

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 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: Blaine Koxlien, Troy Tennson, Perry Kujak, Michele Steien, Lindsey Byom. David Thompson arrived just after the start of the meeting. Absent: Neil Kniseley. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Melissa Pientok, Jared McCutchen, Becky Brouillet, Dessa Mathews, and Zach Ristall.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public comment

Motion by P. Kujak, with second by L. Byom, to approve November 2025 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by L. Byom, with second by M. Steien, to approve the November 2025 financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson shared a Thank you card to the Board from the B-T Volleyball team for their support during their memorable season. Mr. Halverson was notified some land adjacent to the school will be coming for sale in the near future. We are just bringing it to the board's attention if there would be any interest in exploring this purchase. Mr. Halverson presented state wide mill rate comparisons. This is something to keep in mind as we discuss our needs for an upcoming operational referendum as our current referendum expires this year.

Middle/High Principal - Beth Lisowski - The High School has been busy with holiday events and concerts. FFA hosted a Frost Fest and visited Grandview. The hand bell choir performed at the Mall of America and in Whitehall. FCCLA has a shoe drive. ACP day for the high school included activities such as resume writing, team building , and financial literacy. Currency Access testing is almost finished.

Assist MS/HS Principal - Melissa Pientok - The MS. Student Council has planned some holiday activities such as door decorating, dress up days and homeroom challenges. They are also

having a holiday cookie tasting event with parents. As a reward for the students' behavior and hard work, they are taking a trip to the Jump Park on Tuesday followed by holiday baking and activities. The students are also learning life skills like wrapping presents, folding clothes, and cleaning.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - In January we are adjusting our daily schedule with longer intervention times, smaller lunch and recess groups, and longer academic blocks. We held an all school read aloud which took place just before Thanksgiving. In December we have many holiday activities planned and 12 days of dress up, even a staff soup/chili cookoff.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Our students are excited about the holidays. They are making cards, crafts, baking & decorating cookies which are tied to learning by following directions and measuring accurately. We have received a high number of referrals for both speech therapy and academic. Our School Psychologist and Speech Therapist have worked diligently on their caseloads and still have about 20 open referrals.

Discussion Items:

Dessa Mathews presented a family-funded travel opportunity, which will allow students to experience Spain/Portugal. The plan looks like it will be Summer of 2027. Mrs. Matthews has about 10 families attending an informational meeting and about 3 not able to attend but are interested in going. Any current 8th grader through Junior to be eligible. 6 is the minimum and a max of 25 that will need to participate to go.

Mr. Halverson presented the district's results of the past 3 years referendum. He gave an overview of our 3 year non-renewing referendum. We did as we promised. We wanted to retain and attract quality staff, increase our fund balance and maintain it. Due to some municipalities growing more than expected, they took a bigger portion of the levy. We can not control land property value. Being that they grew higher, our communication was different. All municipalities grew except for 2. One being the City of Blair and Town of Preston. To continue maintaining operations and attracting and retaining quality staff, Blair-Taylor will need to seek another non renewed operational referendum. Mr. Halverson presented 5 different dollar amount options and how that would affect the district and fund balances.

Action Items:

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the Student Travel Opportunity to Spain/Portugal with Mrs. Mathews. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by T. Tenneson, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve Lindsey Byom as a delegate for WI State Education Convention. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve the second reading of Board Policy Updates. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to approve - Early Start Resolution for 2026-27 School Year. Motion carried.

Motion by L. Byom, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the Seclusion and Restraint Annual Report. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the consent agenda items, which are: the resignation of Elementary Teacher Kat Luchterhand, resignation of Child Care Assistant Teacher, Macie Berg, issue a part-time Paraprofessional contract to Kiley Hoem, hire Hannah Divin as a full-time Choir teacher substitute for the remainder of the school year, hiring Ella Gelder for an Elementary teaching internship. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

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 student success and individual employee performance. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



David Thompson, Clerk

