

BLAIR-TAYLOR DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - 5:30 P.M.

Vice President Perry Kujak called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Sarah Staff, Michele Steien, Perry Kujak, Troy Tenneson, Blaine Koxlien. Absent: Troy Tenneson, David Thompson, and Neil Kniseley. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Jared McCutchen, Becky Brouillet, Melissa Pientok, and Andrew Dennehy. 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 S. Staff, with a second by M. Steien, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

With No public comment, we will move on.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by P. Kujak, to approve August 2024 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Kujak, with second by S. Staff, to approve bills for the month of August 2024. Motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by S. Staff, to approve the August 2024 financial statement. Motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson reminded the board there is a Joint TVC 2.0 full board meeting on September 18, 2024 at 6:30pm in Whitehall. Our district annual and budget meeting will be held on October 28, 2024 after the regular board meeting. Mr. Halverson reported he is working with a local vendor to see if they could have a similar sand product as Waupaca Sand for the softball field update. We are still looking into the possibility of installing an ATM in the ms/hs commons. Mr. Halverson is asking the board whether we go with the vendor Mrs. Perry reached out to or moved forward with Coop Credit Union. A concern was brought forward regarding many places going cashless and if an ATM would be used. Mr. Halverson stated he thought it would be used a lot for concessions. Schools in the Coulee and MVC Conference have gone to a "GO FAN" (cashless) option to purchase high school athletic event tickets, but after speaking with Mr. Storlie, there hasn't been any discussion in the Dairyland Conference.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - The high school hosted a blood drive today. We had a good turnout. We are finalizing our homecoming plan which will be two weeks from today. On September 30th all students in the coop will have an ACP day. This entails traveling to various universities and technical colleges for future academics and career planning. Some of them

being UW-River Falls, Winona State University, Southeast Technical College, UW- La Crosse, Viterbo, Western Technical College, an education fair and career expo.

Asst. MS/HS Principal - Melissa Pientok - Mrs. Pientok reported in the ms we had the kids establish school expectations. What behavior is expected of them for hallway, commons and classroom behavior. Students can receive tickets for following these expectations. Tickets can be used for weekly drawings or purchases of snacks from her. Mrs. Pientok also stated she has heard things are going smoother than they have before. The students like the new schedule and know their expectations. We are going to try to have some homecoming activities, like dress up days and decorating.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen reported everyone is getting back into the routine with the school year starting. Mr. Nelson is working with our 4k- 3rd grade to come up with some intervention support. A shout out to Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Robinson for all their hard work making sure we are ACT 20 compliant by this winter. Teachers are creating a recharge station. These are ideas and tools to help our students to recharge and get away from electronics. Andy & Julie Nehring will be starting a robotics after school program for students in 5th-8th grade.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Ms. Brouillet reported she is gearing up for the new school year. She would like to commend Mrs. Frederixon was given the task of running the ID life skills program and she is running it well. The students were helping at cheesefest, in the community, and also helping in school. She is having them learn and complete life skills along with their academics. The hope is to make our students become more independent.

Discussion Items:

Mr. Halverson reported to the board some of the projected Levy and financial status for this school year. He reported our July 1 aid estimates are looking to be \$5,201,000. Which is a 6.9% increase from last year. This still may change and will not be final until October 15th. He stated during the 2023-24 school year, we were able to underlevy by \$479,250 due to receiving more aid from the state. We chose to underlevy to keep our word by only levying the amount needed to cover the district expenses. With the projected aid estimates for the 24-25 school year it looks like we will be able to underlevy again. This year by around \$50,000.00. Even with underlevying we are still reaching our goals as presented during our operational referendum presentations. We have updated our compensation model to attract new staff and retain our current staff For 2023-24, considering salary, benefits and years of experience, Blair-Taylor is ranked 22 of 77 among schools in Wisconsin with a population of 500-800 students. We are rebuilding our fund balance to maintain cash flow and prevent short term borrowing.

Action Items:

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve Sarah Staff as WASB Fall Regional Meeting Representative. Motion carried.

Motion by P Kujak, with a second by M. Steien, to approve the Safety and Emergency Response Plan. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve Hockey Coop with La Crescent/ Hokah & Houston. Motion carried by roll call vote, 4-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by S. Staff, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes paraprofessional contract for Alexis Van Riper, paraprofessional contract for Tristen Quarne, paraprofessional contract for Paige Corey, nutritional services contract for Michelle Thompson, and resignation of paraprofessional Monique Cox. Motion carried by roll call vote, 4-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Thompson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Thompson, Clerk

