

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
(MINUTES)

Blytheville, AR  
October 27, 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 October 27, 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) Steve White                 | (6) Billy Fair                      |

Steve White arrived at the meeting during Item 5. B. Report to the Public.

The following members were absent:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Tommy Bennett, Jr. | (2) James T. McMahan II |
|------------------------|-------------------------|

Others present for the meeting: Gary Beard, Jean Cole, Rev. Davis Fitzpatrick, Donna Hilton (*Blytheville Courier News*), James Tony Hollis, and Jim Shelton.

1. CALL TO ORDER      President Jerome called the regular meeting for the month of October 2008 to order.

2. MINUTES            The minutes of the regular meeting and the minutes of the two previous special meetings were approved as written.

3. OLD BUSINESS      There was no old business to discuss.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Title VI-B Budget

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Gene Henton and seconded by Billy Fair that the Board approve the 2008-2009 Title VI-B (special services) budget as presented.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Unemployment Compensation Account

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Ollie Lofton and seconded by Lori Hixson that the Board approve to participate in the

Arkansas Public School Unemployment Compensation Account.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Meeting Date Changes

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Ollie Lofton to change the date of the November Board of Education meeting from November 24 to November 20 and to change the date of the December Board of Education meeting from December 22 to December 15.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Report

1. The October 1 enrollment count showed a small increase over last year's count.
2. Hotel reservations have been made for Board members to attend the Arkansas School Boards Association Conference in Little Rock in December.
3. A meeting was recently held in Little Rock between Superintendent Daniels, Charles Van Pelt, Marrietta Jerome, and Doug Eaton, of the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, to discuss the failed millage election. Mr. Eaton suggested that if the ADE approves the partnership projects, the district should hold another millage election in September of 2009.

B. Report to the Public

1. Sandy Hughey, Assistant Superintendent

The district's main focus is on literacy and math, with reading, writing, and comprehension strategies being emphasized in all content areas. Three priorities have been set for this year—improving student performance, improving student attendance, and improving student behavior. Information regarding

goals, academic progress, district accreditation, federal allocations, special needs funding, and the Challenge Program was shared with the Board. Board member training hours for January 1 – December 31, 2007, were reported in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §6-13-629.

2. Letroy Gathen, Executive Director of Support Services

The goal of the Title I program is "No Child Left Behind." This year's estimated budget is \$2,318,488. The program supports administrative costs, the parent/teacher center, four support staff, 47 paraprofessionals, three teachers, three literacy coaches, one math coach, and the preschool program. The program also supports various activities and staff development, as well as other district programs.

C. Operations Report

Charles Van Pelt, Executive Director of Operations

A presentation was given to the Board regarding the Utility Direct Program by School Dude, which is being used to track district utilities and project savings.

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 Employees

Shella Bonds	Paraprofessional	BIS
Dell Skelton	Bookkeeper	District

B. Appointment of Classified Employee

Hester Mae Ellis	Paraprofessional	BHS
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Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Daniels, a motion was made by Billy Fair and seconded by Ollie Lofton that the Board accept the appointment and resignations as listed in A. and B. above.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Retirement of Superintendent

Upon a motion by Steve White and a second by Billy Fair, the Board voted reluctantly to accept the retirement of Superintendent Bruce Daniels effective June 30, 2009.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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