

**BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Monday, August 26, 2013**

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 26, 2013, with the following members present:

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| (1) Tommy Bennett, Jr., President | (2) Tracey Ritchey, Vice President |
| (3) Gene Henton                   | (4) Lori Hixson                    |
| (5) Billy Fair                    | (6) Tobey Johnson                  |

The following members were absent:

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| (1) Barbara Wells, Secretary | (2) Carlony Lewis |
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Others present for the meeting: James Adams, Robert Anderson, Carolyn Barnes, Sam Bortis, Bill Conley, Dorothy Daniels, Paul Fowler, Shasta Guess, Brionna Hall, Albert Davis, Broderick Harris, Robert Harris, Jerry Henderson, Sr., L.C. Jackson, Donald Jenkins, Paul D. Johnson, Mary A. Jones, Tamara Jones, Vancell Lucas, Homer O'Neal, Mike Pearce, Ben Riggs, Lou Ellen Riggs, Ron Self, Howard Waterford, Alisha Williams, James Williams, and Denise Wilson. (There were others present who did not place their names on the sign-in sheet.)

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER                | President Bennett called the regular meeting for the month of August 2013 to order. |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF<br>A QUORUM | A quorum was established with six members present.                                  |
| 3. PLEDGE OF<br>ALLEGIANCE      | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.   |
| 4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION     |   |

Teryn Spears—Back-to-School Bash

The theme of this year's Back-to-School Bash seemed to be "Community Supporting the Blytheville Public Schools." There were 1,257 people present. First Baptist Church manned the food tables. Many of the local churches and businesses helped with the event. The school maintenance crew did an excellent job.

Champions for Kids is providing collection bins for snacks at the local Wal-Mart from August 26 to September 8. The donated snacks will be picked up on September 9 by school personnel.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

### A. Superintendent's Report

1. The public school employees insurance provider has notified school districts that rates will rise a minimum of 48 percent in January of 2014. It is hoped that a proposal can be brought to the Board to help district employees with the cost.
2. The Blytheville Police Department has removed the district's two School Resource Officers. The officers are important to the safety of the schools. The officers have been working on their days off to provide service to the district.
3. A letter was received from Attorney Paul Blume offering his services, even though he is no longer associated with the Arkansas School Boards Association.
4. Changes must be made to a few policies that are in the student handbooks. The changes will be made available to the public and parents.
5. The Board and Superintendent will be cooking for the Blytheville Chickasaws before the first home football game on Friday, September 13.
6. PICK Blytheville wants to go "old school" for homecoming by bringing back floats for the parade. They have other activities planned during the year.
7. The enrollment count at this time is up 35 students. Last year the count was down 202 students.
8. The district is close to having all of the school lunch applications completed.
9. The Board was given a letter from Baldwin and Shell Construction Company with quotes for HVAC projects for the Blytheville High School Gymnasium. The Board took no action on the matter at this time.

### B. Instructional Reports

#### 1. Jean Cole, Director of Support Services

The Annual Title I Report for the Public was held today at 5:00 p.m. in the curriculum room of the Administrative Offices. In addition, reports were given by Amanda Atwill,

RN, Shirley Byrd, social worker, Sandra Jackson, parent center coordinator, and Teryn Spears, New Tech Director and Parental Involvement Coordinator.

2. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum

- a. It has been a busy month with teacher training, meetings with interventionists, and instructional facilitators preparing the ACSIP plans.
- b. The Tenaris After-School Excellence Program will begin on Tuesday, September 3. Patty Dawson has done an excellent job as the new director.
- c. The last of the TESS training is being held this week.

3. Teryn Spears, New Tech Director/Parental Involvement

- a. New Tech was launched on Monday morning. Students received Mac Books. Parents were involved.
- b. The maintenance staff, who were present at the meeting, were thanked for their assistance during the summer move and during the Back-to-School Bash.
- c. The New Tech team worked all summer preparing for the new year. The opportunity was extended to all faculty.
- d. The Board was showed a presentation on "How to be a Successful New Tech Network. "
- e. New Tech was recently shared at a Chamber Luncheon.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

- 1. Miracles do happen. Everything was completed before the beginning of school. Maintenance workers were present at the meeting and were recognized, as well as the technology department and the safety director.
- 2. Following the Board meeting, Superintendent Atwill will take the Board on a bus tour of the summer projects.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of the July 22, 2013, meeting

B. July Financial Report

C. Policy Revisions

1.2—Board Organization

1.5—Duties of the Secretary

1.6—Board Member Voting

1.9—Policy Formulation

1.14—Meeting Agenda

5.4—Staff Development Program

6.4—Volunteers

7.5F2—Food Service Commodities Bidder Affidavit

7.11—Use of School Funds for Non-School Related  
Purposes

7.12—Expense Reimbursement

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

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 6:49 p.m.

D. Leasing of Central Elementary School New Building

Superintendent Atwill recommended that the school district lease the Central Elementary School new building to One Leap Ahead, LLC.

After discussion, Tobey Johnson made a motion that the matter be tabled until other viable options could be pursued and until more detailed information could be given to the Board.

The motion was seconded by Tracey Ritchey.

Motion passed by unanimous at 7:20 p.m.

## 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session to discuss the appointment and resignation of personnel.

## 8. OPEN SESSION

The Board took the following personnel actions:

### A. Appointment of Licensed Employees

Lesha Foster

Kindergarten

BPS

Joshua Hatfield

Core Content/Coach

BMS

Mallory Hodge	Grade 1	BPS
Mindy Middleton	Literacy Interventionist	BHS
David Skaggs	Grade 6	BMS
Lauren Turner	Kindergarten	BPS
Carolyn Weaver	Special Education	BMS/BHS
Joy Wicker	Business	BHS

B. Resignation of Licensed Employees

Tosha Brewer	Grade 1	BPS
Tynga Coleman	Grade 3	BES
Phillip King	Grade 6	BMS
Candace Jolly	Grade 6	BMS
Joshua Setzler	Business	BHS
Wesley Ann Thomas	Kindergarten	BPS

C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Richelle Carter	ALE Paraprofessional	BHS
Desmond Hammond	ALE Paraprofessional	BHS
Sharyl Stewart	Cafeteria	BHS

D. Appointment of Classified Employees

Althalean Billups	Paraprofessional	BPS
Joshua Blocker	Network Manager	ADM
Shaunda Brown	Paraprofessional	BMS
Belinda Cantrell	Paraprofessional	BPS
Kierra Davis	Paraprofessional	BMS
Karen Reed	Paraprofessional	BMS
LaShonda Sutton	Paraprofessional	BHS

E. Resignation of Classified Employee (voluntary resignation due to job abandonment)

Acquetta Featherson	Paraprofessional	BES
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Tobey Johnson that the Board accept the appointments and resignations as listed in A., B., C., D., and E. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:38 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Richard Atwill  
Ex-officio Financial Secretary