

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, July 25, 2011

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on July 25, 2011, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tommy Bennett, Jr., President | (2) Lori Hixson, Vice President |
| (3) Billy Fair, Secretary | (4) Gene Henton |
| (5) Steve White | (6) Carlony Lewis |
| (7) Tracey Ritchey | (8) Barbara Wells |

Others present for the meeting: Shannon Harris (*Blytheville Courier News*), Vera James, and Donald Kuykendall.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of July 2011 to order. |
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| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM | A quorum was established with all members present. |
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| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
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4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Atwill will attend a meeting on Friday, July 29, regarding the September school election. Tracey Ritchey will run unopposed in Zone 6. Steve White will not seek re-election in Zone 8. Tobey Johnson will run unopposed in that zone.
2. Sally Cooke, Curriculum Coordinator, and Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities, will now be attending the Board meetings.
3. The district is currently developing partnerships with various community groups to provide funds for various projects, such as resurfacing the track at Blytheville Intermediate School.
4. Superintendent Atwill met with Mayor Sanders regarding joining schools and the community to build pride and respect.

5. The district will work with EOC in a project to provide neighborhood gardens.
6. The district's ending balance was approximately \$250,000 higher than last year's ending balance.
7. The district received \$1.1 million from the refunded bonds, which allowed the accomplishment of many projects. There is still approximately \$585,000 remaining.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

- a. All teaching positions were filled by 5:15 p.m. today.
- b. Pre-School Workshops will begin on August 8. There are numerous offerings, as shown on the schedule. Teachers in grades 7-12 will attend workshops at Arkansas Northeastern College on August 10. The general session will be held in the Blytheville High School Auditorium on August 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunch will follow in the Blytheville High School cafeterias.
- c. Blytheville High School and Blytheville Charter School/ALC will host "First Things First" programs again this year on the first day of school.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

The ELL budget is finished and will be sent to principals soon. Preparation of other budgets is continuing.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

Improvement projects, which used stimulus money and/or money from the refunded bonds, include renovation of the Blytheville High School band room, asbestos removal at Blytheville High School, renovations on the playground at Blytheville Intermediate School, renovation of the nurse's office at Blytheville High School, chain-link fence removal around air conditioner units at Central Elementary School and Blytheville Charter School/ALE, installation of new turf at the field house, and installation of a fence at Blytheville Middle School.

D. Dress Code

Lori Hixson asked about the dress code for teachers. Sandy Hughey responded that teachers are expected to be dressed at least as well as the students. Principals monitor the dress of the staff members.

Barbara Wells asked if light blue could be added to the color of shirts that students may wear, because parents had asked about it. The Board discussed the matter at length. Some members wanted to add shirt colors. Others wanted to limit shirt colors to only maroon and white. Superintendent Atwill suggested that a committee be formed to further investigate the matter before any action is taken.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of the June 27, 2011 Meeting

B. June Financial Report

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve items as listed in A. – B. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Policy Revisions

1. 3.1—Certified Salary Schedule
2. 8.5.2—Noncertified Personnel Retirement Sick Leave Payment

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to discuss the appointment, resignation, and reassignment of personnel.

7. OPEN SESSION

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

A. Resignation of Certified Employees

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| Tracy Coppedge | Literacy Interventionist | BIS |
| Marti Johnson | Media Specialist | BHS |
| Sarah Perkins | Grade 2 | BPS |
| Pamala Stark | Grade 1 | BPS |
| Scott Wagner | Social Studies | BMS |

B. Appointment of Certified Employees

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|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| Lacey Ball | Social Studies | BMS |
| Justin Beck | Grade 6 | BIS |
| Art Bell | History | BMS |
| Eileen Garris | Kindergarten | BKC |
| Michelle Hepler | Grade 1 | BPS |
| Sarah Holt | Science | BHS |
| Kia Pay | Grade 2 | BPS |
| Whitney Thrash | Grade 1 | BPS |

C. Reassignment of Certified Employees

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| Lana Burnside | Media Specialist | BHS |
| Deanna Clark | Literacy Interventionist | BIS |

D. Resignation of Classified Employees

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| Melissa Grissom | Computer Lab | BPS |
| Brenda McRay | Bus Driver | SVC |
| Alison Nichols | Paraprofessional | BMS |
| Gwen Rainer | Paraprofessional | BPS |
| Cindy Rhodes | Paraprofessional | BKC |

E. Reassignment of Classified Employees

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| Nina Johnson | Bookkeeper | BHS |
| Janice Phillips | Data Record Clerk | BHS |

F. Appointment of Classified Employees

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Christina Andrews | Literacy Lab Aide | BMS |
| Sheila Brown | Paraprofessional | BKC |
| Carla Cassidy | Secretary to Vice Principal | BHS |
| Candice Groves | Computer Lab | BPS |
| Troy Hatcher | Bus Driver | SVC |
| Donna Hilton | Paraprofessional | BPS |
| Tanya Mitchell | Paraprofessional | BPS |
| Kevin Morrison | Bus Driver | SVC |
| Alison Nichols | Counselors' Secretary | BHS |
| Cindy Rhodes | Clerk | BKC |

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board accept the appointments, resignations, and reassignments as listed in A. – F. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. BOARD TRAVEL

A motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Blytheville Board of Education adopt a policy to be added to the Board Policies that out-of-state travel for conferences and training be limited to one trip per fiscal year per Board member.

Motion passed 6-2, with Gene Henton and Carlony Lewis casting the nay votes.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary