

BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 18TH - 5:30 P.M.

President Troy Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Blaine Koxlien, Troy Tenneson, Michele Steien, David Thompson, Neil Kniseley, Lindsey Byom and Perry Kujak. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Jared McCutchen, Becky Brouillet, Melissa Pientok, Lori Lisowski, and Gwen Kidd.

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 on.

Motion by L. Byom, with second by P. Kujak, to approve regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with second by M. Steien, to approve bills for the month of July 2025. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with second by L. Byom, to approve the July 2025 financial statement. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson reported to the board our self funded dental insurance rates did not change from last year. The 24-25 loss ratio was at 92% so we still are running as a positive. There is a full board TVC 2.0 meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Mr. Halverson encouraged any board member to attend. Mr. Halverson gave an update on preliminary numbers of district property value for 2026. A couple athletic updates, Blair-Taylor will be hosting the softball sectional final again this season, however not baseball. The baseball sectionals will be held at River Ridge.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - Mrs. Lisowski reported that in high school, we are a part of LiftOFF with CESA 4 as part of our AI. In the middle school we plan to use the same AI components as last year so the students can move ahead and challenge themselves. The high school is learning how to use AI responsibly, like plagiarism, and when it is ok to use. We plan to have the 9th - 11th graders take a fall ACT. This will be similar to the spring state tests. An update to coop classes will be open to other students, not just juniors and seniors.

MS/HS Assist. Principal - Melissa Pientok - Mrs. Pientok reported that staff return tomorrow and are excited for the year to start.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen reported the teachers return for inservice tomorrow to get prepared for the year. Our plan is to have meetings to focus on

NextPath, our information warehouse and discuss our literacy goals. We also are setting a recess goal regarding behavior expectations. Jenna Kowalke, a potential new kindergarten teacher, introduced herself and her therapy dog, Winsten.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Ms. Brouillet reported she is shifting where some para professionals will need to be assigned based on students and their needs.

Discussion Items: Mr Halverson mentioned last month we discussed the Cum Laude system, the concerns with it, and why we use this. He met with concerned parents to discuss their questions and around 90% were parents of incoming seniors. Currently, when students enroll in college courses, it's a cost to the district. If those classes do not align with the student's career path it is a wasted cost to the district. We will continue to receive feedback from parents and bring it back to the board..

Action Items:

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve purchasing Data Wrangler. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve the Safety and Emergency Response Plan 2025-26. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by L. Byom, to approve the requested early graduation requests. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve the consent agenda items, which are, issue contracts to Jenna Kowalke as kindergarten teacher and middle school volleyball coach, contract to Michael Lampman and Lauren Koss as co-head track coaches. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by M. Steien, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss individual staffing concerns. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


David Thompson, Clerk