

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLAIR-TAYLOR ANNUAL MEETING

October 23, 2023

United Campus Auditorium

President Troy Tenneson called the Budget Hearing of the Blair-Taylor School District to order at 6:00 p.m. Present Board Members: Troy Tenneson, Perry Kujak, David Thompson, Sarah Staff, Michele Steien, Neil Kniseley, and Blaine Koxlien. Also in attendance were Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Brenda Olson, Mary Ann Hulett, Roger Foegan, and Andrew Dannehy.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Lynn Halverson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the budget presentation and annual meeting.

Superintendent Lynn Halverson presented the 2023-24 budget explaining details of the proposed revenues and expenses for all funds and functions, certified tax values and the projected tax levy.

Motion by N. Kniseley with a second by S. Staff to adjourn the budget hearing. Motion passed and budget hearing was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Troy Tenneson called the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Blair-Taylor School District to order noting all Board members are still present.

Motion by Neil Kniseley, with a second by Perry Kujak to nominate Troy Tenneson as the chairperson of this meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by David Thompson, with a second by Michele Steien, to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

Superintendent Lynn Halverson reported that the 2022-23 audit has been completed, but the audit report or audit statement letter have not been received.

Motion by Brenda Olson, with a second by David Thompson, to approve the general fund tax levy of \$3,225,074, debt service tax levy of \$1,414,250, and community service levy for \$50,000 for a total district tax levy of \$4,689,324. Motion passed.

Motion by Neil Kniseley, with a second by Sarah Staff to approve short-term borrowing to a maximum of \$500,000, if needed. Motion passed.

District Goals:

Superintendent Lynn Halverson discussed the district goals for the 2023- 2024 school year. The first being to become financially stable and to rebuild our fund balance. By doing so we will eliminate the need to short term borrow and the additional expense that comes with borrowing. Mr. Halverson would like to explore ways to offer more to our students. Researching to see if this may be a reason why we have more students open enrolling out than in. We have updated to a new compensation model as one way to retain our current staff and help attract quality staff. We want to make Blair-Taylor a place where staff want to be. Mr. Halverson has a goal of developing a strategic plan. The district has worked with The Big River Group to begin research with the community regarding student academics and achievement. As a building goal we restructured our admin team to create better relationships with our students, parents and staff.

Mr. Halverson reported goals or updates of the Coop this year are that our Alternative Education shifted locations. This will improve the environment of each group of students. Quite a few students participating in the Alternative Education program have met the GED option 2 requirements to graduate already. We continue to use our shared services. This has worked out positively for Blair-Taylor with our IT services and Special Ed Director. We plan to further educate ourselves on artificial intelligence and how it will affect education.

Motion by Roger Foegen, with a second by Brenda Olson that salaries for School Board members increase the annual rate to \$2,500. \$75.00 for special meetings, \$125.00 Full Day, \$75.00 for Half Day or evening meetings, \$75.00 for consortium meetings and \$300 per year for committee meetings. Motion passed.

Motion by Michele Steien, with a second by Sarah Staff to authorize the purchase of textbooks and software for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by Neil Kniseley, with a second by Mary Ann Hulett to approve the district's depositories as Waumandee State Bank, Local Government Investment Pool, and American Depository Management Co. as the district depositories for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by David Thompson, with a second by Neil Kniseley to designate the school newsletter, school website and Facebook page, WWIS and WHTL radio stations, and School Messenger as official news sources for the 2023-24 school year. All required legal notices will be sent to both Trempealeau County Times and the Banner Journal. Motion passed.

Motion by David Thompson, with a second by Neil Kniseley to authorize the board to establish and set the date and time for the 2024 Budget and Annual Meeting to be October 28th 2024 for 6.00 and 6:30 pm. Motion passed.

Motion by Neil Kniseley with a second by Perry Kujak to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Thompson", written in dark ink.

David Thompson, Clerk.