burks	Cafeteria	BHS
Nancey Raspberry	Cafeteria	BIS

D. Resignation of Classified Employees

Tracey Edwards	Paraprofessional	CES
Chaudhury Panda	Paraprofessional	CES

E. Appointment of Classified Employees

Dorothy Brooks	Paraprofessional	BHS
Wilma Byrd	Cafeteria	BIS
Desmond Hammett	Paraprofessional	BCS
Stevie Patton	Paraprofessional	BPS
Christine Sanders	Cafeteria	BIS

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

F. Extension of Superintendent's Contract

Upon a motion by Tracey Ritchey and a second by Barbara Wells, the Board voted to extend the contract of Mr. Richard Atwill, as superintendent of the Blytheville School District, for one year. The new, three-year contract will begin July 1, 2013, and end June 30, 2016.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. PROPOSAL

Superintendent Atwill proposed the closing of Blytheville Charter School/ALC and Central Elementary School in an attempt to avoid financial distress due to declining enrollment.

Grades 3, 4, and 5 would be housed at Blytheville Intermediate School. Grades 6, 7, and 8 would be housed at Blytheville Middle School. Students from Blytheville Charter School would be placed in ALE programs at the respective grade levels. The Board took no action on the matter at this time. A special meeting may be called to address the matter.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary