

BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH - 5:30 P.M.

President Troy Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Michele Steien, Blaine Koxlien, Troy Tenneson, David Thompson, Neil Kniseley. Perry Kujak attended virtually. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Becky Brouillet, Jared McCutchen, Susan Guenther, and Lori Lisowski. Meeting was also live streamed on Wildcat tv.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mission statement - "To educate all learners to reach their potential as productive citizens" read aloud.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

With no public comment we will move forward.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by N. Kniseley, to approve January 25 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with second by M. Steien, to approve bills for the month of January 2025. Motion carried by roll call vote 6-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with second by D. Thompson, to approve the January 2025 financial statement. Motion carried by roll call vote 6-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson presented a map showing how much school districts in Wisconsin spend on Special Education. The state only reimburses special education by almost 30% which takes away funding for other education needs. AEF (Association of Equity in Funding) is promoting more equal funding for Special Education. CPI looks like this next budget year is 2.95% of the base salary for staff negotiations. Currently, we are looking into a different printer/copier vendor. Bryce with our IT department found a company where the price would remain about the same. The only difference is one provides new equipment instead of used equipment. IT is looking at updating our macbooks/chromebooks and/or ipads. Also looking into the pros and cons of possibly moving to lpads vs Chromebooks for our students. Mr. Halverson also presented a possible amount to budget for these items next school year. CESA 4 reached out stating there were some unclaimed funds for their nursing grant. We took advantage of that and purchased 3 Germ Solution air purifier units.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - Mrs. Lisowski reported the students are extremely busy with it being tournament time for wrestling and girls and boys basketball. Last week, we celebrated FCCLA week and this week is FFA & FBLA week. All three organizations will have their regional events coming up. Students also participated in Forensics, choir/band solo ensemble & large group, Coulee land honors choir, in March will be Coulee land honors band. There are

three weeks left in the second trimester. Currently finishing up junior scheduling for next year and hope to finish sophomore scheduling before spring break.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen reported that the elementary students finished our first semester at the end of January and report cards were mailed to parents. The elementary school went to the movies last week then returned to celebrate Valentine's Day with their classroom parties. Seven of our elementary teachers are piloting AI-Super Teachers this week with a free trial. Next week will be our launch meeting with the creator. Child development days will be Feb 27-28th. Summer School information and registration has been released. We plan to have two weeks of summer school in June.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Our ID program has started the Jacky's Blue Coffee Cup. An email is sent to staff early in the week and the coffee is delivered Friday morning. With this program we are teaching our students communication skills, money math and other job skills we want our students to obtain.

Discussion:

Mr. Halverson reported he attended a meeting with the 27 schools in our Insurance coop and M3. This year M3 reached out to a few insurance companies for bids. We received three bids. One from Security Health which we are currently with, WCA and Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. There are a few differences in preventative medications covered. However the rest is pretty similar. If we were to go with either WCA or Anthem we would lower our premiums significantly. Anthem guaranteed not to exceed an increase of more than 8.95% for the 26-27 school year, WCA guaranteed not to exceed 9.0% and we did not receive a guarantee from Security Health. Our school vote for a provider is due to M3 this week Friday. As part of the coop whatever the majority chooses is what we have to go with.

Action Items:

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by T. Tenneson, to approve the 2025-26 School Year Calendar. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve our parking lot maintenance sealcoating with Seal King for the same price otherwise go with Superior. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve Simmons Construction bid for a new softball field announcer stand. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to approve renewal of Skyward Q. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve the resignation of Greta Monson as Head Volleyball Coach. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve an Assistant Track Coach contract to Madeline Wolff. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss individual staffing for 2025-26/non-renewal considerations, individual school board seat candidates and individual student success. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by D. Thompson, to go reconvene to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Tenneson, with a second by B. Koxlien to approve Lindsey Byom to fill the vacant school board member seat through April, 2026. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by B. Koxlien to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Thompson, Board Clerk

