

BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 24TH - 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, and Lindsey Byom. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Jared McCutchen, Melissa Pientok, Lori Lisowski, Susan Frederixon, and Zach Rastall. 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.

School Board Clerk, David Thompson asked our new school board member Lindsey Byom to read the oath of office. The Official Oath of Office was read and signed by new school board member, Lindsey Byom. Congratulations Lindsey. P. Kujak made a special note that Lindsey was voted on by the board and they are very excited to have her aboard.

Mr. Halverson stated with the vacancy of a treasurer, he would like to open up nominations for a treasurer. Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to nominate Michele Steien as the new treasurer. With no other nominations, congratulations Michele.

With no public comment we will move forward.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by P. Kujak, to approve February 25 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with second by M. Steien, to approve bills for the month of February 2025. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by P. Kujak, with second by N. Kniseley, to approve the February 2025 financial statement. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson updated the board last month we discussed different options for our health insurance. As a Northwest Coop it was voted to go with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Halverson notified the board that graduation will be May 24th. The kitchen floors were redone over break. There were some little issues and they were fixed with no additional charges. Mr. Halverson reported there are a lot of Federal Funding discussions. DPI provided a map of how it will impact each district if Federal Funding were to disappear. Blair-Taylor would lose \$301,961 with USDA and \$470,234 from the Department of Education.

There are a lot of questions and concerns if that funding were to go to the state level. Would we receive the same funding or a percentage? 9 area districts participate in the CESA 10 Project Circuit. Project Circuit is an opportunity for them to manage college level classes. There is discussion in the dissolving project circuit but Mr. Halverson would like to keep this option to those who are excelling in classes.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - Ms. Lisowski reported before spring break, we had a presenter talk about human trafficking for 7-12 grade. This week we have a presenter discussing resilience and suicide prevention for 6 - 8 grade. Last week we had state testing and ACT testing for grades 9-11. April 7th grades 6-8th grade will begin their state testing. We continue to work on scheduling for next school year. Trimester 3 began once we returned from break. March is music in our school's month. Mrs. Hulne and Mrs. McNamer are working together bringing in musicians. Mrs. Hulne will also be having a ukulele night. Thank you to both Mrs. Hulne & Mrs. McNamer.

Assistant MS/HS Principal - Melissa Pientok - Mrs. Pientok reported to celebrate music in schools month, the Couleeland honors band was held March 7th. Last Friday we hosted Megaband with over 200 area 6th grade students. We've been identifying positive student behavior. Staff members recognize students going above and beyond. On Thursday they will be rewarded with rootbeer floats. MS track practice will begin next week. Our AI pilot is going very well in math, social studies. We had 98% of active users and an average of 39.5 chats per student with the AI tutor bot.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen reported we had inservice before our break. Teachers worked on our literacy strategies. Looking at our schedules for next year and how we can support our students. Our 3rd-5th graders are taking their FORWARD testing next week. So far we have 152 students signed up for summer school. Last week we had our penny war. We raised \$650.00 for our Elementary PTO. Parent/Teacher Conferences are April 15th & 17th. A huge Thank you to Erica Anderson who wrote and received a grant for our CARE Room.

Discussion Items:

Mr. Halverson updated the board that Mark and Susan Frederixon with B-T Cleaners would like to fully retire. According to our contract it states if mutually agreed between both Mark & Susan and the school board we can cease our contract early. Mr. Halverson would like to hire their staff and have Luke Solberg, head maintenance, supervise/oversee. The plan would be to take over on July 1st. It was asked if we would hire if people leave or do we want to look into hiring a full time night time custodian. It was also asked what other area school districts do? Do they hire within or hire an outside vendor? Mr. Halverson will bring more information to the next board meeting in April.

Action Items:

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve AGR Board Report. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to approve Spring Coaching Contracts. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve the consent agenda items, which include the resignation of Bekka Baures as middle school volleyball coach, resignation of Ariel

Koxlien as middle school volleyball coach, resignation of Scott Janzen as JV boys basketball coach, issue contracts for Katelyn Schade as middle school volleyball coach, Dave Cowley as head volleyball coach, and Cole Van Schyndel as JV boys basketball coach. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss individual staffing for 2025-26/ non-renewal considerations and staff compensation 2025-26. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

David Thompson, Board Clerk

