

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 28, 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 September 28, 2015 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) Tobey Johnson | (6) Erin Langston |

The following members were absent:

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| (1) Gene Henton | (2) Henrietta Watt |
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Others present: Brandon Harper, Daryl Johnson, Paul Jenkins, Lori Hixson, Kathy Fruchtnicht, Denise Holdaway, Ken Dumond, Jennifer Johnson, Lakisten Spiller, Matt Wilkins, Quantae McNeal, Tirah Mitchell, Ralph Beaty, Kenny Burge, Shawn Bridges, Derrick Anderson, and Desmond Hammett.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | Tommy Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of September 2015 to order at 6:02 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 | Ken Dumond, Blytheville High School Band Director. This year the band is performing music from "Soul Train." Bands will be participating in contests October 6th at Jonesboro High School, October 10th at West Memphis, October 17th at Pocahontas, and October 20th at Green County Tech. Bands are attending all football games this year. There are 224 students in band this year (BHS-New Tech 95 students, Middle School 69 students, and there are 60 beginning students.) Mr. Dummond introduced |

Quantae McNeal and Tirah Mitchell, drum majors for the 2015-2016 school year. They told the board the band had really improved this year, that they were practicing every Monday and Tuesday after school, and at each game the band plays 1st and 2nd quarters, perform their half time show, 3rd quarter is break, 4th quarter they play, and then they pack up and go home. Mr. Dummond challenged all Board Members to come out and watch the band's performance and then see their teamwork as they load and pack the truck after the game. President Bennett stated that he has been very Impressed watching the band this year.

5. Office of President, Vice President, and Office of Secretary

Upon a motion by Billy Fair and a second by Tobey Johnson voted to reelect Tommy Bennett as reelect Tommy Bennett as President, Tracey Ritchey as Vice President, and Barbara Wells as Secretary by acclamation.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:11 p.m.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. We have had an excellent start to the school year.
2. We requested to attend State Board Academic Distress Meeting. Mrs. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum, told the Board that her spirits had been lifted when they talked about the things we are doing. They were very supportive. We are not ignoring we are in academic distress, we are embracing it and working on the four recommendations that were given to us and implementing them in K-12. We asked a lot of questions and gave lots of comments. The State Board told us if this was a blind report and we did not know you were in academic distress, I would think you are top performers. They told us we need to be a model for others, that we are doing the right things and would like to document information to share with others. Superintendent Atwill has been asked to discuss with School Improvement Unit.

3. Mrs. Cooke stated that Representative Dave Wallace was in Blytheville recently and visited our schools. He was very impressed with our genuine passion and understands our challenges. You haven't made excuses but have said "here we are, here is what we are." Representative Wallace felt compelled to talk to newspaper to tell them what a positive experience he had when he visited Blytheville Schools and he was very impressed of what we have going on.
4. Afterschool program sponsored by Tenaris has a new director, Cassandra Quearry.
5. College Prep Academy is starting up with a new twist.
6. Superintendent Atwill was in Little Rock Friday to attend priority school and focus school meetings. Dr. Wild, School Improvement Director said we could very well be sitting on year one scores, test scores have not been determined. We could have year behind us. They are watching closely.
7. Mr. Key, Focus School Priority, Academic Distress said we can only have one plan instead of four different ones. We still need to focus on some isolated areas, but we are heading in the right direction.

B. Instructional Report

Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

1. Title 6b and Title 1 ABC Program 2015-2016 was given. Funds are used to work on classroom activities, student support services, PBIS, and professional development for our teachers. We use these funds for two bus monitors, one substitute bus monitor, a full time Due Process Clerk, nineteen Paraprofessionals, and one part-time IDEA Secretary/Bookkeeper.
2. Suspension rates are dropping significantly and the State Department is impressed. We are working on ideas and new strategies for intervention.

3. Mrs. Cole has been invited to speak at the Special Education Academy on our processes with our culture, our relationships with each other, teacher and parents support, disability awareness, and classroom management.
4. Mrs. Cole was also asked to help with national webinar on November 4th at 2 p.m. She will be showing success strategies.

B. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. State Department said it is always pleasant going into our schools, the culture of your high school is great, and people are noticing.
2. Fan bus including Mr. Bobby Ashley, BHS-New Tech Principal, forty five students and four teachers was taken to the Wynne game. One of the four teachers that went, drove the bus. They were all very pleased with how the students cheered and behaved.
3. Mr. Jumper encouraged everyone to come to the next two games. Homecoming will be October 9th against Green County Tech.
4. Hopefully, Central will be sold by Thanksgiving. We are in contact with Kipp and contractor to remove tank located on property. Process should take about two weeks.
5. Kipp is very complimentary of Blytheville School District. Competition is good for all of us; we want all kids to have a good education.
5. Funds are used to work on classroom activities, student support services, PBIS, and professional development for our teachers.
6. Mississippi County is still very interested in Fairview School Building.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. August 24, Regular Meeting
- B. August Financial Report
- C. Budget for 2015 – 2016
- D. Title VI-B Budget 2015-2016
- E. ACSIP Statement of Assurance
- F. Arkansas Department on Career Education
-Driver Education Standards of Assurance
- G. Act 1120 of 2013 – 5% Salary Rule
- H. 1.25% pay increase for all employees except bus drivers
- I. Education Records Release Form Background Letter
- J. Policy 5.4 School Improvement Teams

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., D., E., F., G., H. I. and J. and above.

Motion passed 5:1, with Erin Carrington abstaining, thus casting the nay vote at 7:08 p.m.

K. Bond Finance

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Billy Fair to submit an "Application for a Permit to Issue Bonds", with related documents, for a \$2,320,000 Refunding Bond Issue to the Commissioner of Education and to employ First Security Beardsley Public Finance as Fiscal Agent, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept or reject the best bid submitted in connection with the public sale of the proposed bonds in consultation with the fiscal agent.

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

8. Personnel Recommendations

A. Appointment of Certified Employee

Cameron Tillett	Teacher	BES
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B. Resignation of Certified Employees

Lekeysha Buckley	Teacher	BES
Robert Coyle	Teacher	BMS

Neisha Griffin	Teacher	BES
Taylor Wildy	Teacher	BMS

C. Appointment of Classified Employees

Mary Blanchard	Bus Driver	SVC
Shirley Johnson	Food Service	BHS
Althea Williams	Food Service	BES

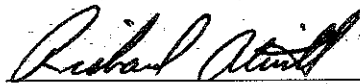
D. Resignation of Classified Employees

Shareeka Cothran	Food Service	BES
Brian Wesley Johnson	Bus Driver	SVC
Blanton Jones	Bus Driver	SVC

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Fair and seconded by Tobey Johnson that the Board approve the appointments and resignations as listed in A. – D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:15 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary