

BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 28 - 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, Jared McCutchen, Lori Lisowski, Susan Frederixson, and Zach Rastall.

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.

The Official Oath of Office was read and signed by newly re-elected school board members, Blaine Koxlien, David Thompson, and Neil Kniseley.

Board reorganization

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by N. Kniseley, to nominate Troy Tenneson as our Board President. Motion Carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by T. Tenneson, to nominate Perry Kujak as our Board Vice President. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by L. Byom, to nominate David Thompson as our Board Clerk. Motion Carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak, to nominate Michele Steien as our Board Treasurer. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to keep the standing committees as presented. Motion carried.

Congratulations to all!

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by N. Kniseley, to keep board meetings at 5:30 pm the third Monday of each month, except for April and October in which will be the fourth Monday. Motion carried.

With no public comment, we will move on.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by L. Byom, to approve minutes of the March 2025 regular and closed meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve the bills for the month of March. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by L. Byom, to approve the financial statement for the month of March. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson presented area districts April 1st referendum results. Next school year we will need an Operational Referendum since our current one expires. The Department of Education, Federal Funding and other government admin are wanting school districts to sign a certification letter. The DPI challenged this as unconstitutional. The Department of Education did not ask individual districts, only asked the DPI. So at this time, we have not done anything with it. Mr. Halverson reported our ATM is now installed by the MS/HS gym. Also the softball announcers stand is under construction and should be finished soon.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen reported to the board an update on the penny war. In 4 days our students raised about \$5,300.00 for our Elementary PTO. It is great to see how supportive our community and parents are to our school. We had parent/teacher conferences a couple weeks ago which were well attended. A shout out to our kitchen staff for providing a meal while conferences were taking place. We finished up the Spring ACT 20 reading testing. 44% of our second graders were meeting the Tier 1 benchmark at the beginning of the year. Now we are at 80%. Last week we finished up our State Forward testing. On Friday we will be having Ag day. Thank you to Ms. Monson for organizing. Staff appreciation week will be next week.

In the absence of Beth Lisowski, Melissa Pientok, and Becky Brouillet due to the storm, Mr. Halverson read their updates. Middle School state testing is complete. There will be a middle school spring dance on May 2nd. Freshman orientation will take place for 8th graders during parent teacher conferences. 3rd Trimester Parent/Teacher conferences were last week. Next Monday is a band concert with the choir concert on May 13th. Senior exit interviews will be on May 12th & 14th. Senior trip and community service day will be May 14th. Baccalaureate and senior awards are May 18th. Graduation will be May 24th. In the Special Ed department, we are currently working on scheduling for the next school year.

Discussion Items:

At last month's board meeting, Mr. Halverson was asked to further investigate any new options for a cleaning service. He reached out to Maug Cleaning Services, ServPro, and J & F Facility Services Inc for quotes on all cleaning services. We received broken out quotes from Maug Cleaning Services being, the stripping and waxing the K-12 area with the Child Care Center being additional, top scrubbing and recoat of the K-12 area with the Child Care Center being additional, washing all interior & exterior windows, and having a full-time staff member as another cost. We had ServPro review the same as Maug Cleaning and have not received a quote. We also had J & F Facility meet with Luke and they will have a 3 year plan where their services wouldn't be needed after that. However at this time, we do not have a quote yet.

Action Items:

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve Michele Steien as our new CESA 4 Annual Meeting Delegate. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by L. Byom, to approve CESA 10 Contract 2025-26.
Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve CESA 4 Contract 2025-26.
Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the District Library Plan. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by L. Byom, to approve the Technology Update as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by M. Steien, to approve the consent agenda items, those being Elementary School Counselor, Bekka Baures resignation, MS/HS Tech Ed Teacher, Andrew Scheller resignation, moving Amber Frederixon from HS Special Education to 3rd Grade Teacher, shifting Michael Lampman from Elementary PE to HS Tech. Ed, issue Elementary PE contract to Lauren Koss, issue HS Science Teacher contract to Brianna Sass, retirement of MS Science teacher Brian Rogers, and issue MS track coaching contract to Grace Mlsna. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss staff compensation 2025-26 and individual staff non-renewals/resignations. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to resume to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve a 3% salary increase of the 2024-25 salary schedule (per cell) for all professional staff and a 3% increase to the 2024-25 hourly rate for all support staff. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve the resignation of Dean Witz, Vocal/Choral Music Director, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic school year. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by B. Koxlien, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



David Thompson, Board Clerk

