

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)

Blytheville, AR
August 25, 2008

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 25, 2008, with the following members present:

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| (1) Marrietta Jerome, President | (2) Ollie R. Lofton, Vice President |
| (3) Lori Hixson, Secretary | (4) Gene Henton |
| (5) James T. McMahan II | (6) Steve White |
| (7) Tommy Bennett, Jr. | (8) Billy Fair |

Others present for the meeting: Jean Cole, Jenni Betts Deming (*Blytheville Courier News*), Mike Huffman, Ron Self, and June Walters.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Jerome called the regular meeting for the month of August 2008 to order. |
| 2. MINUTES | The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. |
| 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS | |

A. Superintendent's Report.

1. School has gotten off to a good start. Enrollment figures are comparable to previous years.
2. Supreme Court rulings in Seattle and Louisville, Kentucky, deemed school choice statutes unconstitutional. If the Arkansas statute is deemed unconstitutional, it could re-segregate schools. This issue is worth watching.
3. Superintendent Daniels received a call from an Arkansas Department of Education staff attorney regarding a letter received by Commissioner Ken James stating that two students who reside in Blytheville are enrolled in school in Steele, Missouri. It appears the ADE is finally looking into the problem of students illegally crossing attendance zones.

B. Instructional Reports.

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent
 - a. Due to class-size reduction requirements, a first-grade teacher has been moved to a second-grade classroom. In addition, a fourth-grade teacher has been moved to a third-grade classroom. Letters were sent to parents today. A smooth transition is expected.

- b. Special education students have been placed in regular classrooms, with special education teachers as co-teachers.
- c. In June, the district still had 11 teacher vacancies. When school began, this year's vacancies had been filled with 39 certified teachers.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

- a. The district has received approval of the Arkansas Better Chance Grant, which funds the district's two pre-school classrooms.

C. Operations Report.

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

The Arkansas Department of Education sent an architect to inspect two of the partnership projects, the new roof at Charter and HVAC renovations at Blytheville Intermediate School, to determine if they were necessary to meet warm, safe, and dry requirements. At this time, no one has been sent to inspect the existing cafeteria at Central Elementary School.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy Revisions.

- 1. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by James McMahan and seconded by Ollie Lofton to approve as presented revisions to Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the district's policy manual.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 2. A vote on revisions to Section 3 and Section 8 of the district policy manual was tabled until the Personnel Policy Committee could meet.

B. President Jerome asked Superintendent Daniels to clarify the policy regarding cell phone use. Superintendent Daniels stated that Arkansas law prohibited cell phone use from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., but if a phone is brought to school, it must be left in a locker or a vehicle.

C. President Jerome reminded Board members that the final open house will be held tomorrow night at Blytheville Intermediate School. The Board has had representation at all open houses.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Lori Hixson stated that she would like to encourage teachers to attend Board meetings. She asked if it would be possible for them to receive professional development hours for attending. Superintendent Daniels stated that attending Board meetings would not meet the requirements for professional development as set forth by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

7. OPEN SESSION

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

A. Retirement of Certified Employee

Janet Showalter	Music	BPS
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B. Appointment of Classified Employees

Patricia Chapman	Bus Driver	District
Suzanne Fisher	Paraprofessional	BHS
Daniel Harris	Technician	District
Barbara Howard	Paraprofessional	BHS
Marilyn Partee	Crossing Guard	BKC
Dee Williams	Bus Driver	District

C. Resignation of Classified Employees

Daniel Harris	Paraprofessional	BMS
Melissa Jones	Paraprofessional	BIS
Marilyn Partee	Bus Driver	District
Felicia Redditt	Cafeteria	BPS
Tomaka Wells	Bus Driver	District

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Ollie Lofton and seconded by James McMahan that the Board accept the appointments, retirement, and resignations as listed above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce E. Daniels, Ph.D.
Ex-officio Financial Secretary