

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)

Blytheville, AR
January 26, 2009

The Blytheville Board of Education met at the Blytheville School District Administration Building at 405 West Park Street at 6:00 p.m. on January 26, 2009, 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) Steve White | (6) Tommy Bennett, Jr. |
| (7) Billy Fair | (8) Bill Sullivan |

(Steve White arrived at the meeting as Superintendent Daniels began his report.)

Others present for the meeting: Kevin Butler, Jean Cole, LaRay Cloud, Glenn Ellis, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), Lisa Jowers, Linda O'Guin, Lavella McWilliams, Tracy Ritchey, Ron Self, Shela Ward, and Leslie Wells.

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | President Jerome called the regular meeting for the month of January 2009 to order and welcomed the visitors. |
| 2. MINUTES | The minutes of the previous regular meeting and the minutes of the two previous special meetings were approved as written. |
| 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS
REPORTS | |
| | A. <u>Superintendent's Report.</u> |
| | 1. According to a report prepared by David Cooke, United Way contributions showed a small decrease from last year. |
| | 2. The Board agreed to change the date of the February Board of Education meeting from Monday, February 23, to Thursday, February 19, due to the scheduling of superintendent interviews. |
| | 3. The School Choice Act is one of the hot topics for discussion in the Legislature; one of which no one wants to deal with. The Legislature wants school administrators to provide a better solution. Administrators believe the statute is sufficient, and thus, wish to leave it as is to see if it is challenged in court. |
| | 4. The district has received three grants—a "Say Go College" grant in the amount of \$25,000 and two school improvement grants in the amount of \$100,000 each for Blytheville Intermediate School and Blytheville Middle School. |

5. A sense of urgency must be developed by all regarding school improvement, so that the district does not face being taken over by the Arkansas State Department of Education. Many measures are being taken to get out of school improvement, but there is still much work to be done. Daily instruction in classrooms is the most important thing.

B. Instructional Reports.

Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

1. The district's AdvancED visit is scheduled for March 1-4. Board members will be interviewed on Monday, March 2. A special Board meeting will be scheduled on Wednesday, March 4, at approximately 1:00 p.m. During the February Board meeting, the plan will be reviewed with the Board in preparation for the visit.
2. JBHM Education Group has been working with Blytheville Intermediate School and Blytheville Middle School four days per week in the school improvement process.
3. A meeting was held today with the consultant for the Reading First Grant. The professional development associate will continue working with the district, and the coaches and their professional development will be funded next year.
4. The district received notification of substantial compliance on ACSIP plans, so money should be received soon.

4. OLD BUSINESS

President Jerome gave the Board a list of applicants for the superintendent position. On February 12, the Board will hold a special meeting with the search consultants, at which time, they will present their top applicants to the Board. Interviews will be scheduled on February 23, 24, 26, and 27. If five days are need, interviews will be scheduled on February 20.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

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. Resignation of Classified Employee

Sheila Brown	Personal Care Aide	BIS
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B. Retirement of Classified Employee

Cordie Murphy	Custodian	CES
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Tommy Bennett and seconded by Ollie Lofton that the Board accept the resignation and retirement as listed in A. and B. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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