

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22, 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 April 22, 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                     |

The following members were absent:

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| (1) Carlony Lewis | (2) Tobey Johnson |
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Others present for the meeting: Dorothy Daniel, Chelsea Goodman, Kathy Hodge, Mariel Hodge, Michelle Johnson, Mary A. Jones, Lavanda Newsom, Ron Self, Ebony Tyler, Mary Tyler, Flora Webb, Jeremy Webb, and Gregg Yarbrough. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet.)

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER                | President Bennett called the meeting for the month of April 2013 to order.  |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF<br>A QUORUM | A quorum was established with six members present.  |
| 3. PLEDGE OF<br>ALLEGIANCE      | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.   |
| 4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION     |   |
|                                 | Gregg Yarbrough, Principal of Blytheville Primary School, introduced Lavanda Newsom. Ms. Newsom introduced four kindergarten students who demonstrated to the Board how to solve a math problem using Cognitive Guided Instruction. |

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Teryn Spears told the Board that she and 17 BHS teachers traveled to Indiana last week for New Tech training and to visit a New Tech school. She showed a video to the Board regarding the three points of focus of New Tech: culture that empowers, teaching that engages, and technology that enables.

2. The Arkansas Legislative Session will end soon. One bill of concern is Senate Bill 65, which has become Act 1227 of 2013. The Act amends the provisions of the Public School Choice Act. The superintendent has written Attorney General McDaniel for clarification on the limitations regarding desegregation.
3. Graduation ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. The Senior Awards program will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m.
4. Senior Prom on Saturday, April 20, went very well. This year, students were required to sign-out when they left.
5. A recent audit of the school bus records showed that the district was in complete compliance of the laws. Director of Transportation, Carolyn Barnes does an excellent job.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Jean Cole, Director of Support Services  
  
Everything is well with Title I and special services.
2. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum
  - a. Testing is nearly complete. The End-of Course Geometry exam was given last week. The End-of Course Biology exam will be given tomorrow and Wednesday. The End-of Course Algebra I exam will be given on May 7 and 8.
  - b. TESS training is being held for principals and assistant principals.
  - c. Placement of employees is being worked out for next year in a manner which is best for the students and which meets the state standards. The move is expected to be smooth.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the March 25, 2013, Meeting
- B. Minutes of the March 25, 2013, Special Meeting
- C. Minutes of the March 26, 2013, Special Meeting
- D. March Financial Report

E. Change May Board Meeting from May 27 to May 20 due to Memorial Day Holiday

F. Policy Revisions

3.44—Licensed Personnel Workplace Injuries and Workers' Compensation

8.36—Classified Personnel Workplace Injuries and Workers' Compensation

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board approve items as listed in A. – F. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. SPEECH THERAPIST

Jean Cole presented to the Board a justification for hiring a speech therapist for the 2013-2014 school year.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

NOTE: CERTIFICATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL TEACHER. ANY TEACHER WHOSE CERTIFICATION HAS EXPIRED AND WHO DOES NOT OBTAIN RE-CERTIFICATION FOR THE CONTRACTED JOB ASSIGNMENT WILL NOT BE EMPLOYED FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR. FUTURE EMPLOYMENT DEPENDS ON THE TEACHER'S CERTIFICATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PAY TEACHERS IF THEY ARE NOT CERTIFIED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

9. OPEN SESSION

After discussion, the board came back into open session and took the following personnel actions:

A. Appointment of District-Level Administrators (2013-2014)

Jean Cole	Director of Support Services
Sally Cooke	Director of Curriculum
Diane Hay	GT Program Administrator
David Hixson	Athletic Director
Jennifer Hopper	Director of Finance
Randy Jumper	Director of Facilities
Teryn Spears	Parental Involvement Coordinator/ New Tech Director
Kris Williams	Director of Technology

B. Retirement of Licensed Employee (end of 2012-2013)

Mike Lee	PE/Coach	BMS
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C. Resignation of Licensed Employees (end of 2012-2013)

James Arender	English	BCS
Kevin Graves	Mathematics	BHS

D. Reappointment of Licensed Employees (2013-2014)

See Attachment A

E. Appointment of Licensed Employee (2013-2014)

Melissa Moriarty	Speech Therapist	BES/BMS
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F. Retirement of Classified Employee (end of 2012-2013)

Margaret Davis	Cafeteria	BHS
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G. Resignation of Classified Employees

Sandra Brown	Paraprofessional	BPS
Veria Falls	Paraprofessional	BIS
Latoria Gipson	Clerk	CES

H. Reappointment of Classified Employees (2013-2014)

See Attachment B

(Lori Hixson left the meeting prior to the vote.)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board accept the reappointments, appointments, retirement, and resignations as listed in A. – H. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

(Lori Hixson returned to the meeting.)

10. SOCCER  
PROGRAM

Upon a motion by Billy Fair and a second by Tommy Bennett, the Board voted to start a soccer program beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. GRADUATION  
TICKETS

Tickets for graduation were issued to seniors in the event that it could not be held on Haley Field. Some students reportedly sold some tickets for \$10 each. People should be made aware that tickets are not for sale. They are free to families of graduates.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary