

BLYTHEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Blytheville, Arkansas
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2014

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on February 24, 2014, with the following members present:

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

The following members were absent:

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| (1) Gene Henton | (2) Carlony Lewis |
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Others present for the meeting: Amber Dumond, Ken Dumond, Tom Flippo, Robert Harris, Edna Floyd, Ron Self, and Michael Young. (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 meeting for the month of February 2014 to order. |
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| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF
A QUORUM | A quorum was established with six members present. |
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| 3. PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
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4. SCHOOL PRIDE RECOGNITION

Mike Wallace, Principal of Blytheville Middle School, introduced Band Director Ken Dumond, who spoke to the Board about this year's activities. Mr. Dumond introduced Assistant Band Director Melinda Williams, who directed six members of the eighth-grade band in three pieces of music.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. An email was recently sent to Board Members regarding a possible procedure for the graduation ceremony in the event of inclement weather. The Board took no action at this time.
2. The Arkansas State Board of Education has approved the Arkansas Department of Education Emergency Rules Governing Schools of Innovation. These rules will give districts some latitude on how students are educated. The rules will be discussed at the district staff meeting on Wednesday morning.

3. The Parent/Teachers Associations at each school will be responsible for the soda vending machines. The PTA's will receive 100 percent of the profit.
4. The superintendent and Tobey Johnson will attend the NEARK Regional P-20 Town Hall Meeting tomorrow at Arkansas State University.
5. The Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held on Monday, March 10, at Arkansas Northeastern College at 6:30 p.m. Four of the district's teachers have been nominated for Teacher of the Year.
6. The NEARK School Boards Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 18, at Arkansas State University from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. NSBA President, Mr. David Picker, will be the speaker.
7. A decision on opting out of School Choice for the 2014-2015 school year must be made at regular Board meeting on March 17.
8. On a survey of the staff, a majority of those responding wished to take Friday, April 18, as a holiday and use June 3 as a make-up day.
9. The district received a letter today approving the budget for this school year.

B. Instructional Reports

1. Sally Cooke, Director of Curriculum
 - a. On Wednesday, the district is having an on-site monitoring visit from the Arkansas Department of Education Department of Career and Technical Education.
 - b. Sally Cooke and Kara Eagle will attend a career fair in Russellville on Thursday and one in Conway on Friday of this week.
 - c. Each school staff nominated teachers for Teacher of Year for the Chamber of Commerce Banquet on March 10. The nominees are Robin Sneed, BHS, LaDonna Hester, BMS, Carlecia Gentry, BES, and Tracy Plunkett, BPS.
 - d. Arkansas Northeastern College will host counselors and administrators in March for a visit to the tech center. It is hoped that more students will take advantage of both Technical classes and concurrent credit.
 - e. The AdvancEd Accreditation visit will take place on April 27 to April 30. Parents, teachers, and 6-12 grade students are completing surveys prior to the visit. The Board will be

interviewed on April 28. On April 30, a Board meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. as the exit interview.

- f. Professional development has already been scheduled at Crowley's Ridge Cooperative for teachers for the 2014-2015 school year. The professional development will be written in the teachers' growth plans.
- g. The Odyssey of the Mind competition will be held on Saturday, March 1, in Pocahontas. The district has great teams this year under the direction of Diane Hay.
- h. Tommy Bennett asked about the loss of MacBooks. Five have been stolen and five have been recovered due to technology in place. When a MacBook is opened, it tells where it is located and takes a photo of the person. Students and teachers are doing a great job keeping up with them.
- i. Tracey Ritchey told the Board about a program the Chamber of Commerce is hosting, "A Day in the Life..." It will be held on Wednesday, February 26, at Blytheville Middle School. Professionals will speak to eighth-grade career classrooms regarding careers to help students make better decisions in the future.

C. Operations Report

Randy Jumper, Director of Facilities

- 1. The Teen Summit, which was held on Friday, February 14, in the ANC Governor's Ballroom, was a great success.
- 2. The trash dumpsters cost the district approximately \$98,000 per year, so they are being monitoring to see how often they are dumped and the volume of trashing being discarded.
- 3. Custodial companies are contacting the district about bids for service next year. Specifications for the bids are being written.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the January 27, 2014, Meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 28, 2014, Special Meeting
- C. Minutes of the February 10, 2014, Special Meeting
- D. Minutes of the February 17, 2014, Special Meeting
- E. January Financial Report
- F. Offer Property for Sale

G. Use April 18 as Easter Break and June 3 the last day of school

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Tracey Ritchey that the Board approve items as listed in A., B., C., D., E., F., and G. above.

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

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board took the following personnel action:

A. Reappointment of District-Level Administrators/Directors (2014-15)

Jean Cole	Director of Special Services
Sally Cooke	Director of Curriculum
Diane Hay	GT Administrator
Jennifer Johnson	Director of Finance
Randy Jumper	Director of Facilities
Teryn Spears	New Tech Director/Parental Involvement Coordinator
Kris Williams	Director of Technology

B. Retirement of Classified Employee

Ernestine Kelly	Cafeteria	BHS
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C. Retirement of Licensed Employee (end of 2013-2014)

Michael Alsup	Special Education	BHS
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D. Resignation of Classified Employee

Brenda McRay	Bus Driver	SVC
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tracey Ritchey and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board accept the reappointments, retirements, and resignations as listed in A. – D. above,

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:16 p.m.

Lori Hixson left the meeting at this time.

E. Reappointment of District-Level Administrator (2014-15)

David Hixson	Athletic Director
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Atwill, a motion was made by Tobey Johnson and seconded by Barbara Wells that the Board accept the reappointment as listed in E. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote at 7:16 p.m.

Lori Hixson returned to the meeting at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Atwill".

Richard Atwill
Ex-officio Financial Secretary