

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, November 28, 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 November 28, 2016, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tracey Ritchey, President | (2) Erin Carrington, Vice-President |
| (3) Barbara Wells, Secretary | (4) Tommy Bennett |
| (5) Billy Fair | (6) Desmond Hammett |
| (7) Tobey Johnson | (8) Henrietta Watt |

Others present: Gaylon Rogers, Paul Jenkins, Chanda Walker, Cynthia McCustion, Pamela Bradley, Lauren Starks, Tony Hollis, Phyllis McClendon, Adron Poole, Dorothy Anderson, Tamika Jenkins, A. Carrington, Tiffany Snyder and Brandon Harper.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Ritchey called the regular meeting for the Month of November 2016 to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM A quorum was established with eight members present.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

Blytheville Elementary School, Chanda Walker, Principal Cynthia McCustion and Lauren Starks, reported on Blytheville Elementary School. We have worked with the Arkansas Leadership Academy to develop our school vision, mission and core beliefs. Mrs. Walker stated that she has gone through two years at Leadership Academy and that it has been very instrumental to her as a principal. BES School Vision: E3: Engage Everyone Everyday, BES School Mission: BES will educate the whole child through an engaging curriculum preparing them for the next journey. BES Core Beliefs consist of collaboration, agency, high expectations, two-way communication, build relationships, engagement, rigor, intervention, assessment, and whole child.

Our ACT Aspire testing results from 2015-2016 show areas of celebration as well as areas for growth. The following is where we are currently and what we are doing to grow your kids this school year: Language Arts (2015-2016) 26.35, state average 36.83 and Mathematics(2015-2016) 39.31, state average 34.22.

We are proud of the work that many of our subpopulations of students have accomplished. Some groups of students were well above state averages. Based upon our ACE Aspire data, we are providing small group and individual interventions to close our achievement gaps.

Our interventions address students with academic gaps and are designed to help our advanced students SOAR with enriched activity and academic focus. Paraprofessionals are assigned to students instead of teachers this year. We are seeing a lot of growth.

One of the tools we use through the Leadership Academy is called the railroad. We have to work on building relationships with our students. Our 45 day plan at-a-glance: "railroad model" with our leadership team serving as the engine of our train. BES Leadership Team will use classroom observation data and our teacher's professional goals to drive our building professional development planning, will hire and keep high quality teachers and staff, review our assessment data to determine strengths and weaknesses and provide for fully aligned standards, and make certain that interventions fill academic gaps and provide enrichment opportunities for students.

We want to empower our staff to be conductors of our train. BES teachers will use pre and post assessments to drive academic objectives each and every day as well as small group instruction, use different instructional techniques and strategies to each the standards to every type of learner, teachers will be given the tools necessary to manage the behavior of students through consistently implemented procedures and expectations, and teachers will build the whole child through the teaching of soft skill development, to help prepare them for college and careers.

Putting our families to work to get our train to the desired destination, success. BES will have a process for two-way communication between students, staff and stakeholders, developed compact that outlines how students, staff and stakeholders are all this together for improving academic achievement. BES will have all of its systems operating under the same goals, vision and beliefs, allowing for everyone to be engage, everyday!

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. The Board will be attending Arkansas Leadership Academy retreat on December 6th and ASBA Conference December 7– 9, 2016 in Little Rock. Tentatively, at 1 p.m. on December 9th our Leadership Team (Sally Cooke, Bobby Ashley, Mike Wallace, Casey DeFord and Mr. Atwill) will go to the ADE to address where we are with academic progress.
2. Action item on millage was removed from agenda because we need a hard dollar figures for resolution.
3. On December 12th, at the BHS – New Tech Auditorium, we will have a public hearing of the proposed athletic facility, regular board meeting will follow.
4. 103 A Grant has been approved for 2016-2017: BHS \$105,638.55, BMS \$75,547.86, BES \$41,489.41 and BPS \$55,805.98.
5. The Arts Council of Mississippi County sent a letter recognizing that our teachers and students had volunteered 1394 hours for this year's "Haunted Theater." Right now FFA and Target Club are volunteering at Lights of the Delta.
6. Tiffany Snyder, Food Service Director gave CEP 2016-2017 report. CEP takes all the students on the direct certification list (SNAP programs, etc.) and any homeless students and migrants and multiplies it by the school population. We had 1453 students that fell into this category out of 2254 students.

Blytheville Schools free claiming percentage is at 100%, which means 100% of our meals are claimed at the free rate. Breakfast free rate is 2.04 a meal and lunch free rate is 3.18 a meal.

For the 2015-2016 school year the state only paid .29 a meal for breakfast and .31 a meal for lunch for paid students and 1.69 for breakfast and 2.69 for lunch for the reduced students. The district had to make up the difference.

Due to the district claiming at 100% there is no longer a payment

needed to cover the cost of meals not paid by state. In 2015-2016 Blytheville paid the food service dept. a total of \$315,403.10.

Since changing to CEP, we have also looked at ways to cut cost. We are currently using monthly the commodity food available, only ordering what is needed for the week and not stock piling. Also we have switched to hard food trays which saves in cost of paper products. In reducing unnecessary cost we are able to serve the best quality of food.

As of August 2016 we had 6 open positions and have only hired one full-time employee since that time. Our Sysco trucks now deliver to each school weekly which eliminated a position at the warehouse, savings of 23,869.69 a year.

Our savings for October 2016 vs. October 2015 was a difference of \$6,267.64.

Blytheville Schools is a member of the NEASNC (Northeast Arkansas School Nutrition Consortium). This group consist of 21 districts and represents over 24,000 students. Since we are a member Sysco gives this group and only this group, huge discounts on each product bought. Our school does not pay what other schools pay that are not members. We are the only group in Arkansas that has this advantage. An example of our discounts is: normally a case of cereal comes packed 96 to a case, our group pays \$19.10 a case any other school not a member would pay at least \$35.00.

Numbers for meals served are up this year vs. this time last year. We are focusing on new menu items for students and learning exactly what they will and will not eat so that waste does not happen and students will be happy. The food service dept. has received many compliments on how good the food is from staff and students.

B. Instructional Report

Jean Cole, Director of Director of Support Services

Mrs. Cole reported on poverty workshop held at Forrest City. Dr. Beagle made us live poverty. She really brought it home for us. It will make a world of difference on how it ties the academic response program and the student's behavior. We have learned

how to join all this information with teaching emphasis and student-teacher relationships. It helps determine what kind of incentives we need, something that works for one may not work for others. Poverty isn't always a lack of money but prioritizing what is more important.

Behavior RTI Meetings are held monthly at every campus.

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. We can make a difference by changing our students one graduating class at a time; these students will be our community members.
2. November 1-4th, Mrs. Cole, Allison Turner, Bobby Ashley, Mike Wallace and Amanda Haynes attended Poverty Institute in Forrest City through a Title I grant that was focused on Communication Across Barriers.

All of us were trained as Poverty Coaches and our goal will be to share with all our staff the things we learned that will help us build relationships with students, parents and our community.

Our attempt to assist our students and families has to be built upon the understanding that people living in poverty can learn, grow, and move forward, that they can dream big dreams, and strive for excellence but as a district we have to meet them where they are without judgment, and offer them the HOPE and GROWTH that we know is available to them that they may not have been exposed to.

3. November 9-11th Mr. Wallace, Mr. Ashley, Ms. DeFord and I attended the New Tech Fall Summit in South Carolina. Secretary Riley, former governor of South Carolina, and former Secretary of Education for Bill Clinton gave some opening remarks that I think are worth sharing as we continue to implement one of the strongest models for New Tech after only 3 years at BHS and are adding the 8th grade at BMS. The connection to the community is one important part of New Tech and we need to generate excitement. You need more than the academic knowledge. You must also have the skills to use that knowledge in the world. All of the soft skills that industries ask for repeatedly are being taught in our classrooms daily, so they will become a way of life for our students. Universities are telling us how important it is for students to

communicate and collaborate and take responsibility for their learning and that is at the heart of what New Tech does.

4. November 16th- Mrs. Cole and I went with all four principals and a representative from their staff to a training on Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) that was also funded by a grant.

RTI is not new to Blytheville. We have strong implementation in our buildings already, but this will allow us additional support in aligning what we do from one grade level to the next and in making sure that we do all we can to support all students in our district without having anyone slip through the crack.

School Improvement Indicators- that we are already working on that support the work of RTI and PBIS are: IMO Area 1: Change in Teacher and Leader Practice, team structure/time for instructional planning, tiered support in literacy, pre/post assessment and classroom management

Understanding PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Positive approach, a prevention, proactive process to improve school climate and social behavior, define expected behavior, teach expected behavior, and encourage appropriate behavior.

RTI and PBIS are just part of what we do in our cycle of using data to see what is happening, what our needs are, and developing a plan to help us move students forward. I'm excited about what the grant will offer our district as we support so many new teachers each year. This will help us keep the focus on learning and support for all students and staff.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

All that has been said I fits together; we need our community involved. Todd Welch, Architect, Brackett-Krenerich & Associate, gave a presentation of several renders the new athletic facility. Any money donated for advertisement can be used for whatever we want, possibly track and tennis courts. The old gym would be left for community center. We want to be able to hold 4A or 5A tournaments.

The biggest bang for our buck will be keeping highly qualified teachers.

Mrs. Cooke stated we have strong people; we just cannot keep them. We need to retain our teachers and that will build stronger academic foundations. We need to think about what we want for our community. We need to be proud of our community.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. October 24, 2016, Regular Meeting
- B. November 1, 2016, Special Meeting
- C. November 1, 2016, Special Meeting
- D. Bonus (all employees) \$500

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Barbara Wells to accept items as listed in A., B., C., and D.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:38 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommendation of Classified Employee

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| Jeanna Donaldson | Paraprofessional | BMS |
| Katryse McDonald | RN | |
| Latoya Primas | Paraprofessional | BMS |
| Coelet Weaver | Paraprofessional | BPS |

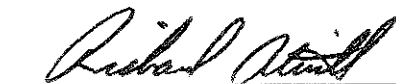
B. Resignations of Classified Employees

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| Edna Floyd | Custodian | SVC |
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Tommy Bennett to accept item as listed in A. & B. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:39 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary