

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, August 24, 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 August 24, 2015 the following members present:

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Tommy Bennett, President | (2) Tracey Ritchey, Vice-President |
| (3) Gene Henton              | (4) Lori Hixson                    |
| (5) Tobey Johnson            | (6) Henrietta Watt                 |

The following members were absent:

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|----------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Billy Fair | (2) Barbara Wells, Secretary |
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Others present: Brandon Harper, Tracy Plunkett, Keegan Manrique, Chase Turner, Walterius Daniels, D'Arik Haley, Courtney Fisher, Ben Fisher, Tom Henry, Jordan Jackson, Nick Enos, Carolyn Barnes, John Ruth, and Tim Russell.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER             | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of August 2015 to order at 6:03 p.m.  |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with six members present.   |
| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE      | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  |
| 4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION  | Ben Fisher, Head Football Coach and football team players Chase Turner, Josh Plunkett, Walterius Daniels, D'Arik Haley, Jordan Jackson, and Nick Enos spoke to the Board. Chase Turner explained what P.R.I.D.E. means to the Chickasaws: Personal Responsibility in Determining Excellence and each player told what Chickasaw Pride meant to them. The players told the Board "Things we have learned apply not only to us at school; it also apply to our lives. Coach Fisher invited the Board and encouraged everyone to be present for the first game on September 11 against West Memphis. Fisher is hoping to have a great turn-out. |

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

### A. Superintendent's Report

1. As school years go by, we learn things. We always start the school year off good, but this year it was excellent.
2. Students are prepared and ready to learn.
3. We are off to such a positive start.
4. All buildings are ready.
5. September is "Bring Legislator to School" month.
6. Bond reissuing can be rebounded in January. Information is being gathered and will be discussed in September meeting.
7. October 19<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting Regional 7 Board Meeting and dinner at Multipurpose Building.
8. We lost one of our full-time School Resource Officers today. Officers will be rotated in two week intervals.
9. Mrs. Spears gave the following updates and information to the Board:

All open houses have been phenomenal with record attendances and wonderful showings. IGNITE supply packets were given out in all buildings through open houses or given to students who were not able to make the meeting.

Lots of excitement concerning an app being built for our school district. It is in the beginning stages.

Principals and teachers will have panels with Monte Hodges, State Representative. K-5<sup>th</sup> grade panel will be held September 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade panel will be held September 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:30 p.m. They also want to hear from students.

Students are looking awesome with the new dress code. Mrs. Spears presented a video made by students to thank the Board for allowing these changes.

B. Instructional Report

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. We had a great 2015 Title 1 Report Meeting. Our \$1.8 million is well spent in our district. Our state report is always approved immediately.

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. New teachers are overwhelmed with all of their support. They feel so welcome in their buildings as well as the community.
2. We are working on retaining our recruitments. Teach for America is working with National Teacher Project on maintaining and retaining teachers.
3. Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to the Food for Backpack Program.
4. Arkansas State University and Dixie Keys are offering teacher development which will benefit the teachers which will benefit the students.
5. Writers and professors from ASU will bring Zeta Elliott, author to offer a writing workshop at the high school. The workshop will cost \$500. Educational Renewal Zone heard about the writing project and will provide 100 books.
6. Blytheville Middle School Literacy initiative will focus on academic vocabulary starting with 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will be used in all classes. Reading comprehension, appropriate ways to have conversations will be foundational support for New Tech. There is another assessment for this and Generation Ready has offered to fund this assessment.
7. ACCIP has changed statewide and will retrain with online portal.
8. State can monitor exactly what we have going on and the great things we are doing.
9. There will also be a public view for all stakeholders to see what is going on with our district.
10. We will do what is instructionally sound for our students

regardless what is happening at state level.

11. We need to instill values in our students; it's okay to excel. They can take their pride and transition if their other activities such as choir, band, and other extra-curricular activities. Children want to participate.

#### C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Mr. Jumper stated he unknowingly watched students the first week of school and their dress and the atmosphere is phenomenal.
2. Mrs. Spears announced that Mr. Jumper received Chamber Volunteer of the Quarter at luncheon today.
3. Mr. Jumper introduced Carolyn Barnes, Transportation Director. I am so passionate about Carolyn; she does an awesome job. We had buses in by 4:30 this week. That is unheard of the first week of school. Mini buses only had to run a few days for kids missing their bus or not getting to the correct bus stop. It is very difficult to get 2000 kids to school each day. Mrs. Barnes just completed an audit which was a phenomenal amount of paperwork. I certainly want to recognize her for all she does. Carolyn makes me look good.
4. The county is very interested in Fairview.
5. Concerning the Central School building; Kipp contacted me last week about work being done to get the diesel tank out. It is a process that is moving. Hoping to get closed out in September.
6. The 911 Panic Button should be installed by the September 1 deadline. Brandon Harper, Kris Williams, and Lance Nettles have done a huge job getting this off the ground.

#### 6. ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. July 27, 2015, Regular Meeting
- B. August 10, 2015, Special Meeting
- C. July Financial Report
- D. Generation Ready
- E. Pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mississippi County Sheriff's office for two School Resource Officers (SRO)

F. Submit Conversion Public Charter School Application for  
Blytheville Middle School

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:14 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Appointment of Classified Employees

Cassie Brooks	Food Service	BMS
Shelia Brown	Paraprofessional	BES
Teresa Gibson	Bus Driver	SVC
Blanton Jones	Bus Driver	SVC
Amanda Travis	Food Service	BHS-New Tech

B. Resignation of Classified Employee

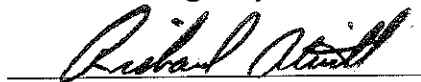
Florence Michelle Harvell	Paraprofessional	BES
Danelle Johnson	Food Service	BES
Javita Luttrell	Food Service	BMS
Tanya Mitchell	Paraprofessional	BPS
Sharonda Reed	Paraprofessional	BES
Debbie Richardson	Paraprofessional	BES
Quinton Selvy	Paraprofessional	BMS

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:16 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17p.m.



Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary