

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, August 22, 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 August 22, 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: Jean Cole, Sheila Gale, James Tony Hollis, Brett Kirk, Maurice Moody, Keelen Newsom, Chris Pinkard (*Blytheville Courier News*), Mark Quearry, Ron Self, Andre West, Consuela Wilson, and Shane Wright. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-on sheet.)

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER               | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of August 2011 to order.  |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM   | A quorum was established with all members present.   |
| 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE        | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  |
| 4. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER | Steve White was recognized for 14 years of dedicated service to the students of the Blytheville School District. He was presented with a plaque and a retirement bell. Mr. White stated that he was proud of the progress the district had made during his term. He stated that he felt the biggest accomplishment was the construction of Blytheville Kindergarten Center and Blytheville Primary School and that his biggest regret was the inability to pass a millage increase to build a new cafeteria for Central Elementary School. |

5. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

Maurice Moody, Head Football Coach, introduced this year's position coaches and senior players. Coach Moody reported that there is a lot of talent this year and that players are working hard.

Principal Bobby Ashley added that the seniors are not just great athletes, but great role models.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Earlier this month, Board members were sent a copy of the ADE letter notifying the district of the School Improvement Status of each school. Mrs. Hughey has been working to prepare 45/60-day intervention plans for schools in Year 6 and Year 7 of School Improvement.
2. Blytheville Primary School's after-school program, funded by Tenaris, is at capacity with 150 students. An additional program has begun at Central Elementary School this year, with 150 students enrolled and over 50 on the waiting list.
3. The district will participate in The Pipeline for African American Teachers and the Post-Secretary Planning Survey. The district would like to hire more African-American teachers. This assessment will aid in this focus.
4. The first week of school was tremendous. There were a few traffic issues, but they are being resolved. There is a positive atmosphere at each school. A great job was done in hiring new teachers.
5. The district's digital cameras are of great quality. One of them captured a large lawn mower used for mowing Haley Field being driven down the road by a thief.
6. Superintendent Atwill received a letter stating that the Advanced Accreditation Commission had accepted the district's Accreditation Progress Report, which is a required component of the five-year accreditation term. The district was congratulated for its continued commitment to excellence in education.

#### B. Instructional Reports

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent
  - a. This was one of the best beginnings to school in several years. Administrators, teachers, and students seem positive and excited.
  - b. There was good attendance at the Back-to-School Bash.
  - c. Schools in Year 6 or Year 7 of School Improvement must submit 45/60-day intervention plans. These intervention plans will be part of the ACSIP plans.
  - d. Students who have scored basic, but are near proficient, have been targeted to receive additional help in literacy at this time. Next, students at the below-basic level will be helped. A math interventionist is helping at Blytheville High School. Teacher Michael

Davis is working with students to help pass the end-of-course exam in Algebra I.

- e. Due to enrollment size, a kindergarten teacher was added, and a second grade teacher was moved to first grade.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

Title I and ABC budgets are being prepared. Additional pre-school classrooms cannot be added due to a lack of classroom space.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

1. Hard work by district employees helped to make the Back-To-School Bash a success. There was a real sense of family among the staff.
2. The renovation to the Blytheville High School Band Room is complete. Board members were invited to visit.
3. The fence at Blytheville Middle School will be installed around the first of September.
4. Windows have been installed at the secretaries' desks at Blytheville Primary School, Blytheville Kindergarten Center, and Blytheville Charter School/ALC to improve security.
4. Traffic problems at Central Elementary School were discussed. The City of Blytheville will only allow crossing guards in front of the schools. The matter will be discussed with the Chief of Police again.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of the July 25, 2011, meeting

B. July Financial Report

C. Employee Bonuses

1. ARRA Funds

- a. School-level licensed staff—\$1,850
- b. School-level classified staff, including nurses and paraprofessionals—4.5 percent of current contract up to \$1,850

## 2. District Funds

- a. District-level licensed staff—\$1,850
- b. District-level classified staff—4.5 percent of current salary up to \$1,850

## D. 2011 School Election Resolution

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Lori Hixson and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board approve the items as listed in A. - D. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION      The Board went into executive session to discuss the appointment and resignation of personnel.

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

### A. Resignation of Licensed Employees

Erica Anglin	Science	BHS
Kandi Dudley	Grade 5	BIS

### B. Appointment of Licensed Employees

Christa Chastain	Kindergarten	BKC
Chris Rutherford	Grade 6	BIS
Jordan Wise	Grade 5	BIS
Terry Webb	Science	BHS

### C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Jerlean Lewis	Paraprofessional	BPS
Bridget Jones	Paraprofessional	CES
Brenda Pruet	Cafeteria	BIS
Christine Sanders	Cafeteria	CES

### D. Appointment of Classified Employees

Sandra Brown	Paraprofessional	BPS
Ernestine Kelly	Cafeteria	BMS
Angela Neal	Cafeteria	BIS
Chaudhury Panda	Paraprofessional	CES

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. OFFICER  
TERMS

A motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board rescind the policy of term limits for officers of the Board.

Motion passed 7 – 1, with Gene Henton casting the nay vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary