

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2015
6:00 p.m.

The Blytheville Board of Education met the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on November 16, 2015, with the following members present:

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

Others present: Pernell Austin, Keona Birks, Ava Hepler, Michelle Hepler, Laura Lynn, Olivia Lynn, Brodie Lynn, Paul Jenkins, Gayon Rogers, Felecia Dogan, Kia Fulkerson, Jan Sinclair, Chanda Walker, Ricky Sims, Ny'asia Britt, Destiny Birks, Da'rya Blair, Brandon Wren, Carla Cassidy, and Chloe Cassidy.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | Tommy Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of November 2015 to order at 6 p.m. |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with eight members present. |

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| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
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4. SCHOOL PRIDE

Chanda Walker, Principal Blytheville Elementary School, Introduced BES teachers Kia Fulkerson and Felecia Dogan. They explained the benefits of beginning the day with yoga. Students are able to stay more focused, they are more confident, and able to calm themselves down when they need to get in control. Using this time at the beginning of the day to get focused helps reduce problems later in the day. Ms. Dogan along with BES students: Ava Hepler, Olivia Lynn, Ny'asia Britt, Chloe Cassidy, Da'rya Blair, Destiny Birks and Brandon Wren demonstrated how they start each morning with yoga

and Mrs. Fulkerson presented PowerPoint on Yoga in the Classroom. In order to teach the basics, we must first teach students self control. In order to meet our students' needs, we need to be able to engage their minds, and also teach them ways to cope with situations that may arise throughout the day. Yoga can allow our students space to become self-aware and can give them emotional strength, physical strength, and mental strength.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Football was a huge success this year. Superintendent Atwill gave kudos to Head Coach Ben Fisher for all of his efforts in making these boys into young men. A social media post, by Courtney Fisher, wife of Coach Fisher was read showing her pride to Blytheville High School's football success.
2. Arkansas Department of Education wants us to have school improvement specialists at Blytheville High School-New Tech and Blytheville Middle School. Currently, Mrs. Sally Cooke is at BMS and Mrs. Teryn Spears is at BHS-New Tech. We are working on creating a position to help Mrs. Spears and Mrs. Cooke.
3. There is a conflict with December 14th Board Meeting and the Blytheville High School-New Tech Choir Concert. Superintendent Atwill asked the Board to move the next regular scheduled meeting to the BHS New Tech Library, then they could attend the concert as a group. There are over 120 students in choir this year and they have a lot of power.

B. Instructional Report

Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

1. Mrs. Sally Cooke and Mrs. Teryn Spears are working with BHS-New Tech, Blytheville Middle School as well as the other two schools. There is an incredible amount of work and detail being done by the teachers. We are working through the process where there is no gap in learning.

2. We had a surprise visit at the high school from the Arkansas Department of Education. They wanted to see the building and curriculum. ADE stated that they could not ask us to do

anymore than what we are already doing; that we are clearly doing what they what we had been told. They saw good learning taking place. Mrs. Cooke stated that we know our kids have gaps and we are working to close these. We are working with a National Teachers Group through Teach for America. We are already implementing things they want us to be doing. We are moving uphill. We still have to work on our teachers and find ways for better teacher retention instead of having to retrain each year. We are working on ways to spend more face to face time with teachers.

3. Superintendent Atwill received Commissioner's Memo COM-16-034 ESEA Flexibility Reports and Data Corrections about 2014-2015 PARCC Assessment for school and district status calculations. We see discrepancies in the data and we have until November 30th for corrections.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Status of Central Building. Right now we are in complete compliance and everything has been approved. ADQ is waiting on information from company in Missouri. Mr. Jumper stated that it is just paperwork, we did not hit any snags, and that the tank came out very well.
2. Mr. Jumper gave a quick history on our janitorial situation. He voiced concerns with our janitorial services with GCA. GCA is a huge company with the ability to come in with better bids. GCA has cut employee hours and supplies. The company has had three management changes since summer. We met with SG360 and discussed switching companies but we want to be able to hand pick our new employees and keep the ones that we want to keep. Mr. Jumper had asked all principals to write out their concerns and he passed this information out to the Board. Most schools are not as clean as ours, but they are not as clean as we want them to be. We are not in a current contract and

would like to change over to SG360 during Christmas break.
Superintendent Atwill stated our schools are going to be
clean and stable.

6. ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- A. October 26, 2015, Meeting
- B. November 2, 2015, Special Meeting
- C. November 2, 2015, Special Meeting
- D. November 5, 2015, Special Meeting
- E. October Financial Report

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:07 p.m.

F. GCA/SG360 Custodial Hire

At this time President Bennett left the room. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Henrietta Watt to switch janitorial services from GCA to SG360.

Motion passed by unanimous vote with President Bennett abstaining at 7:07.

7. Personnel Recommendations

A. Appointment of Certified Employee

Bobby Coyle	Teacher	BMS
Margaret Parish	Teacher	BHS ALE

B. Appointment of Classified Employee

Sherry Williams	Food Service	BPS
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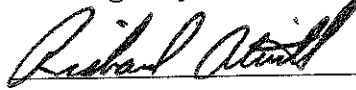
C. Resignation of Classified Employee

Edithia Booth	Food Service	BHS
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve the appointments and resignations as listed in A. – C. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:09 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:15.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Atwill", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary