

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2015
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 July 27, 2015, with the following members present:

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

The following member was absent:

- (1) Henrietta Watt

Others present: Ron Self, Brandon Harper, Priscilla Johnson, Missy Jerome Langston, and Kayla Evans.

1. CALL TO ORDER President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of July 2015 to order at 6:05 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.
5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Atwill welcomed back Mrs. Teryn Spears, Director of New Tech from maternity leave.
2. Leadership Meeting was held this morning and will meet again tomorrow morning.

3. Mrs. Spears gave the following updates and information to the Board:

Back to School Bash will be held Sunday, August 16th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Blytheville High School.

Community Partners meeting will be held Tuesday, July 28th. We are working on commitments for school supplies. Ignite is helping again this year. New partnerships are being made that are very exciting. Connecting with families and the community is very important.

Open House at Blytheville Elementary School will be held Tuesday, August 11th at 5:30 p.m, Blytheville Primary School, Thursday, August 13, Blytheville Middle School Tuesday, August 18th at 5:30 and Blytheville High School New Tech will hold First Things First on the first day of school.

This Wednesday we have teachers attending the Google Summit at Trumann. Two of our teachers, Tyler Isbell and Amber Dumond will be presenters at the Summit.

4. Everyone will be required to be trained to spot maltreatment.
5. Superintendent Atwill introduced the school district's attorney Bobby Coleman. Mr. Coleman gave history of Act 560 of 2015, which amended the Public School Choice Act of 2013 and answered questions of Board Members.

B. Instructional Report

Mrs. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Registration has started for the fall. Registration will begin Thursday at Blytheville High School – New Tech and then every day next week.
2. School calendar has been posted to website.

3. Arkansas law requires that all public school students participate in a statewide assessment. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Arkansas schools will administer the ACT Aspire summative assessment to all students in grades 3-10. The ACT is optional for 11th graders and will be paid for by the state. Our biggest concern is not the move, but the quickness.
4. We will continue to provide solid foundation skills and technology. It is hard to have test validity. We will monitor daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly assessments. When we see a child or group not making ground, we can immediately make changes to help.
5. Only thing for certain is there is a lot of uncertainty with testing, but we will continue to grow kids.
6. Dr. Robert Toney with Arkansas Department of Education will be here tomorrow to work on forty five day plan which will cover what will be done the first forty five days of school.
7. We asked the state to review what we are doing and they said we are going over and beyond.
8. Professional Development has already started. Training in classroom management, Google, procedures, and technology. It is not what we have but what we do with computers, iPads, Chromebooks, and Mac Books. Kris Williams, Director of Technology and his department are doing a great job and teachers are using technology to benefit students.
9. Our District will not give up. We will be persistent in teaching teachers as well as students. Our teachers are teaching students to be critical thinkers, providing colleges prepared students, and are bringing ACT scores up.

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. Reduction in out of school suspension data is showing great progress.

2. Blytheville Middle School was target school. Developed Intensive In-School Suspension in lieu of Out of School Suspension. In-School Suspension is the responsibility room and Intensive In-School Suspension is the turn-around room.
3. New training in Atlanta focuses more on teachers than students. Training will help teachers recognize disabilities and the ADHD child.
4. Training will be held for District focusing on discipline in the classroom.
5. Great things are coming. We are working on things we can do to bring more parents in for parental involvement.
6. Mr. Randy Jumper told the Board that discipline and instruction go hand and in hand. Both must be addressed.
7. The College Prep Academy has helped improve ACT scores over the last four years.
8. We must know the academic and social needs of our students and provide for them. Our staff is passionate about working every day. Our teachers care about all kids in our community and want to give them an opportunity to grow and succeed.
9. Emily Crosskno takes her skills to pull scores and skills students will need to be successful.
10. Leadership Team will visit each school and give their visions and support.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Maintenance and Facilities

1. Everything is on schedule for school to start. We are very passionate about what we are doing.
2. Our big announcement is Ron Self is leaving. I cannot say enough of what he has brought and done for our district. His replacement is going to be great.

Brandon Harper has a B.A., M.A., and has also worked with highway patrol, criminal investigation, and was also a state trooper.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of June 22, 2015, Regular Meeting
- B. Minutes of July 13, 2015, Special Meeting
- C. June Financial Report
- D. Pandemic Flu Plan

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Gene Henton and seconded by Gene Henton Tracey Ritchey to accept items as listed in A., B., C., and D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:40 p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION The Board went into executive session to discuss appointments and resignations of personnel.

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

A. Appointment of Licensed Employees

Larrie Bell	Teacher	BHS-New Tech
Robert Coyle	Teacher	BMS
Neisha Griffin	Teacher	BES

B. Appointment of Classified Employees

James Edwards	Paraprofessional	BMS
Brandon Harper	Director of Safety & Security	ADM
Joe McCadney	Paraprofessional	BMS

C. Resignation of Classified Employee

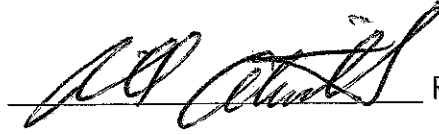
Ron Self	Director of Safety & Security	ADM
Amanda Self	Secretary	BMS

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 8:14 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Atwill', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary