

**BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th - 5:30 P.M**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

With no public comment, we will move on.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by L. Byom, to approve August 2025 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by L. Byom, with second by P. Kujak, to approve the August 2025 financial statement. Motion carried by roll call vote 6-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson shared with the board at this time with the preliminary estimates, the district's tax levy will have no significant increase. However this will not be finalized until the aid certification is certified on October 15th. If this is accurate we anticipate our mill rate to be \$8.24 which is lower than last year. On September 24th there is a full board TVC meeting at the Independence Western Campus at 7:00 p.m. September 10th the Wall of Inspiration Committee met to discuss new nominees. Data Wrangler meters will be hooked up on October 17th.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - Mrs. Lisowski reported the middle/high school is preparing for homecoming. Our teachers are using different AI tools, like Chat GPT, Magic School, Khan Academy, and Canva AI to support the responsible and ethical use of AI for our students. To help our students know when/what is acceptable to use and not get caught up in plagiarism.

Assist. MS/HS Principal - Melissa Pientok - Mrs. Pientok shared with the board that the middle school was awarded a grant from the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation for our STEM kits. Currently our students are using those kits to build ukuleles, speakers, and catapults. Middle School sports off to a good start. We are looking at starting some clubs, like Forensics and National Junior Honor Society. Students also completed our STAR tests so we are reviewing the data and offering their personalized learning path. This Friday we will have our first homeroom challenge. The homeroom with the best problem solving skills will receive a trophy to display until the next challenge.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen stated the elementary is also using a little AI in the classrooms. We just purchased Lexia Core 5 which is an ELA activity and eSpark Math, both programs provide a placement assessment for each student then the pace is also set as well. We have already started our STAR assessments for our ACT 20. During the first weeks of school we are reimplementing our school expectations, safe, respectful, responsible. We have a Paw Stamp challenge. Each student following those expectations will receive a paw stamp. Once we reach a goal of 5,000 stamps in the entire elementary, we will have a celebration.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Ms. Brouillet reported she would like to have the special ed staff focus on students' centralized learning and durable skills, and how to incorporate them into student's IEPs. As a group we are working on collective commitments as a district. We are also attending training on a multi tiered system of support. This looks at how we are doing as a school to provide universal instruction and intensive support for all students on their academics, behaviors and their social/emotional outcomes.

Discussion Items:

Mr. Halverson reported in October, 2024, a survey was sent home with our childcare parents asking if parents are pleased with the service provided by the childcare, and does the childcare center have an impact on your choice to live in this community? With the 18 parents responding an average of 4.6 on a scale of 1-5 are very satisfied, and 9 of the 18 stated yes the childcare has an impact on living in this community. If we retain even one kid retained in our school system for their entire educational career, according to today's dollar, accounts for \$151,450. Mr. Halverson stated "we are in the "kid" business, if our community doesn't have child care options for young families, we don't have kids. If enrollment decreases, so will the revenues for the district."

Action Items:

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by L. Byom, to approve Greenhouse Proposal. Motion carried by roll call vote, 5-0, 1 abstained.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak, to nominate Lindsay Byom to attend the WASB - 2025 Fall Regional Meeting on October 9th at the Onalaska Middle School. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the purchase of 4 new concert risers for a total of \$8,896.97. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by L. Byom, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve discontinuing the Laude System after the 25-26 school year. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by B. Koxlien, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss individual staffing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



David Thompson, Clerk